

# project 4:4

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one year one bible one church one lord

Jesus Begins to Teach and Heal in Galilee  
Lesson 44

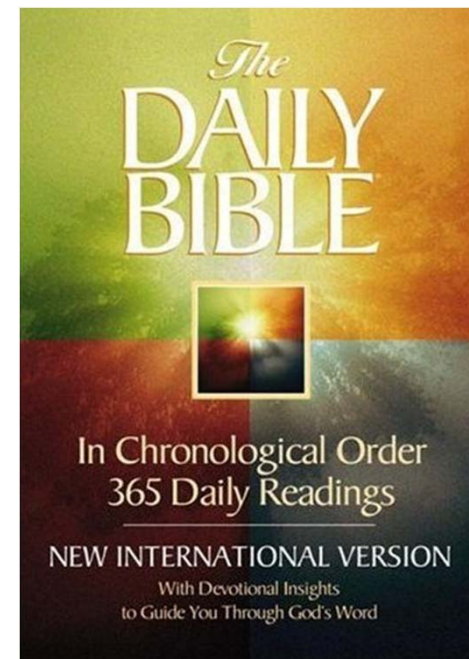
October 31, 2010

**PV** Pleasant Valley Church of Christ

# This Week

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- ▶ We'll cover readings for October 24-30
- ▶ Portions of the Gospels
  - ▶ Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee
  - ▶ Jesus Chooses the Twelve
  - ▶ The Sermon on the Mount
  - ▶ Jesus Heals and Performs Miracles
  - ▶ Jesus Begins to Face Opposition



# Division of Jesus' Ministry

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- ▶ One method of dividing Jesus' ministry is as follows
  - ▶ Year of Obscurity
  - ▶ Year of Public Favor
  - ▶ Year of Opposition
- ▶ Our readings this week are largely from the Year of Public Favor, where Jesus' teachings were widely accepted
  - ▶ Our headlong rush through the NT will take us into the Year of Opposition next week



# The Beginning of Jesus Ministry

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## ▶ Matthew 4:12-16

▶ <sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—<sup>14</sup>to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

▶ <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”



# Isaiah's Prophecy

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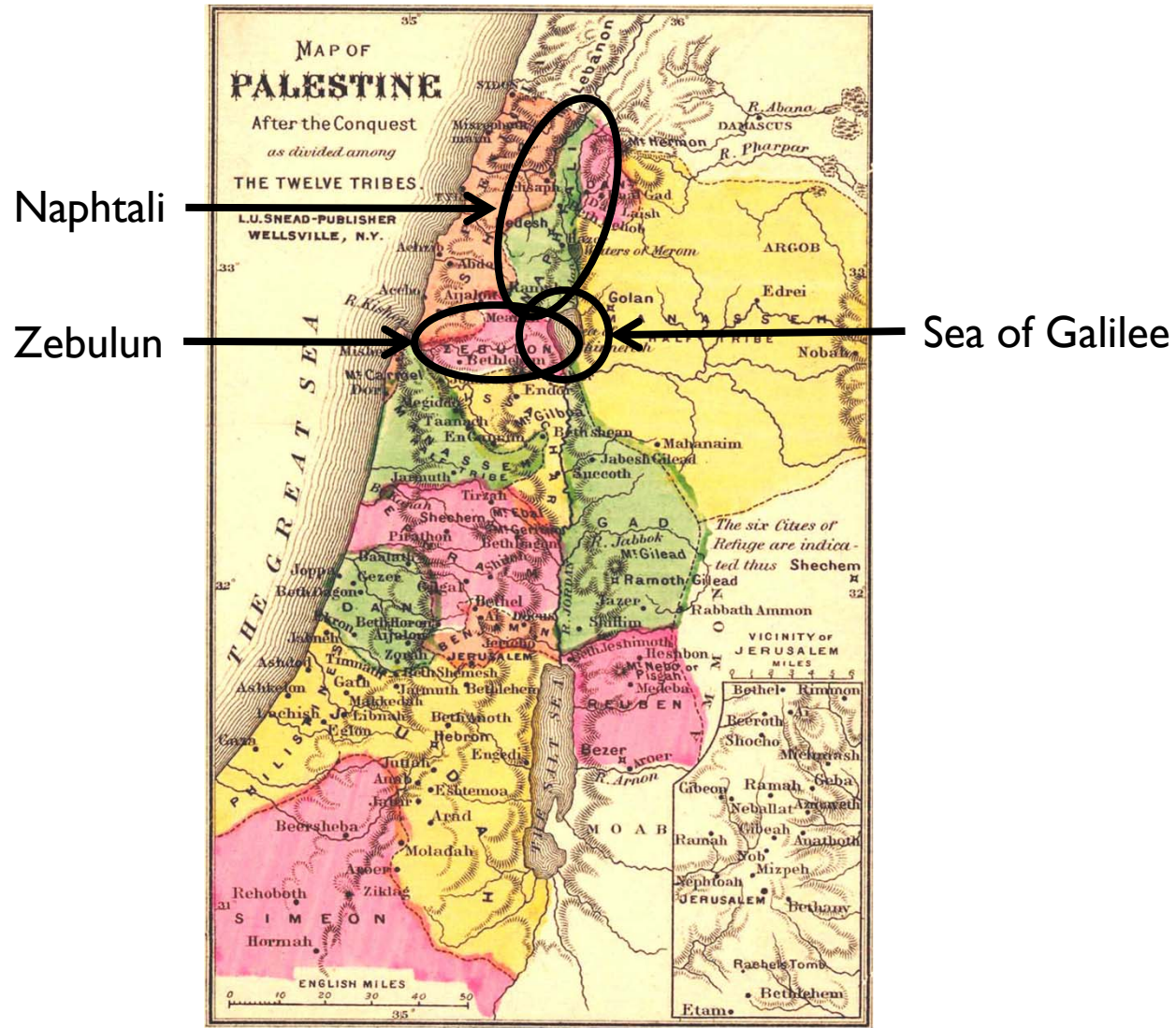
## ▶ Isaiah 9:1-2

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. **In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali**, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

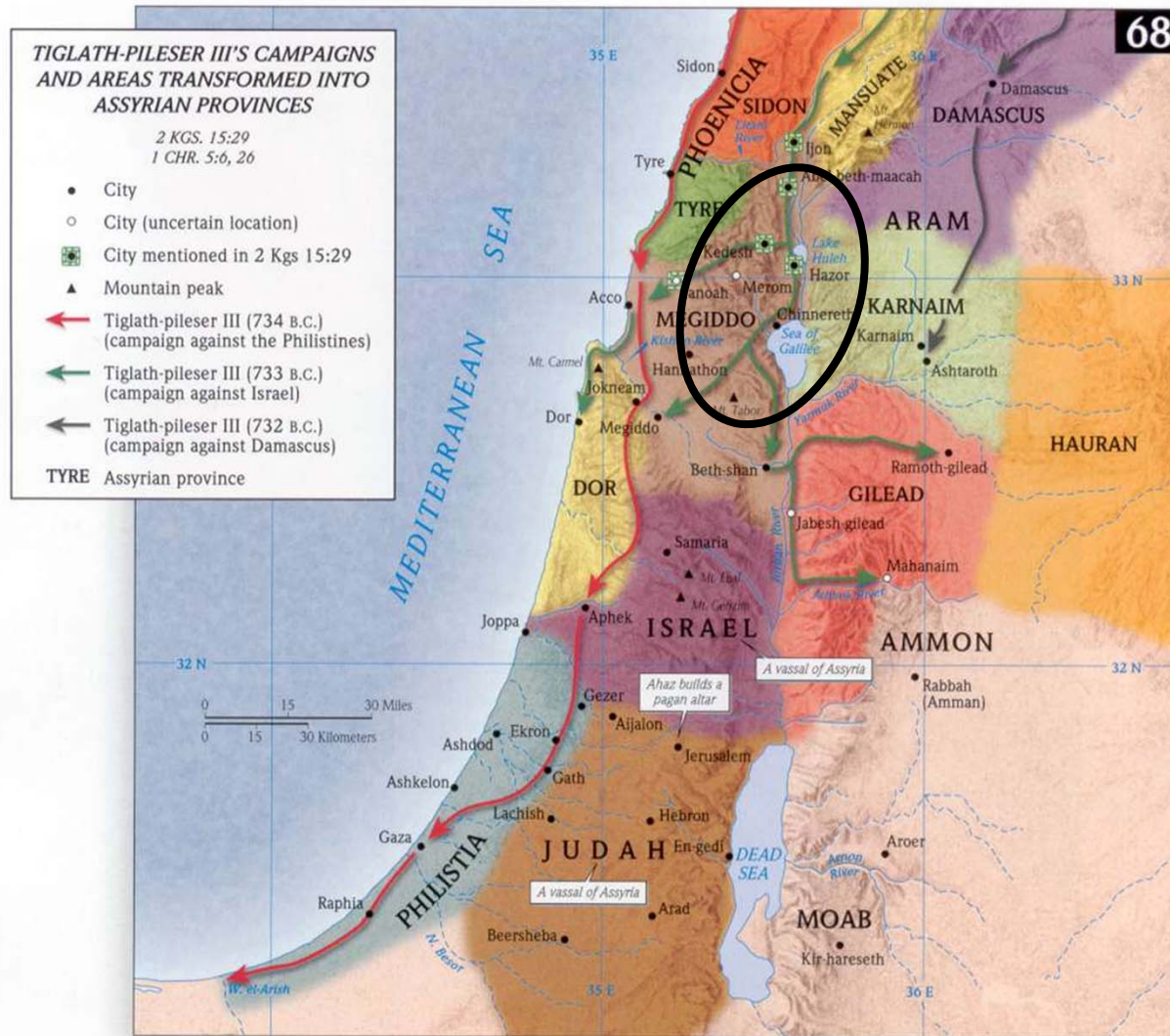
- ▶ In what way did God humble Zebulun and Naphtali?



# The Twelve Tribes



# Assyrian Conquest



# Galilee of the Gentiles

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- ▶ When the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC, they carried the Israelites into exile
  - ▶ Hence the comment in Isaiah about Zebulun and Naphtali being humbled
- ▶ The Assyrians resettled other conquered people into the area, which transformed it into a predominantly Gentile area
- ▶ In Jesus' day, the area was still a Gentile area
  - ▶ Though there were numerous synagogues



# For Discussion

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- ▶ The way this part of the story plays out is profound
- ▶ Jesus, the promised Messiah of the Jews, begins His ministry in a Gentile area
- ▶ His primary mission is to the children of Israel, and He meets them in their synagogues
- ▶ However, the teachings, healings and miracles are played out in front of the Gentiles
  - ▶ And the Gentiles are often the beneficiaries
- ▶ Not only is Jesus' message different, it's apparent that his intended audience is, as well



# Go and Learn ...

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## ▶ Matthew 9:10-13

▶<sup>10</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

**<sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'** For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

## ▶ "Go and learn what this means ..."



# Mercy, Not Sacrifice

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## ▶ Hosea 6:4-6

- ▶ <sup>4</sup>“What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. <sup>5</sup>Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you. **<sup>6</sup>For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.**



# For Discussion

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- ▶ For the first six months of this year, we waded through the minutiae of the Law
  - ▶ And all of the sacrifices that it required
  - ▶ As well as the rules and regulations about what to do with mildew and other nasty things
- ▶ And yet in ~750 BC, Hosea announced that sacrifices weren't the point
  - ▶ What was the context for Hosea's words?
- ▶ Jesus repeats his words in ~25 AD
  - ▶ What is the context for Jesus' quoting them?
- ▶ What is the point here?



# The Law in a Nutshell

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- ▶ Matthew 7:12
  - ▶ <sup>12</sup>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
- ▶ In what ways does this statement sum up the Law and the Prophets?



# Parables

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- ▶ Jesus quite often taught the people in parables
  - ▶ Parable of the Sower
  - ▶ Parable of the Good Samaritan
  - ▶ Parable of the Weeds
  - ▶ Parable of the Mustard Seed
  - ▶ Parable of the Hidden Treasure
  - ▶ Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
  - ▶ ... and many more
- ▶ Why teach this way instead of simply teaching?



# Parables Explained

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## ▶ Matthew 13:10-13

- ▶ <sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” <sup>11</sup>He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”



# Parables Explained (cont)

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## ▶ Matthew 13:14-17

- ▶ <sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
  - ▶ ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. <sup>15</sup>For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’
- ▶ <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup>For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’



# The Twelve

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- ▶ Simon Peter
- ▶ Andrew
- ▶ James
- ▶ John
- ▶ Philip
- ▶ Bartholomew  
(Nathaniel)
- ▶ Matthew
- ▶ Thomas
- ▶ James son of  
Alphaeus
- ▶ Simon the Zealot
- ▶ Judas son of James
- ▶ Judas Iscariot



# For Discussion

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- ▶ How many times during the OT study did we read references to the Messiah, by prophets who may or may not have fully understood what was to come
- ▶ Those that did longed for a day when He would set foot on this earth and fulfill the promises made about Him
- ▶ He is now here ...
  - ▶ People have to make up their minds about him
  - ▶ Just as they do today



# Discussion Questions

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- ▶ What are some things that surprise you about Jesus in these readings?
- ▶ Why do you think so many were willing to follow Jesus?
  - ▶ What was appealing to people about him?
  - ▶ What do you think your reaction to him would have been as a bystander in one of the towns he came through?
- ▶ Which miracle stories do you find most touching?
  - ▶ Which ones amaze you the most?



# Discussion Questions (cont)

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- ▶ Just as many people side with Jesus, these readings are full of stories of people who reject Jesus and fiercely oppose him.
  - ▶ Why do you think he encountered such violent opposition?
- ▶ Have you ever read the sermon on the mount straight through like this?
  - ▶ What struck you about the sermon in this reading?
  - ▶ Is Jesus too absolute in these teachings?
  - ▶ What would it mean to take these teachings seriously in your life?



# Discussion Questions (cont)

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- ▶ Several times in these pages Jesus teaches against hypocrisy or judgmentalism.
  - ▶ Why do you think those attitudes are so tempting?
- ▶ Is the Jesus in these readings the one you fell in love with?
  - ▶ How is he different from the Jesus you have imagined before?
  - ▶ What is most important to you in these pages?



## Your Turn ...

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- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



## Next Week

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- ▶ Readings for October 31-November 6
  - ▶ Miracles, Parables, Crowds, and Conflict

# Questions?

