

# The Gospel of Luke

*a verse-by-verse study*

## Session 15

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*

# The Gospel of Luke

*a verse-by-verse study*

## CHAPTER 9

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*

# The Gospel of Luke

Verses 18-22

*The most important question in the world!*

**18** And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

**Luke 9:18**



19 They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again.

20 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

**Luke 9:19-20**

- This is the most important question ever asked to mankind
- Everything else in time and space hinges on your personal answer to this question

# The Most Important Question – Ever!

- *C.S. Lewis famously said:*
- *"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice."*

# The Most Important Question – Ever!

- *C.S. Lewis famously said:*
- *"Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . . Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God".*

– (Mere Christianity, 55-56)

# Do You Know Him?

- *Three years before, Jesus had said — “Follow Me,” and Peter had followed easily, the fascination of Jesus was upon him, he did not need the Holy Spirit to help him to do it. Then he came to the place where he denied Jesus, and his heart broke. Then he received the Holy Spirit, and now Jesus says again — “Follow Me.” There is no figure in front now saving the Lord Jesus Christ. The first “Follow Me” had nothing mystical in it, it was an external following; now it is a following in internal martyrdom (cf. John 21:18).*



# Do You Know Him?

- *Between these times Peter had denied Jesus with oaths and curses, he had come to the end of himself and all his self-sufficiency; there was not one strand of himself he would ever rely upon again, and in his destitution he was in a fit condition to receive an impartation from the risen Lord. "He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost." No matter what changes God has wrought in you, never rely upon them, build only on a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and on the Spirit He gives.*

# Do You Know Him?

- *All our vows and resolutions end in denial because we have no power to carry them out. When we have come to the end of ourselves, not in imagination but really, we are able to receive the Holy Spirit. "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" — the idea is that of invasion. There is only one lodestar in the life now, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

» Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*

# Do You Want To Know Him?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

**John 14:23**

- Can you truly say that your life is hid with Christ in God?
  - Colossians 3:3
- Are you in Christ and is Christ in you?
  - Romans 8:1 / Colossians 1:27
- Is the life you are now living lived by faith in Him?
  - Galatians 2:20

# To whom do you yield?

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

**Romans 12:1**

*“Have you noticed that this verse does not tell us to whom we should give our bodies? It is not the Lord Jesus Who asks for it. He has His own body . It is not the Father Who asks for it. He remains upon His throne. Another has come to earth without a body. God could have made a body for Him as He did for Jesus, but He did not do so. God gives you the privilege and indescribable honour of presenting your bodies to the Holy Spirit to be His dwelling place on earth”.*

**Dr James M Grey**



# To whom do you yield?

<sup>16</sup> ...to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

**Romans 6:16**

- There is no middle ground

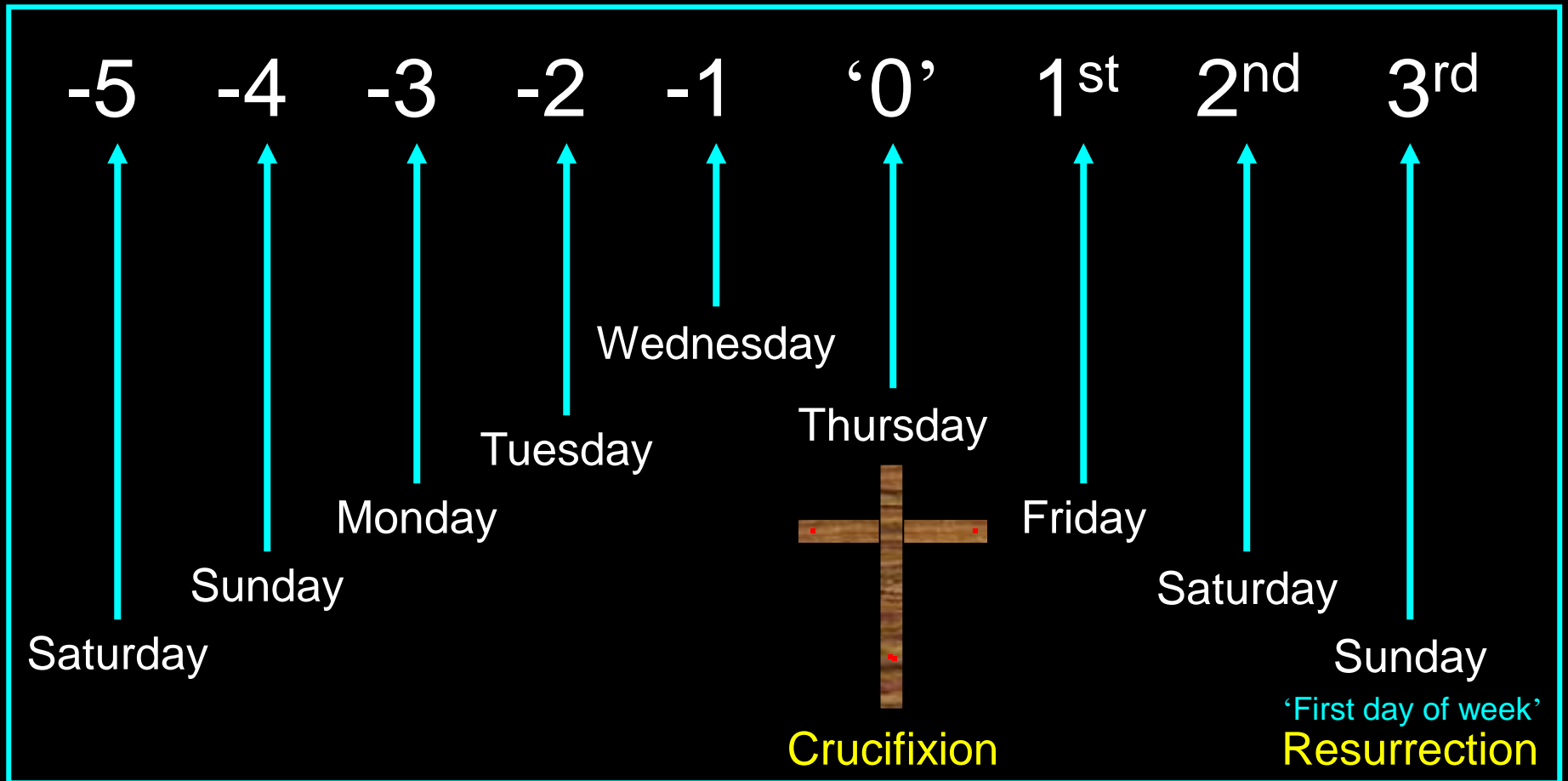
21 And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing;

22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

**Luke 9:21-22**

- Why did Jesus not want the disciples to publicise who He was?
  - The answer will be seen in Luke ch 19

# The Third Day



← Passion Week →







| Saturday 9th   | Sunday 10th   | Monday 11th  | Tuesday 12th   | Wednesday 13th  | Thursday 14th  | Friday 15th                                   | Saturday 16th  | Sunday 17th                                    |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Sabbath</b><br>Jesus arrives at Bethany after Sabbath has ended | <b>Triumphal Entry</b><br>173,880 days complete<br>Daniel 9:24-27 | Fig tree cursed / Jesus turns the tables in the temple for the 2nd day running<br>cf Matt 21:10-17 & Mark 11:15-19 | Jesus gives 'Olivet discourse' stressing that deception will abound in the last days | Jesus & disciples prepare to eat the Passover meal this evening at sundown as it becomes the 14th | <b>Feast of Passover</b><br>Also: 'Day of Preparation' | <b>Feast of Unleavened Bread High Sabbath</b> | <b>Sabbath</b> | <b>Feast of Firstfruits</b><br>1st day of Week |

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel ...that **Christ died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he **was buried**, and that he **rose again the third day** according to the scriptures


**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**


**Mark 15:33-37**  
...hour was come (12:00pm), there was a darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (3:00pm). Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' which is, being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?.....And Jesus gave up the ghost.

**Jesus Crucified**  
"Paid in full..." 3:00pm  
**Luke 23:53-54**  
And he took [the body of Jesus] down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher.....And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.  
**Mark 15:42-43**  
And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, and honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

**John 19:31**  
The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation (14th), that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day (15th), for that sabbath day was an high day. (See below) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.  
**Lev 23:5-7**  
"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD"  
**Deut 16:16**  
"Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles" (See also Exodus 23:14-15).  
**1st Day**  
15th Begins  
**1st Night**

**Exodus 12:18**  
"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even" - Thus for the whole 7 day period they were to eat unleavened bread  
**Matthew 27:62**  
Now the next day (15th), that followed the day of the preparation (that being the 14th), the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.  
**2nd Day**  
16th Begins  
**2nd Night**

**Resurrection!**  
  
**Mark 16:1-2**  
And when the sabbaths (Plural) were past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.  
**Mark 10:34**  
And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.  
**3rd Day**  
17th begins  
**3rd Night**

**Matt 12:40**  
For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth  
  
Location of the most important week in human history

**The Gospel - as defined by the Apostle Paul**  
"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor 15:1-4)  
**According to the scriptures**  
...Christ died for our sins = Feast of Passover  
...was buried = Feast of Unleavened bread  
...He rose again = Feast of Firstfruits

# The Gospel of Luke

Verses 23-27

*The most important decision in the world!*

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Luke 9:23**

- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself...” (Luke 9:23). In other words, “To be My disciple, let him give up his right to himself to Me.” Our Lord is not talking about our eternal position, but about our being of value to Him in this life here and now”.*

– Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*



23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Luke 9:23**

- *“The Lord does not give me rules, but He makes His standard very clear. If my relationship to Him is that of love, I will do what He says without hesitation. If I hesitate, it is because I love someone I have placed in competition with Him, namely, myself. Jesus Christ will not force me to obey Him, but I must. And as soon as I obey Him, I fulfill my spiritual destiny”.*

– Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*



23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Luke 9:23**

- *“He that takes up his cross has but the lighter end of it! Christ bears the greater burden for us”.*
- *“Christ’s cross is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings to a bird”.*
- *“Neither need we fear crosses, or sigh, or be sad for anything that is on this side of heaven, if we have Christ”.*
  - Samuel Rutherford

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Luke 9:23**

- *Wherever we carry our cross, Jesus is right in front of us!*
- *One of the reasons to carry our cross is to be close to our Saviour*

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

**Luke 9:24**

- The greatest decision we each get to make is how we will live this life...
- For ourselves and our pleasure...
  - In which case we will lose it
- ...or for Christ and His glory
  - In which case we will find it!
- *“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”.* Col 3:4

25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

**Luke 9:25**

*“My days are in the yellow leaf;  
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;  
The worm, the canker, and the grief  
Are mine alone!”*



**Lord Byron**



26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

**Luke 9:26**

- *“I’m not ashamed of the gospel...”*. **Romans 1:16**
- If you speak up for Christ now, He’ll speak up for you when you need it most!

27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

**Luke 9:27**

- *“He promised that some would not die until they saw the glory Yeshua will have at the second coming and in the messianic Kingdom. This promise was fulfilled in the next event, the transfiguration”. – Arnold Fruchtenbaum*

# The Gospel of Luke

## Verses 28-36

*The most important choice in the world!*

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up *into a mountain to pray...*

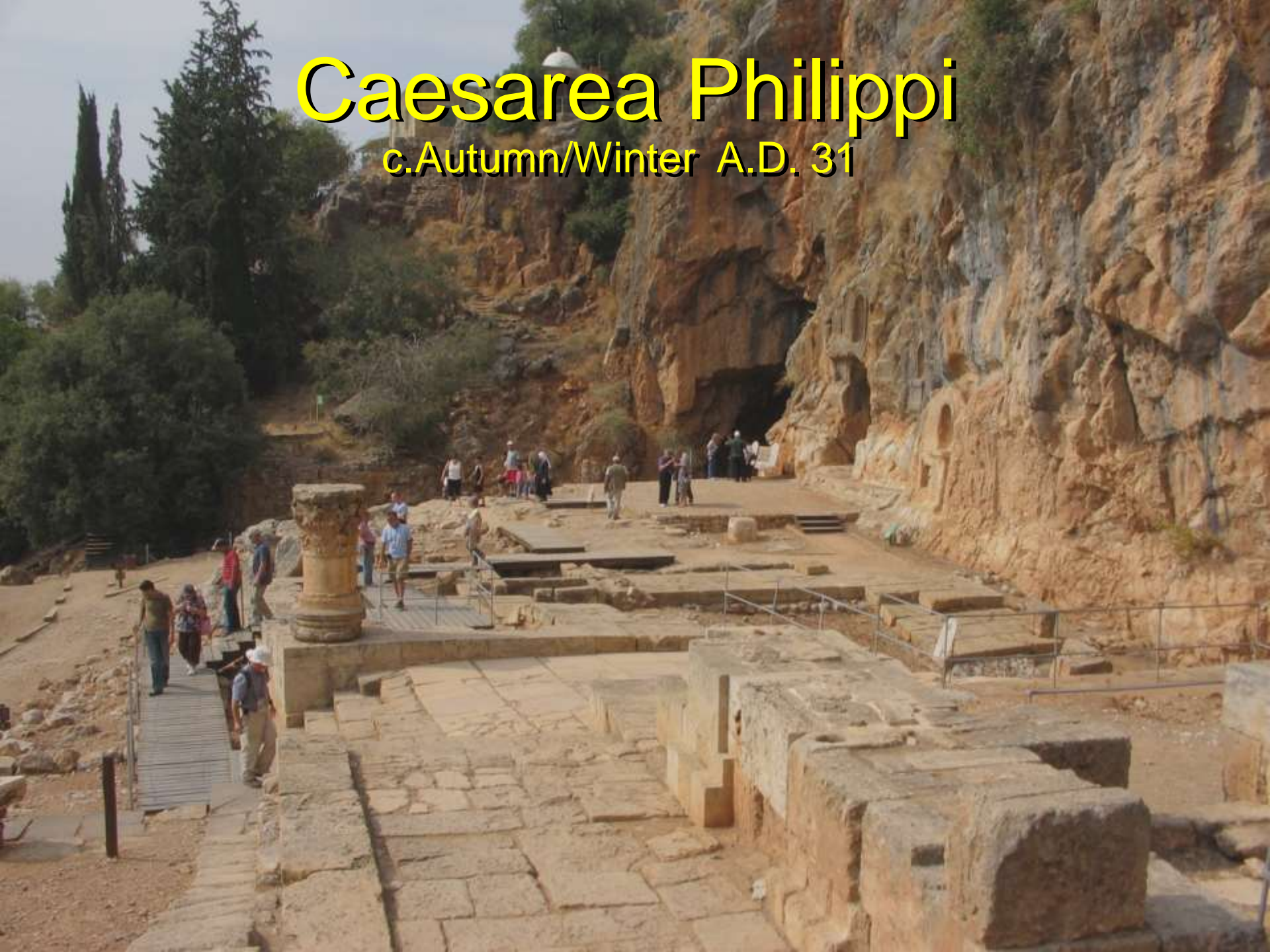
**Luke 9:28**

- They had been at Caesarea Philippi in Northern Israel
- The closest 'high mountain' (**Matt 17:1**) is Mt Hermon
  - **Mt Hermon is the highest mountain in Israel (2,814m)**
- Most scholars assume this is the Mountain referred to



# Caesarea Philippi

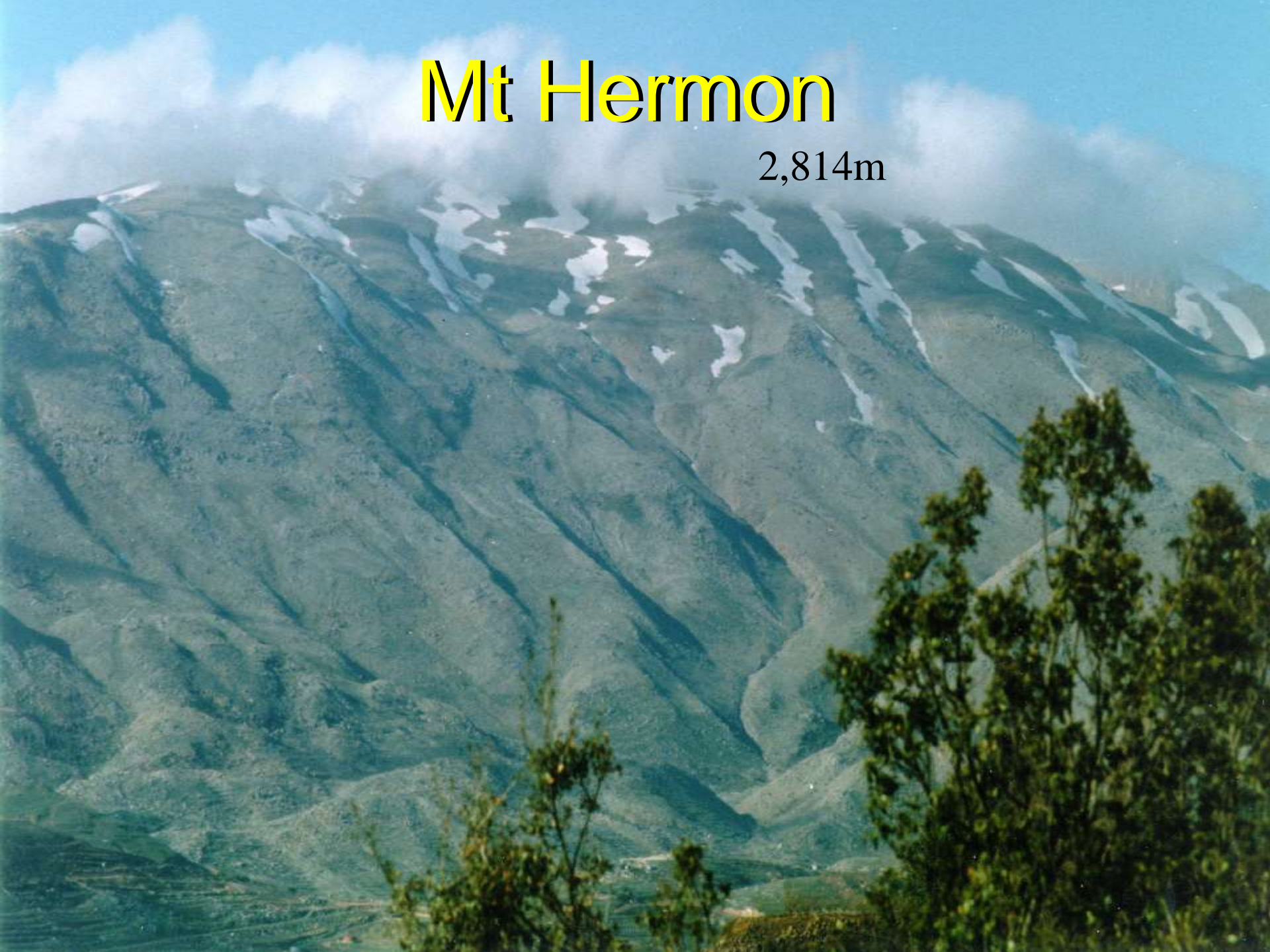
c. Autumn/Winter A.D. 31





# Mt Hermon

2,814m



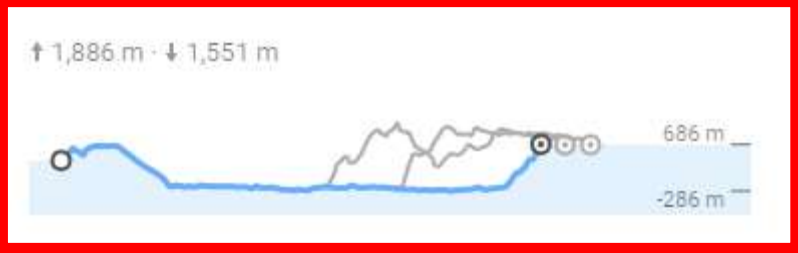


# Mt Nebo

817m

(Snowdon in Wales is 1,085)





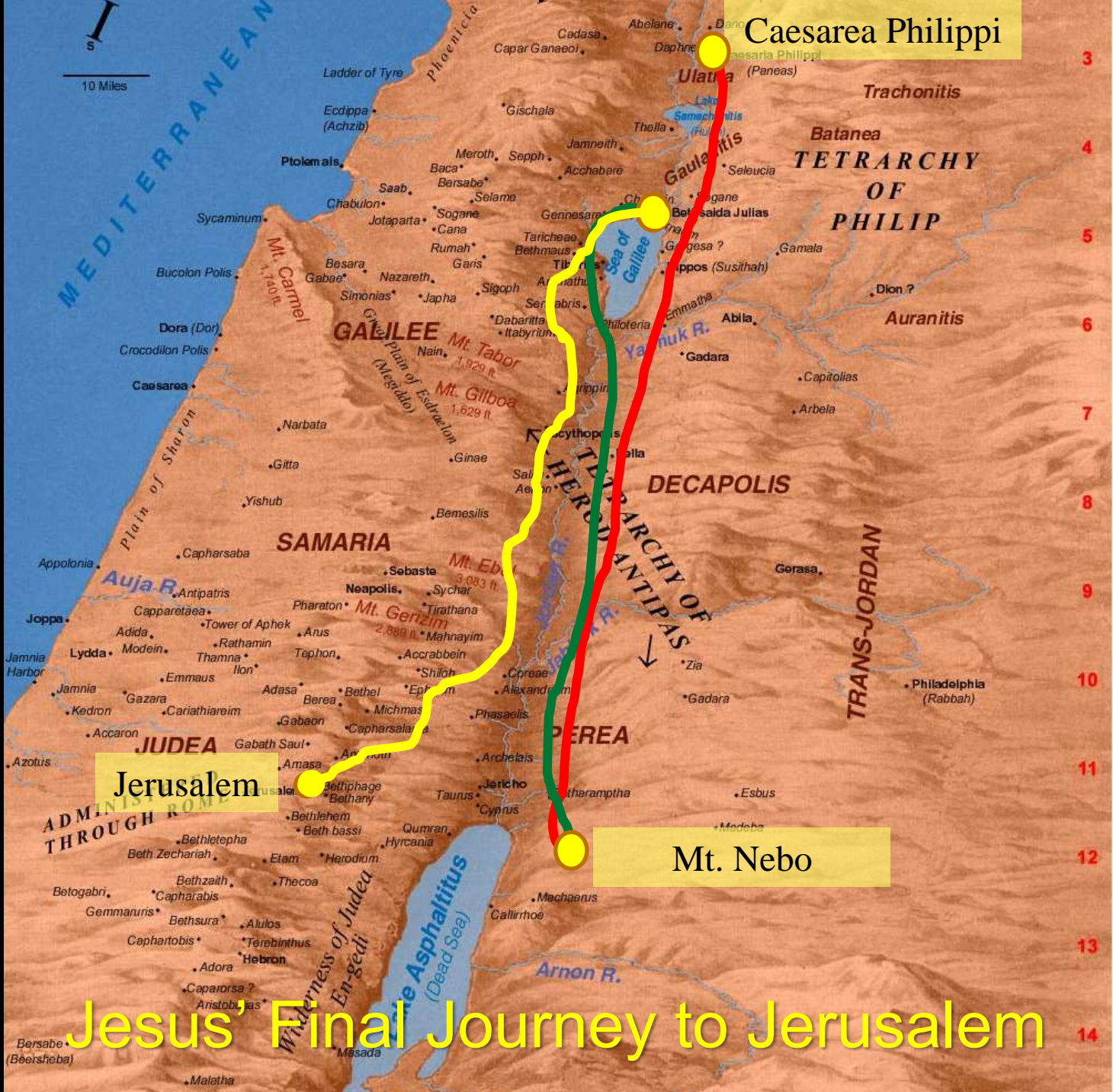
And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

Mark 9:2

41 hr  
202 km

44 hr  
212 km





Caesarea Philippi

Jerusalem

Mt. Nebo

# Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem



*“And they departed thence, and **passed through Galilee**... **And he came to Capernaum**”* (Mark 9:30,33)

- To pass ‘through Galilee’ and arrive at Capernaum you would have to be traveling South to North!
- Mt Nebo is interesting for three reasons:
  - 1) It is close to Jerusalem – 40km (visible on a clear day)
  - 2) It is from whence Elijah was ‘raptured’
  - 3) It is from whence Moses’ body ‘disappeared’!
- Now, at the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus, discussing the events about to take place in Jerusalem!



29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

**Luke 9:29-31**

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

**Luke 9:32-33**

- \* *'Not understanding what must be done'*

# Why Tabernacles?

*“From a Jewish perspective the response was proper, although his timing was wrong because of what he did not yet understand - that the Passover must be fulfilled before the Feast of Tabernacles is fulfilled.”*

*“Peter clearly understood who Yeshua was: The Messiah...”*

*“Peter would also know from passages like Zech 14:16-21 that the Messianic Kingdom is the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles...”*

*“Peter assumed that the kingdom was about to be set up, and he wanted to build three tabernacles in honour of that fact.”*

*- Arnold Fruchtenbaum “Yeshua: The Life of Messiah”*

# Two Witnesses?

- Why Moses & Elijah?
- God's appointed witnesses?
- They represent...
  - The Law (Moses)
  - The Prophets (Elijah)
    - Ref Luke 16
- Do we see them again in Revelation 11?
  - ...and at the tomb? (Luke 24:4)
  - ...and at the Ascension? (Acts 1:10)



# Two Witnesses

5 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

**Revelation 11:3-6**

# Two Witnesses

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

**Revelation 11:3-6**

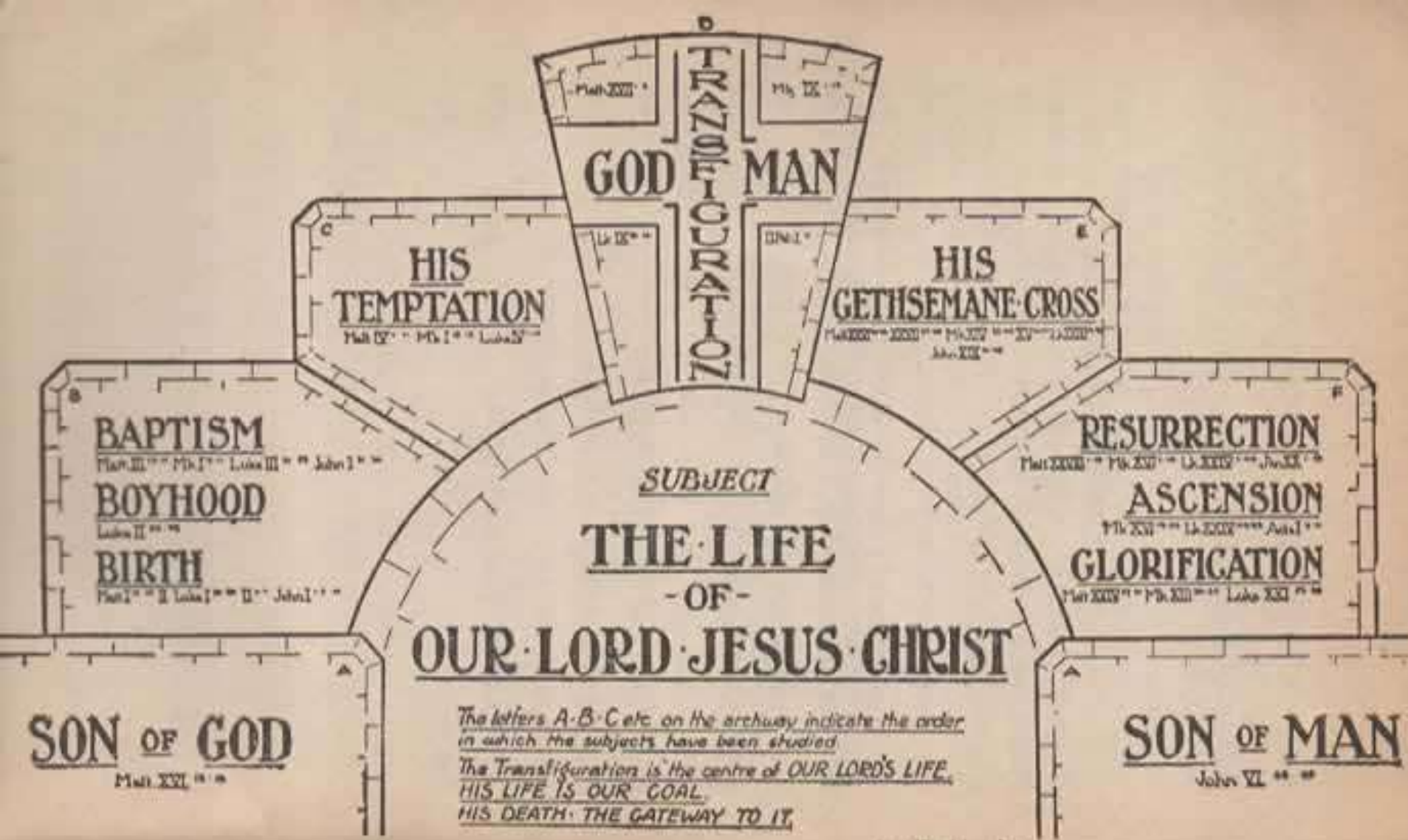
- The miracles are specifically those done by Moses & Elijah
- It is prophesied that Moses and Elijah would both return before the Great Tribulation (Day of the Lord)

34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35 And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

36 And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

**Luke 9:34-36**



Oswald Chambers,  
The Psychology of Redemption



# Oswald Chambers

- We have no corresponding experience to the events in Our Lord's life after the Transfiguration. From then onwards Our Lord's life was altogether vicarious. Up to the time of the Transfiguration He had exhibited the normal perfect life of a man; from the Transfiguration onwards—Gethsemane, the Cross, the Resurrection—everything is unfamiliar to us. His Cross is the door by which every member of the human race can enter into the life of God; by His Resurrection He has the right to give eternal life to any man, and by His Ascension Our Lord enters heaven and keeps the door open for humanity.

# Oswald Chambers

- On the Mount of Ascension the Transfiguration is completed. If Jesus had gone to heaven from the Mount of Transfiguration, He would have gone alone; He would have been nothing more to us than a glorious Figure. But He turned His back on the glory, and came down from the Mount to identify Himself with fallen humanity.

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To be continued...

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