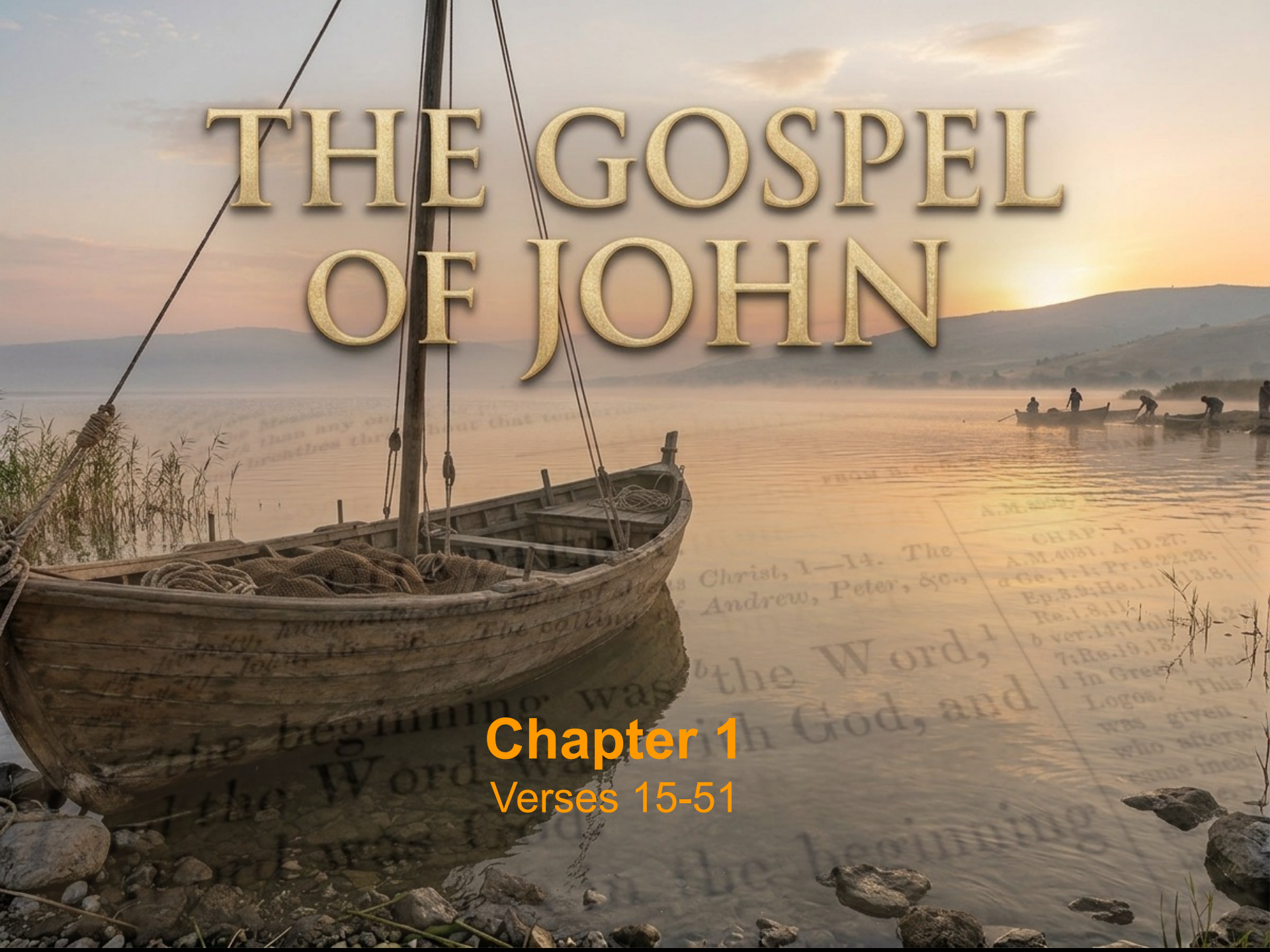

THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
Chapter 1
Verses 15-51

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.
2 The same was in the beginning with God.
3 All things were made by him; and without him was
not any thing made that was made.

John 1:1-3

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

- You couldn't want a clearer statement of Christ's divinity
- The eternal Word (Logos) – the expression of the Father, *"the image of the invisible God"* Col 1:15
- This very act is the pinnacle of His grace, knowing it would culminate at the cross
- This again is the underlying theme of John's gospel, that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh
  - The Word, who was there when the beginning began, took on human form, to come and reveal the Father to us.

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John 1:15

- Although Jesus was born after John the Baptist, and also began His public ministry after him, John (the Baptist) declared that Jesus was ‘before him’ – pointing to Christ being pre-existent – ‘before the beginning began’.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for
grace.
17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth
came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:16-17

- The Law could only condemn.
- The Law was given to confine all under sin, to show us we could not make God's righteous standard – even if we tried – See Galatians!
- The purpose of the Law was to lead us to Christ, to show we needed a Saviour – and what a Saviour!

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 1:18

- This verse has caused some controversy, for here we are unambiguously told that ‘no man has seen God at any time’.
- Yet in in various places, we read of people who saw God!
- How do we resolve this?

Seeing God

- In Genesis 18:20-33, Abraham has a face-to-face conversation with God.
- In Genesis 32:24-30, Jacob not only sees God face-to-face, he wrestles with Him all night.
- In Exodus 24:9-11 Moses and the elders of Israel go up the mount, see God, and eat and drink in His presence!
  - Later, Moses specifically asks God if he can see Him, God obliges on the condition that Moses can only see the 'after glow' of God's presence as He passes by.
- Later, Joshua, Gideon, Samson's parents and others see God, and their lives are spared.
- So how do we reconcile this issue?

Seeing God

- The key is found in John chapter 4, verse 24.
- There we read: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”
- As a spirit being, God does not have a physical body.
- Physical objects are part of this order of things; ‘In the beginning (time), God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)’ (Gen 1:1).
- Before this, there was no time, no space and no matter. All three came into existence when God began His work of creation.
- It is therefore impossible for us, in this present order of things to see a God who ‘inhabits eternity’.

Seeing God

- There will come a time when we will see Him…

- *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* (1 John 3:2)

- *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* (1 Cor 13:12)

Seeing God

- Thus, no man has seen God as He truly is.
- For now, God has chosen to reveal Himself through physical manifestations as noted in scripture
- Jesus Christ is the ultimate (and final) physical manifestation of God.
  - It is important to note that Father, Son and Spirit, all existed before the beginning, before matter.
- The Son did not ‘come into being’ at the point of conception with Mary; the Son has always existed and has always enjoyed a relationship with the Father and the Spirit.
  - For God’s purposes, the Son became a man (became flesh) and dwelt among us to declare the Father to us; to be a ‘lamp to our feet & a light to our path’ (thy Word is… Psalm 119:105)

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John 1:19

- The ‘record of John’ is as stated in verse 15, that Jesus, although coming after John, existed before him – thus, John’s record is a declaration of Christ’s divinity.
  - This ‘record’, or testimony of John’s, is reiterated in verse 27 and verse 30.

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John 1:19

- Notice their question: ‘What authority do you have to stand here and speak?’

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

John 1:20

- John was not concerned with his own status or position, but just wanted to point the way to Christ
  - this should be the desire of all believers!
- Our pride needs to give way to humility, our self needs to give way to sacrifice.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:21

- The religious leaders did not ordain or anoint John the Baptist
  - …so, what qualifications do you have?
- Notice the question they ask: are you Elijah?
- Why ask this?
- Because in Malachi 4:5 it is prophesied that Elijah will once again return, before the great and dreadful ‘Day of the LORD’.
- But alas, John’s authority does not derive from his being Elijah.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:21

- John has already told them plainly that he is not the Christ, so the next question they ask is:
- “Are you that prophet?”
  - This is a reference to a prophecy found in Deuteronomy 18:18, where we are told the Lord would raise up a prophet like Moses.
  - It was believed (and still is by some) that Moses himself would return.

John's Mission

- John was the promised herald announcing the coming of the Messiah
- He came in the spirit and power of Elijah
- …yet he was not Elijah reincarnated
- The prophecy regarding Elijah has yet to be fulfilled
- The Jews expected both Elijah and 'that prophet' to return before 'the Day of The Lord'
  - Each Passover an empty chair is left for Elijah!

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

- Malachi reminds us of Moses… who gave the Law
- This is the first of two significant OT characters Malachi will reference

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

Malachi 4:5

- There is a curious relationship between Moses and Elijah.
- Together they represent the counsel of God to man… the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah)
- For something to be established it requires two witnesses! Deut 17:6 / 19:15

Two Witnesses

15 ...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Deuteronomy 19:15

Moses & Elijah

3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Matthew 17:3

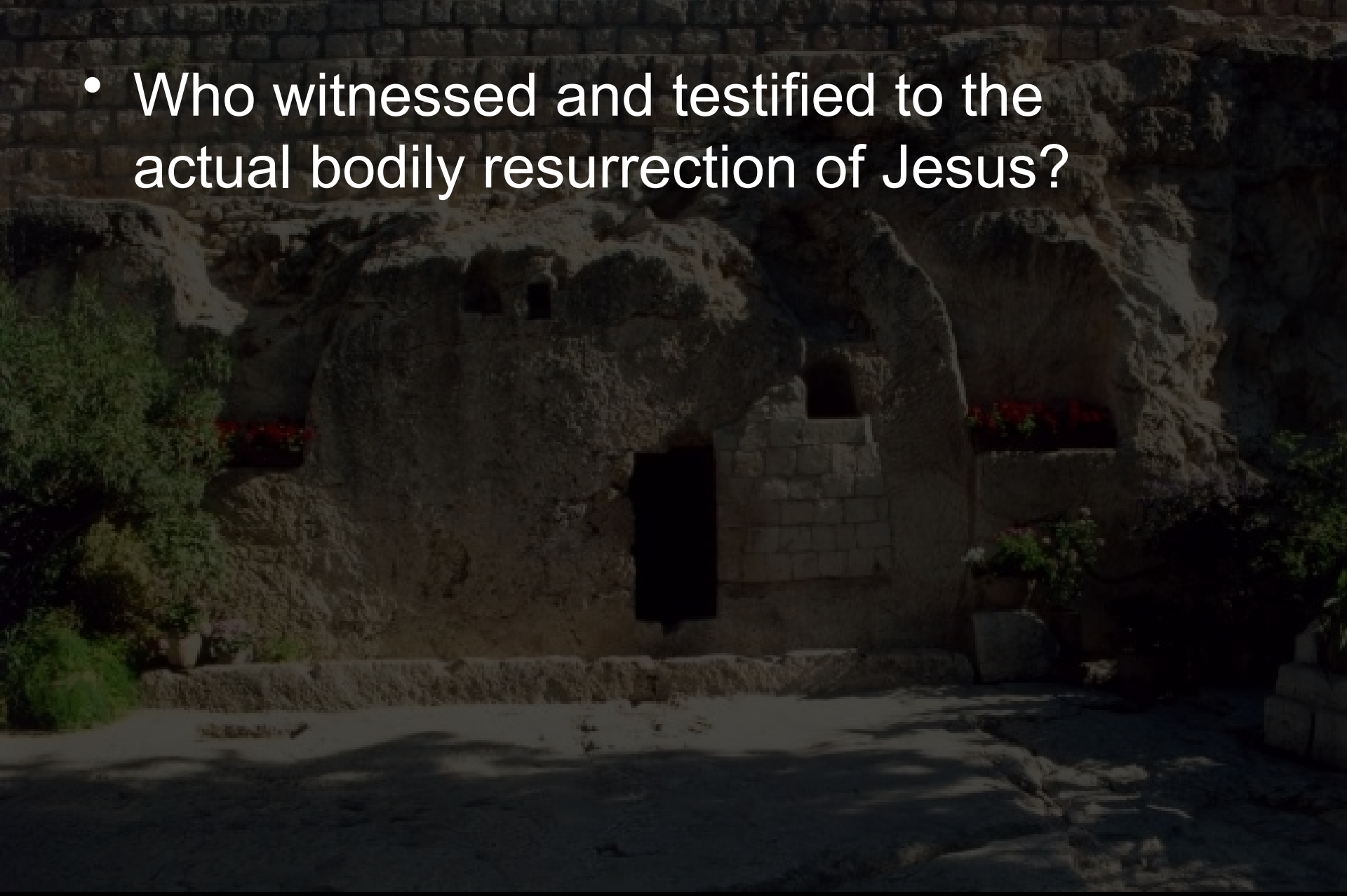
Moses & Elijah

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.

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.

Luke 9:30-32



- Who witnessed and testified to the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus?

Moses & Elijah

- At the garden tomb…

30 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luke 24:4

Moses & Elijah

- At the ascension…

30 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel

Luke 24:4

The Law and the Prophets

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou
wouldest send him to my father's house:

29 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto
them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the
prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:27-29

‘Without Excuse’

- God has given His two witnesses: ‘Law & the Prophets
- The Law convicts men - Psalm 19:7
- The Prophets convince men
- All men are without excuse if they reject God

- What is significant about Moses and Elijah?
- The manor of their ‘deaths’

Mt Hermon or… Mt Nebo

1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Matthew 17:1-2

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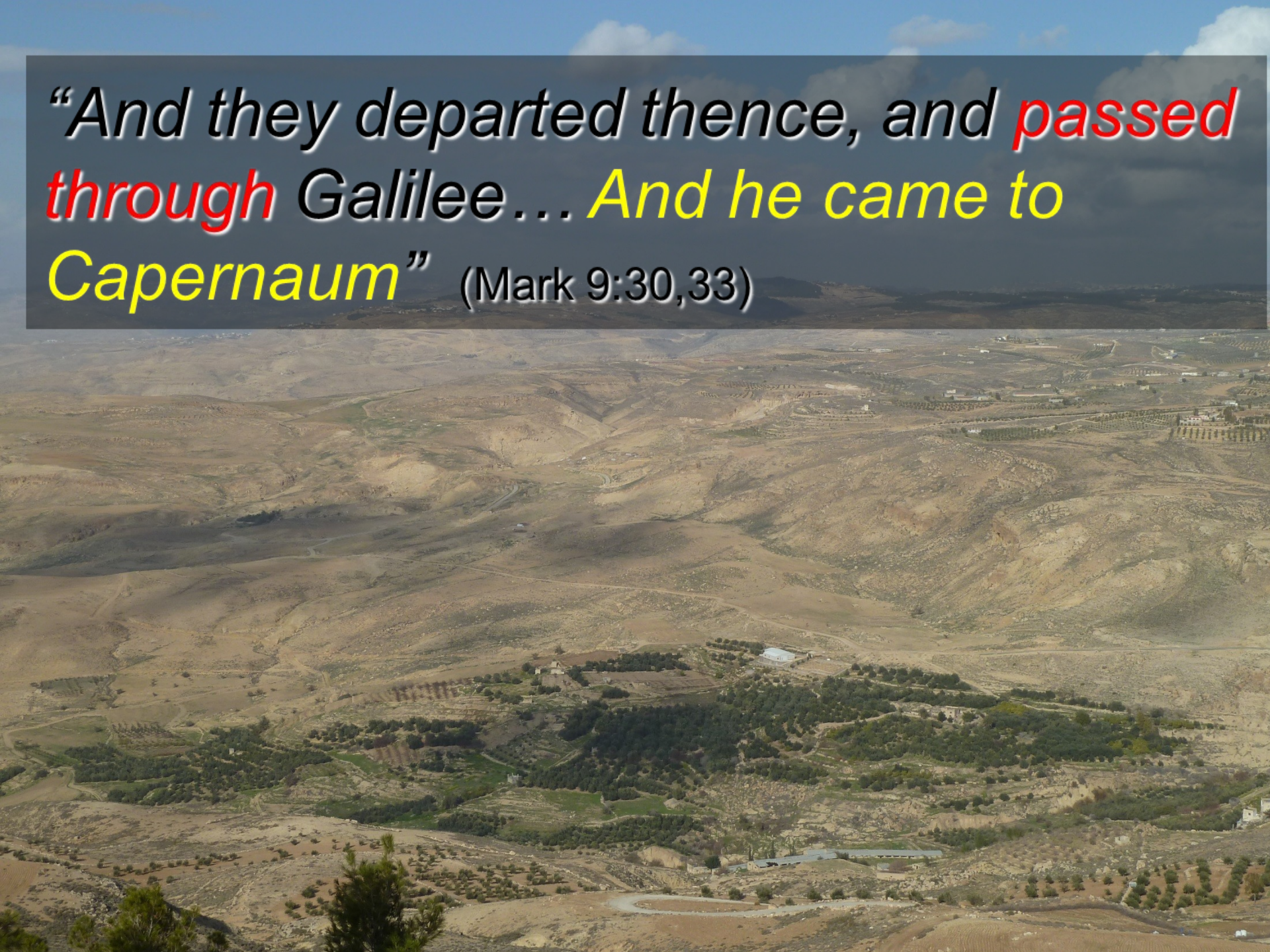
2 And after six dayes Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

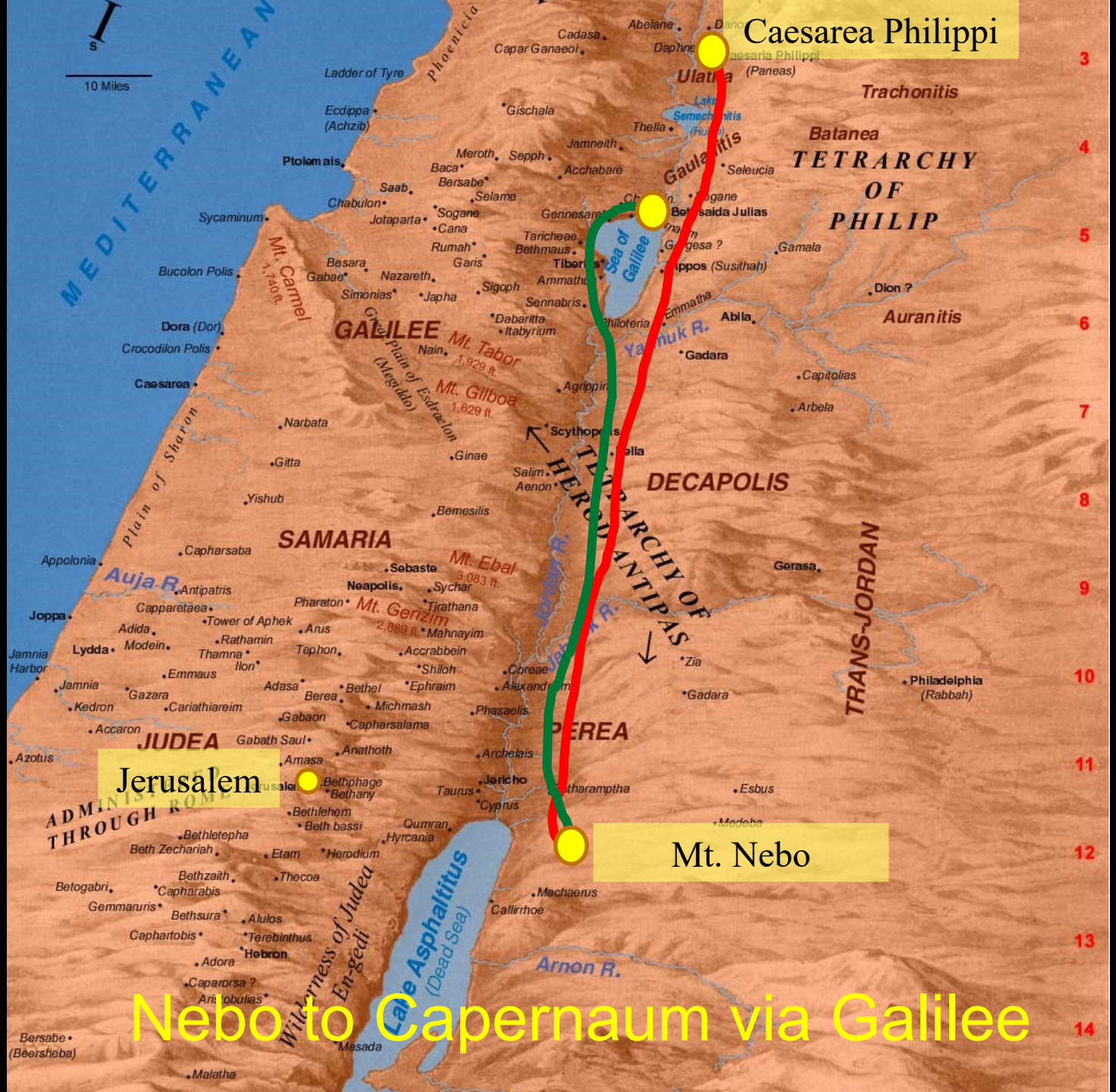
Mark 9:2

Mt Nebo

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 9:30-31


"And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee… And he came to Capernaum" (Mark 9:30,33)


Caesarea Philippi
Jerusalem
Mt. Nebo
Nebo to Capernaum via Galilee
MEDITERRANEAN
Phoenicia
10 Miles
Ladder of Tyre
Ecdippa (Achzib)
Ptolemais
Sycaminum
Mt. Carmel 1,740 ft.
Bucolon Polis
Dora (Dor)
Crocodilon Polis
Caesarea
Plain of Sharon
Narbata
Gitta
Yishub
Appolonia
Auja R.
Joppa
Jamnia Harbor
Lydda
Jamnia
Kedron
Accaron
Azotus
Adida
Modein
Capparetaea
Antipatris
Capharsaba
Rathamin
Thamna
Ilon
Emmaus
Gazara
Cariathiareim
Gabaon
Gabath Saul
Amasa
Bethphage
Bethany
Bethlehem
Beth bassi
Bethletepha
Beth Zechariah
Etam
Herodium
Bethzaith
Thecoa
Betogabri
Capharabis
Gemmaruris
Bethsura
Alulos
Caphartobis
Terebinthus
Hebron
Adora
Caparorsa ?
Aristobulias
Bersabe (Beersheba)
Malatha
Masada
Wilderness of Judea
En-gedi
Dead Sea
Lake Asphaltitus
Machaerus
Callirrhoe
Arnon R.
Esbus
Medeba
Philadelphia (Rabbah)
Gadara
Zia
Gerasa
TRANS-JORDAN
DECAPOLIS
TETRARCHY OF HEROD ANTIPAS
Jordan R.
Yarmuk R.
Gamala
Dion ?
Auranitis
Abila
Capitolias
Arbela
Hippos (Susithah)
Seleucia
Batanea
TETRARCHY OF PHILIP
Trachonitis
Ulatha
(Paneas)
Daphne
Abelane
Cadasa
Capar Ganaeoi
Gischala
Thella
Jamneith
Meroth
Sepph
Baca
Bersabe
Acchabare
Saab
Selame
Chabulon
Sogane
Jotaparta
Cana
Rumah
Garis
Besara
Gabae
Nazareth
Simonias
Japha
Sigoph
Dabaritta
Itabyrium
Nain
Mt. Tabor 1,929 ft.
Mt. Gilboa 1,629 ft.
Great Plain of Esdraelon (Megiddo)
GALILEE
Sea of Galilee
Gennesare
Taricheae
Bethmaus
Tiberias
Ammathus
Sennabris
Philoteria
Emmatha
Gadara
Agrippina
Scythopolis
Salim
Aenon
Ginae
Bemesilis
SAMARIA
Mt. Ebal 3,083 ft.
Mt. Gerizim 2,889 ft.
Neapolis
Sebaste
Sychar
Tirathana
Pharaton
Mahnayim
Accrabbein
Tephon
Anus
Tower of Aphek
Shiloh
Ephraim
Bethel
Berea
Adasa
Michmash
Phasaelis
Capharsalama
Archelais
Jericho
Taurus
Cyprus
Qumran
Hyrcania
Coreae
Alexandrium
Zia
Gadara
PEREA
JUDEA
Anathoth
Tharamptha
Esbus
Medeba
Machaerus
Callirrhoe
Arnon R.
Lake Semechonitis (Huleh)
Chinnereth
Gennesaret
Tiberias
Bethsaida Julias
Hippos (Susithah)
Gamala
Dion ?
Auranitis
Abila
Capitolias
Arbela
Gadara
Philadelphia (Rabbah)
Gerasa
TRANS-JORDAN
DECAPOLIS
TETRARCHY OF HEROD ANTIPAS
Jordan R.
Yarmuk R.
Batanea
TETRARCHY OF PHILIP
Trachonitis
Caesarea Philippi
Jerusalem
Mt. Nebo
Nebo to Capernaum via Galilee

Moses & Elijah

- Both Moses & Elijah ended their ‘time on earth’ at Mt Nebo
- Elijah was Raptured…
- Moses was ‘buried by the LORD’
- Both men are ‘called out of retirement’ to meet Jesus on the same mountain… overlooking Jerusalem

The Rapture of Elijah

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

2 Kings 2:11

The Death of Moses

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the
land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.
6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab,
over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his
sepulchre unto this day.
7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old
when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force
abated.

Deuteronomy 34:5-7

The Death of Moses

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Jude v9

Two Witnesses

3 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
- Moses and Elijah will both return before the Great Tribulation (Day of the Lord)

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:
6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

- It may well be the ministry of Moses and Elijah during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation that convert 144,000 Jews
- They will be a witness to the world
- They will be killed , resurrected and then raptured (again?)

22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

John 1:22

- Once again, just as it is today, the religious leadership of the day want to see some credentials.

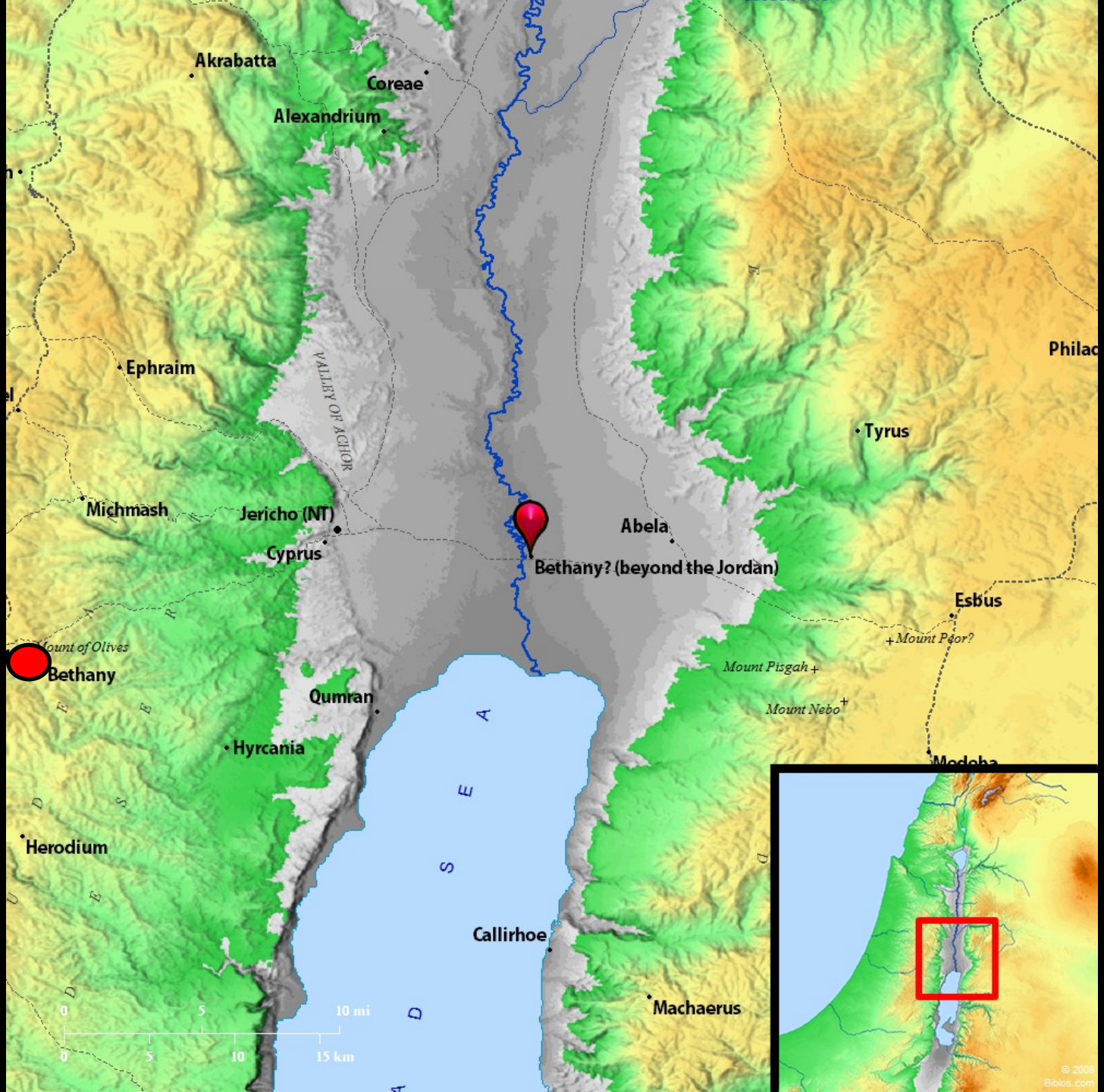
23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the
wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as
said the prophet Esaias.
24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.
25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why
baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor
Elias, neither that prophet? John 1:23-25

- Note: John's authority is the Word of God!
  - Specifically, Isaiah 40:3
- But that is obviously not good enough!
- Also note: The way is being prepared for YHVH, thus: Jesus = Yehovah.

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water:
but there standeth one among you, whom ye know
not;
27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me,
whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.
28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

John 1:26-28

- John's baptism was symbolic
- The real cleansing would be done by Christ


Akrabatta
Coreae
Alexandrium
Ephraim
VALLEY OF ACHOR
Philac
Tyrus
Michmash
Jericho (NT)
Cyprus
Abela
Bethany? (beyond the Jordan)
Esbus
Mount of Olives
Bethany
Mount Peor?
Mount Pisgah
Mount Nebo
Qumran
Hyrcania
Herodium
Callirhoe
Machaerus
0 5 10 mi
0 5 10 15 km

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

- This was the answer to a 2000 year-old question!

Mount Moriah

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:7-8

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man
which is preferred before me: for he was before me.
31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made
manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing
with water.

John 1:30-31

- Surely John knew his cousin?
- But he did not know Christ's divinity
- John's role was to prepare the way

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit
descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode
upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize
with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou
shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him,
the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:32-33

Jesus' Baptism

- Jesus' baptism was not 'an anointing for service'
- Rather, it was the public sign that John had been promised that would identify the Messiah.
- Thus, John declares Him the 'Son of God'
- Not 'he has become the Son of God'
- Rather, He has always been…
- Now He is manifest

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John 1:35-36

- John practiced what he preached
- Pointing men to Jesus (he must increase…)
- We are not to get converts to our opinions, but we are to point men to Christ

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

John 1:37-39

Sincere Seekers

- Here we see the 1st of four ways people come to the knowledge of Christ
- The had grown up believing
- They were already searching
- The Big question: ‘What seek ye?’
- Jesus asks questions to make us think!

- There still has to be a moment of decision

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed
him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith
unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being
interpreted, the Christ.
42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld
him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou
shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A
stone.

John 1:40-42

Personal Testimony

- This is the 2nd of four ways people come to the knowledge of Christ
- The irrefutable power of personal testimony
- ‘We have found Messiah!’

- There still has to be a moment of decision and a personal response

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee,
and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.
44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and
Peter.

John 1:43-44

‘Hand Picked’

- This is the 3rd way people come to the knowledge of Christ
- Jesus Himself seeks them out
- In one sense this is true for all of us
- *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10)

- NB: Both Philip and Paul were martyred!

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We
have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the
prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of
Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good
thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him,
Come and see.

John 1:45-46

Appeal To Evidence

- The 4th way people come to the knowledge of Christ
- Testimony + Evidence
- God's two witnesses: 'Law & the Prophets
- The Law convicts men - Psalm 19:7
- The Prophets convince men
- We have overwhelming evidence
- *"To whom also he [Jesus] shewed himself alive after his passion by* many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3)

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

John 1:47-48

- *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do"* - Hebrews 4:13

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

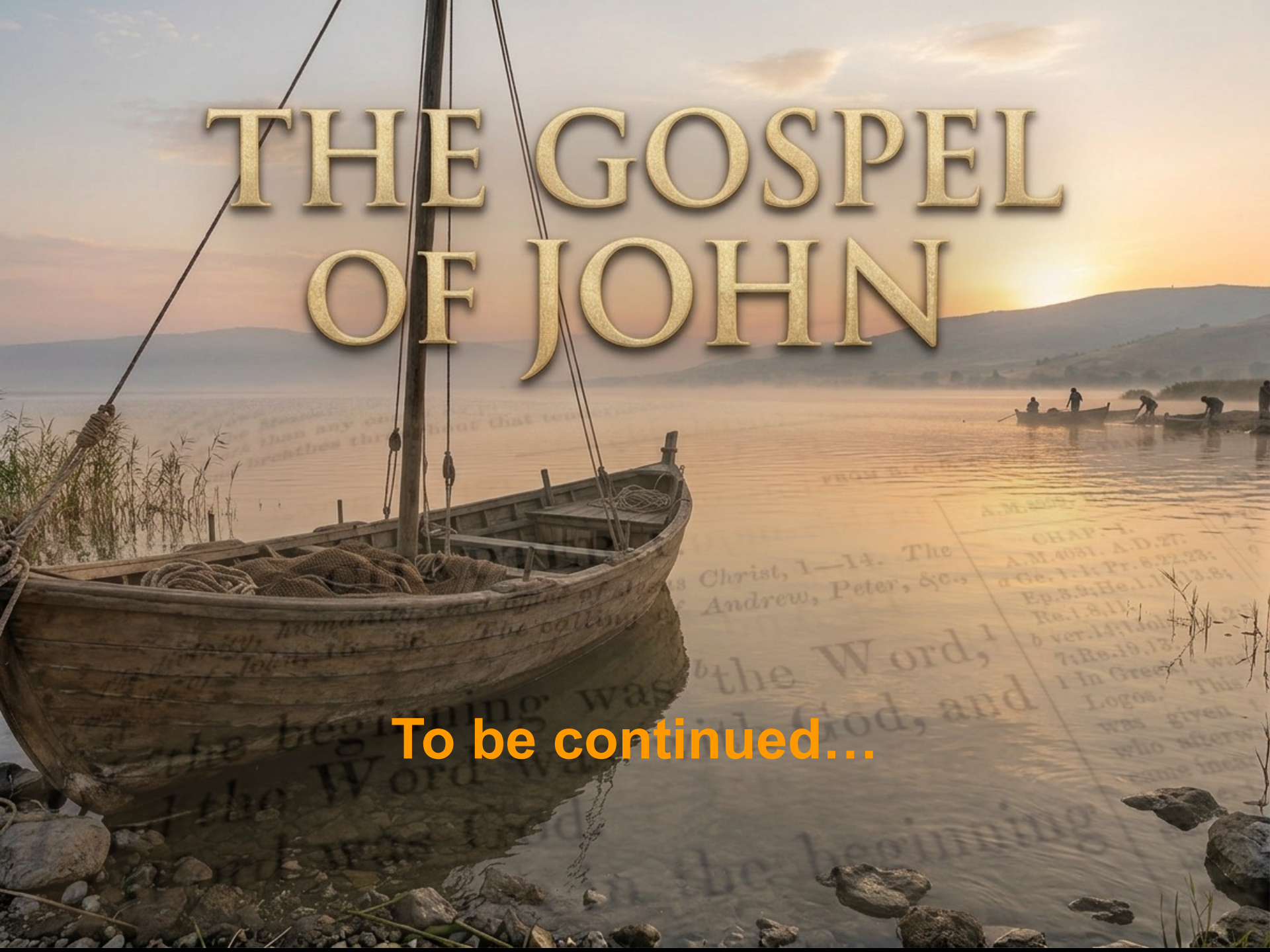
50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 1:49-51

Adam Clarke

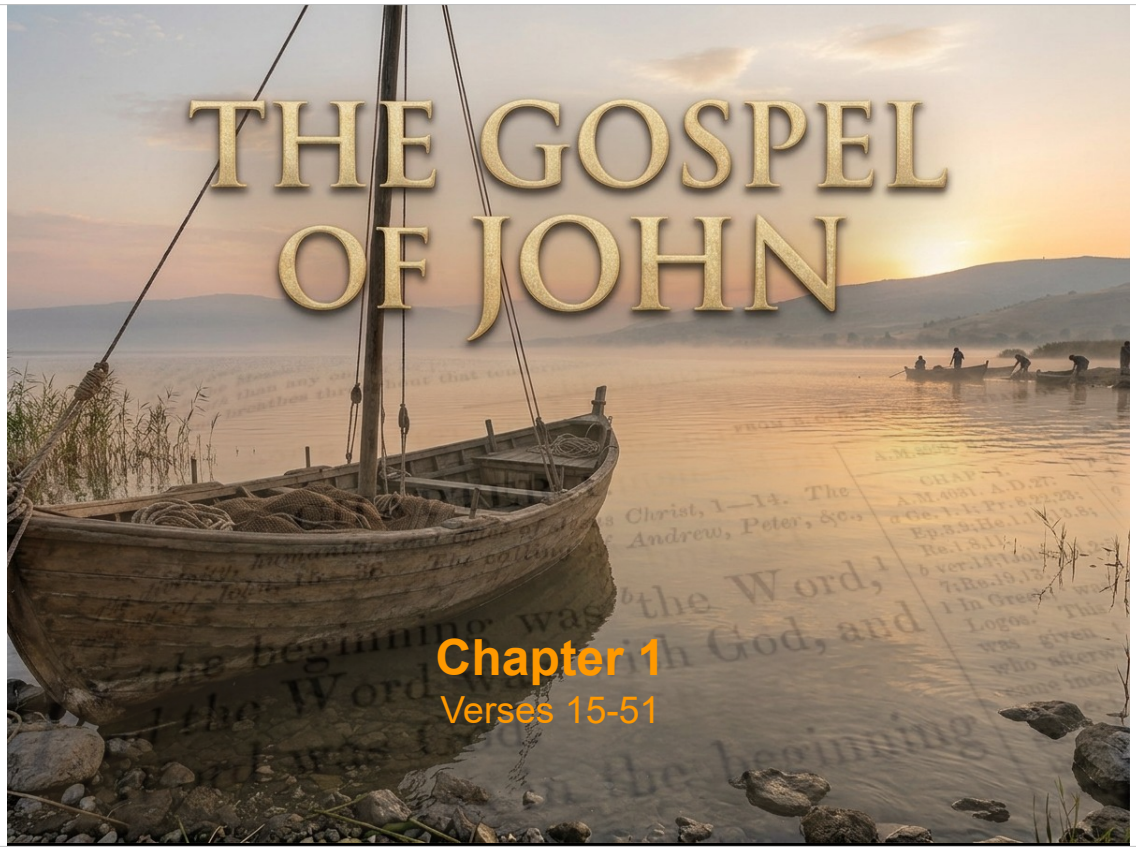
"As thou hast credited my divine mission on this simple proof, that I saw thee when and where no human eye, placed where mine was, could see thee, thy faith shall not rest merely upon this, for thou shalt see greater things than these-more numerous and express proofs of my eternal power and Godhead"

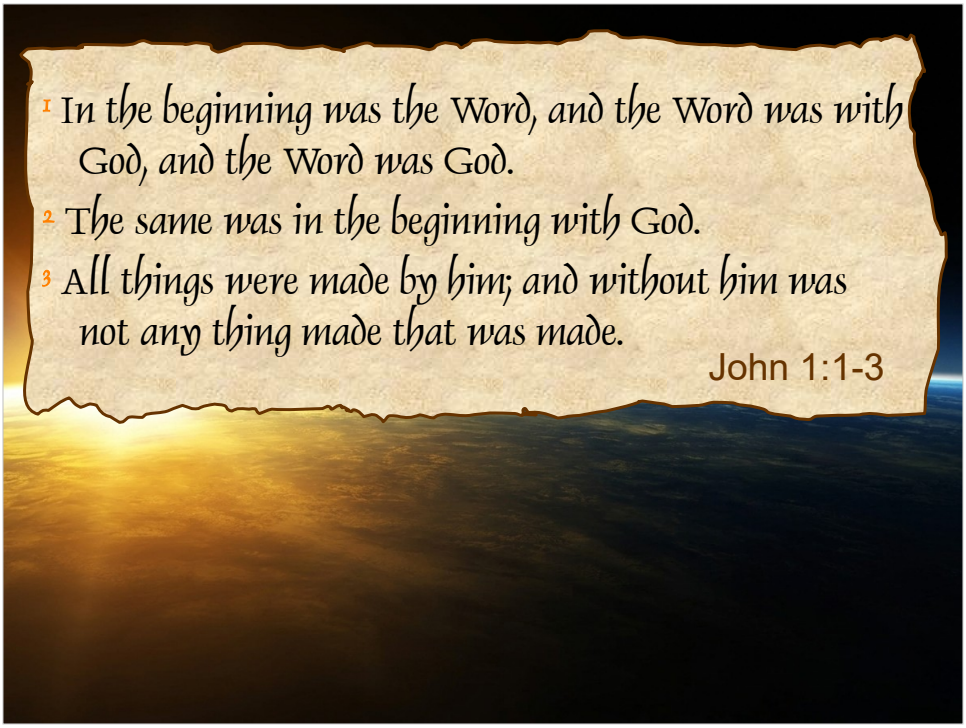

THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
To be continued…



calvary chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk


THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
Chapter 1
Verses 15-51


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John 1:16-17

- The Law could only condemn.
- The Law was given to confine all under sin, to show us we could not make God's righteous standard – even if we tried – See Galatians!
- The purpose of the Law was to lead us to Christ, to show we needed a Saviour – and what a Saviour!

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 1:18

- This verse has caused some controversy, for here we are unambiguously told that ‘no man has seen God at any time’.
- Yet in in various places, we read of people who saw God!
- How do we resolve this?

Seeing God

- In Genesis 18:20-33, Abraham has a face-to-face conversation with God.
- In Genesis 32:24-30, Jacob not only sees God face-to-face, he wrestles with Him all night.
- In Exodus 24:9-11 Moses and the elders of Israel go up the mount, see God, and eat and drink in His presence!
  - Later, Moses specifically asks God if he can see Him, God obliges on the condition that Moses can only see the 'after glow' of God's presence as He passes by.
- Later, Joshua, Gideon, Samson's parents and others see God, and their lives are spared.
- So how do we reconcile this issue?

Seeing God

- The key is found in John chapter 4, verse 24.
- There we read: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”
- As a spirit being, God does not have a physical body.
- Physical objects are part of this order of things; ‘In the beginning (time), God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)’ (Gen 1:1).
- Before this, there was no time, no space and no matter. All three came into existence when God began His work of creation.
- It is therefore impossible for us, in this present order of things to see a God who ‘inhabits eternity’.

Seeing God

- There will come a time when we will see Him…
- *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* (1 John 3:2)
- *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* (1 Cor 13:12)

Seeing God

- Thus, no man has seen God as He truly is.
- For now, God has chosen to reveal Himself through physical manifestations as noted in scripture
- Jesus Christ is the ultimate (and final) physical manifestation of God.
  - It is important to note that Father, Son and Spirit, all existed before the beginning, before matter.
- The Son did not ‘come into being’ at the point of conception with Mary; the Son has always existed and has always enjoyed a relationship with the Father and the Spirit.
  - For God’s purposes, the Son became a man (became flesh) and dwelt among us to declare the Father to us; to be a ‘lamp to our feet & a light to our path’ (thy Word is… Psalm 119:105)

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John 1:19

- The ‘record of John’ is as stated in verse 15, that Jesus, although coming after John, existed before him – thus, John’s record is a declaration of Christ’s divinity.
  - This ‘record’, or testimony of John’s, is reiterated in verse 27 and verse 30.

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John 1:19

- Notice their question: ‘What authority do you have to stand here and speak?’

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

John 1:20

- John was not concerned with his own status or position, but just wanted to point the way to Christ
  - this should be the desire of all believers!
- Our pride needs to give way to humility, our self needs to give way to sacrifice.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:21

- The religious leaders did not ordain or anoint John the Baptist
  - …so, what qualifications do you have?
- Notice the question they ask: are you Elijah?
- Why ask this?
- Because in Malachi 4:5 it is prophesied that Elijah will once again return, before the great and dreadful 'Day of the LORD'.
- But alas, John's authority does not derive from his being Elijah.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:21

- John has already told them plainly that he is not the Christ, so the next question they ask is:
- "Are you that prophet?"
  - This is a reference to a prophecy found in Deuteronomy 18:18, where we are told the Lord would raise up a prophet like Moses.
  - It was believed (and still is by some) that Moses himself would return.

John's Mission

- John was the promised herald announcing the coming of the Messiah
- He came in the spirit and power of Elijah
- …yet he was not Elijah reincarnated
- The prophecy regarding Elijah has yet to be fulfilled
- The Jews expected both Elijah and 'that prophet' to return before 'the Day of The Lord'
  - Each Passover an empty chair is left for Elijah!

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:4

- Malachi reminds us of Moses… who gave the Law
- This is the first of two significant OT characters Malachi will reference

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

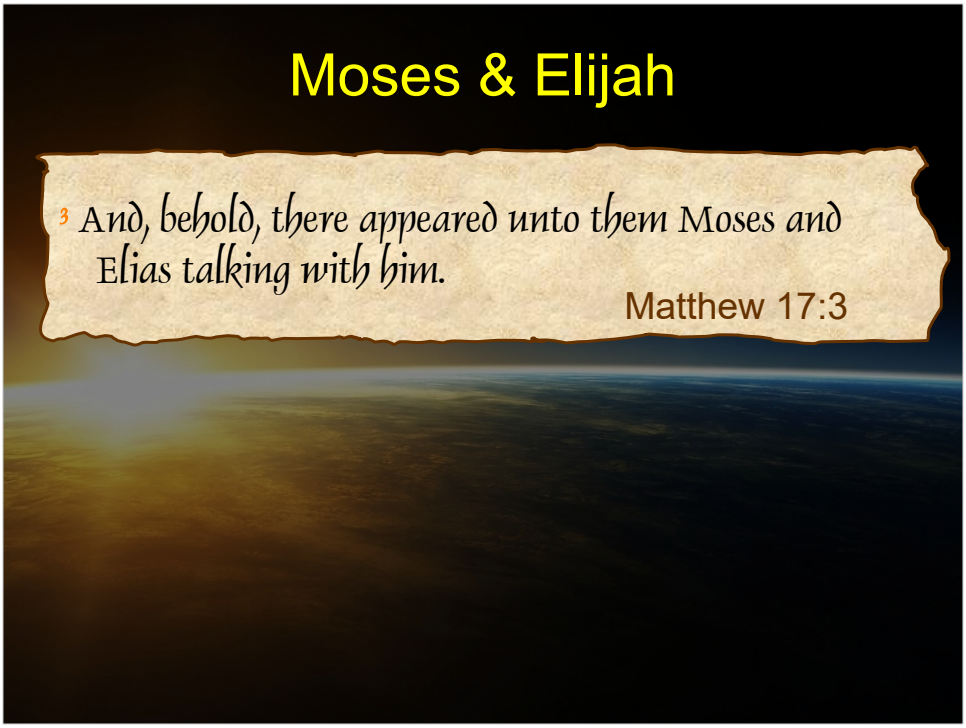
Malachi 4:5

- There is a curious relationship between Moses and Elijah.
- Together they represent the counsel of God to man… the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah)
- For something to be established it requires two witnesses! Deut 17:6 / 19:15

Two Witnesses

15 ...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Deuteronomy 19:15

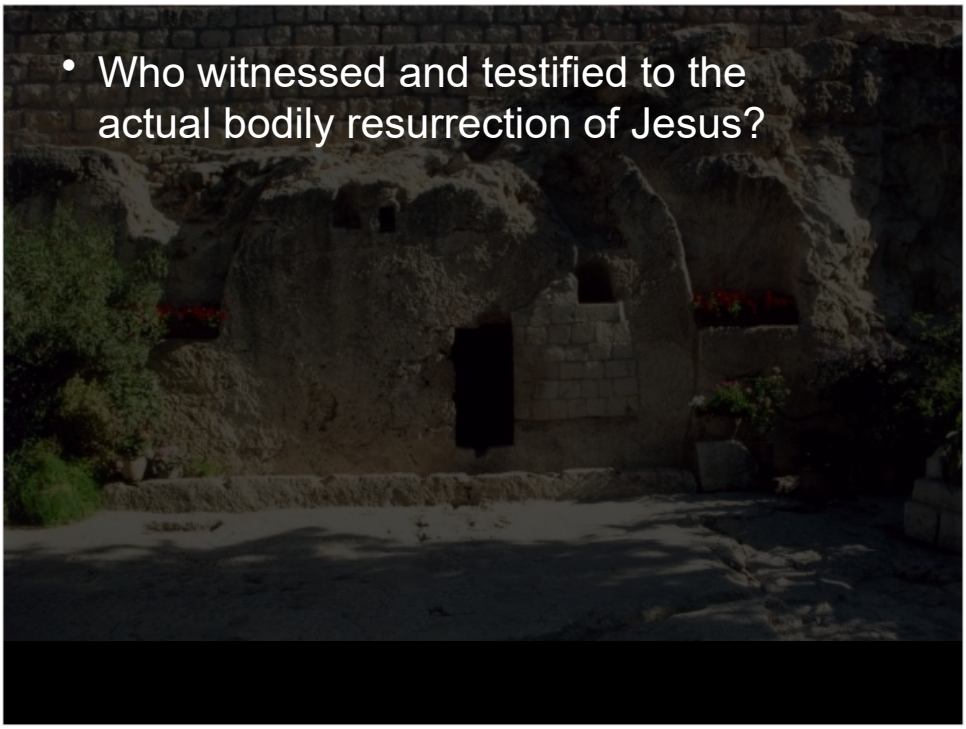


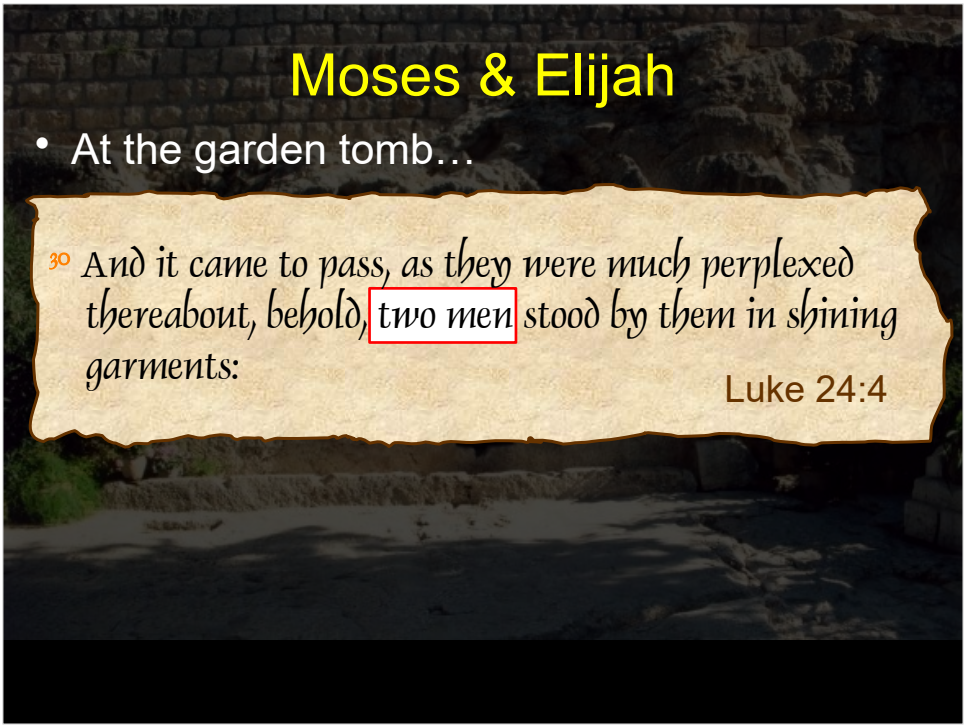
Why Moses & Elijah
Two witnesses - The Law and the Prophets
Spoke of His Exodus
Moses led his Exodus
Elijah led his – on Mt Carmel

Moses & Elijah

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.
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.

Luke 9:30-32


• Who witnessed and testified to the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus?


Moses & Elijah
• At the garden tomb…
30 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
Luke 24:4

Moses & Elijah

- At the ascension…

30 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel

Luke 24:4

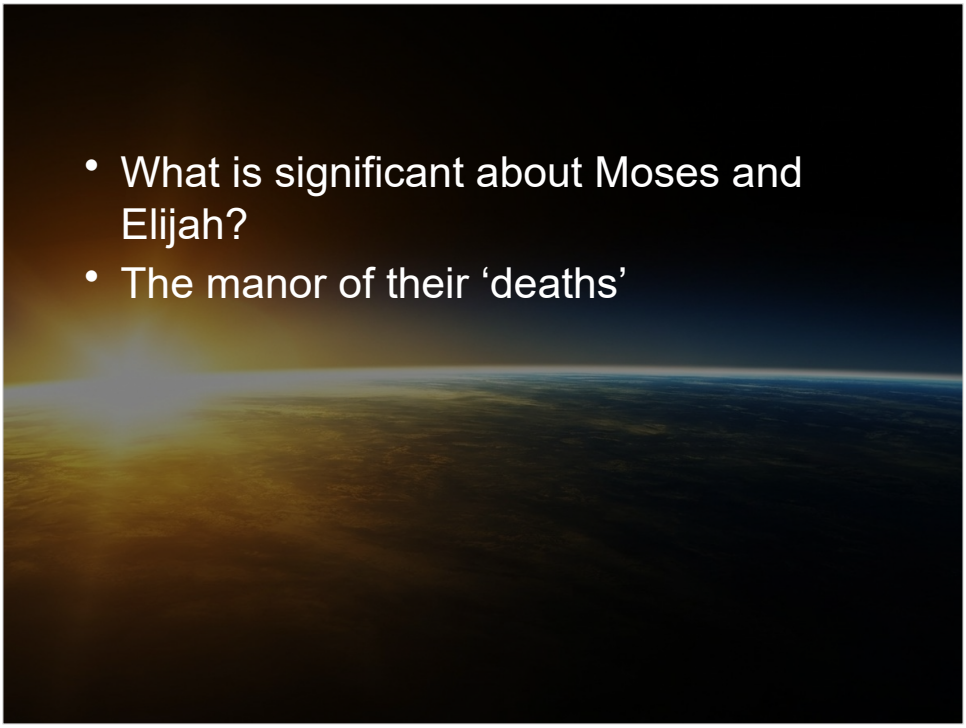
The Law and the Prophets

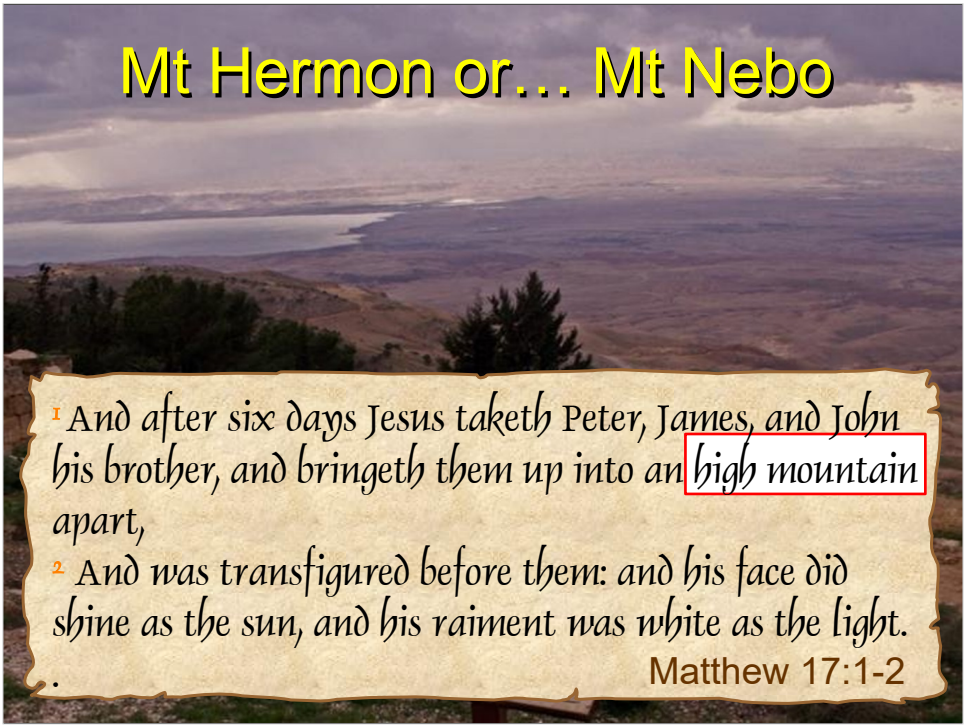
27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou
wouldest send him to my father's house:
29 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto
them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the
prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:27-29

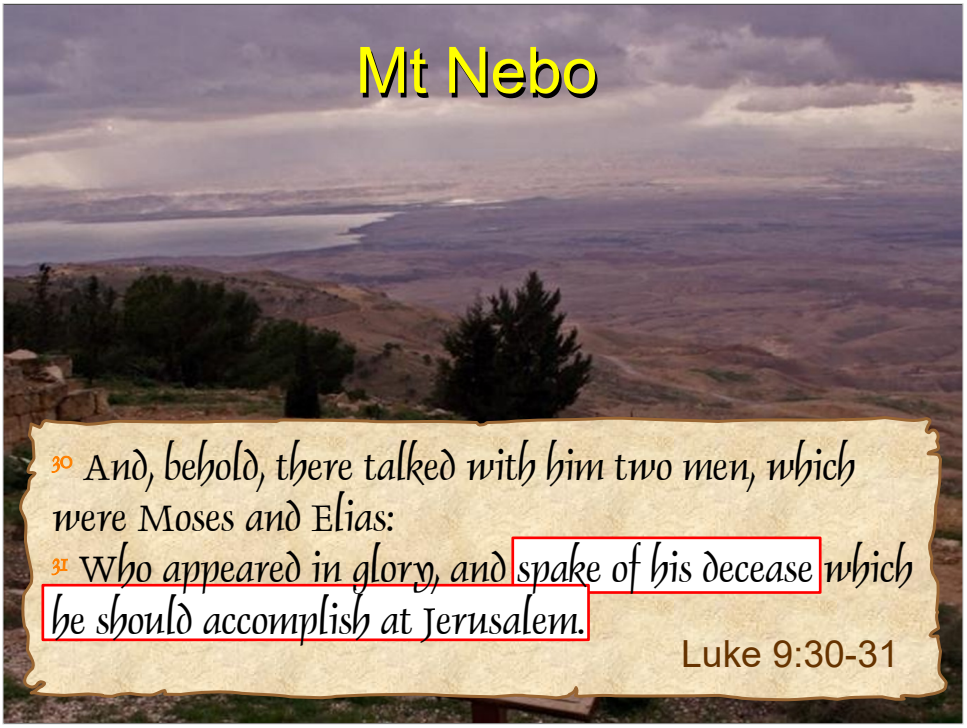
‘Without Excuse’

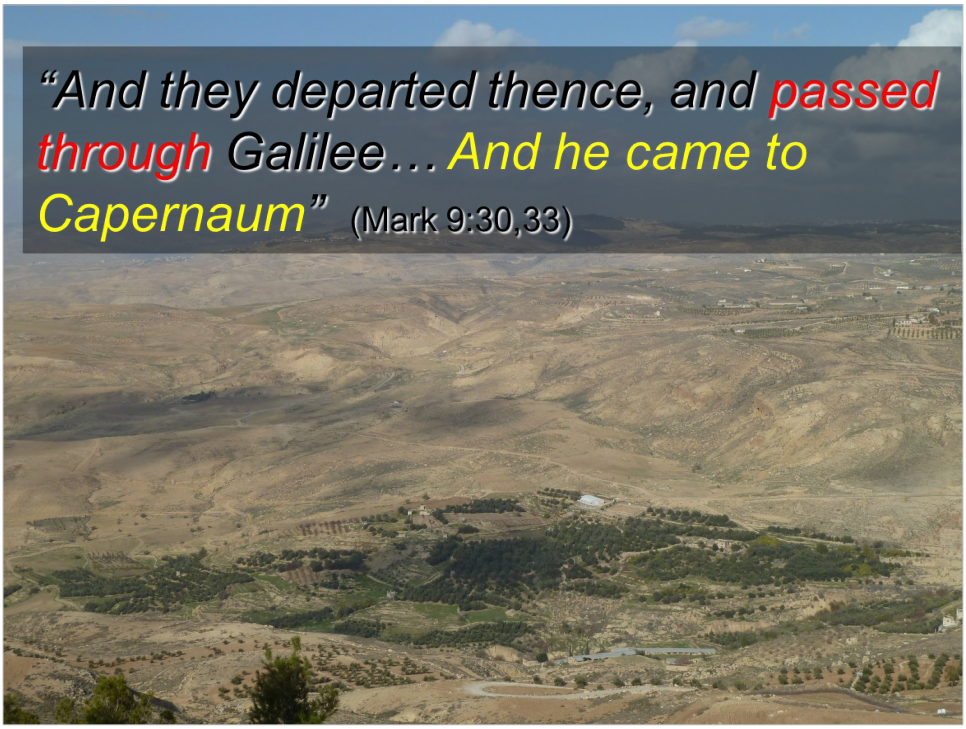
- God has given His two witnesses: ‘Law & the Prophets
- The Law convicts men - Psalm 19:7
- The Prophets convince men
- All men are without excuse if they reject God

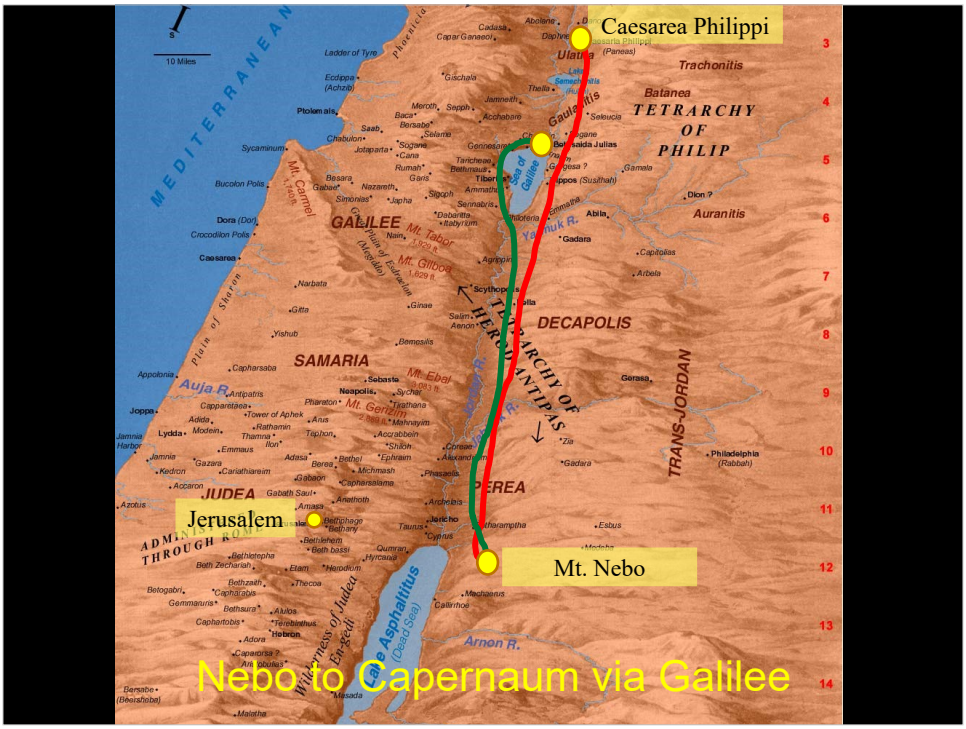

• What is significant about Moses and Elijah?
• The manor of their ‘deaths’

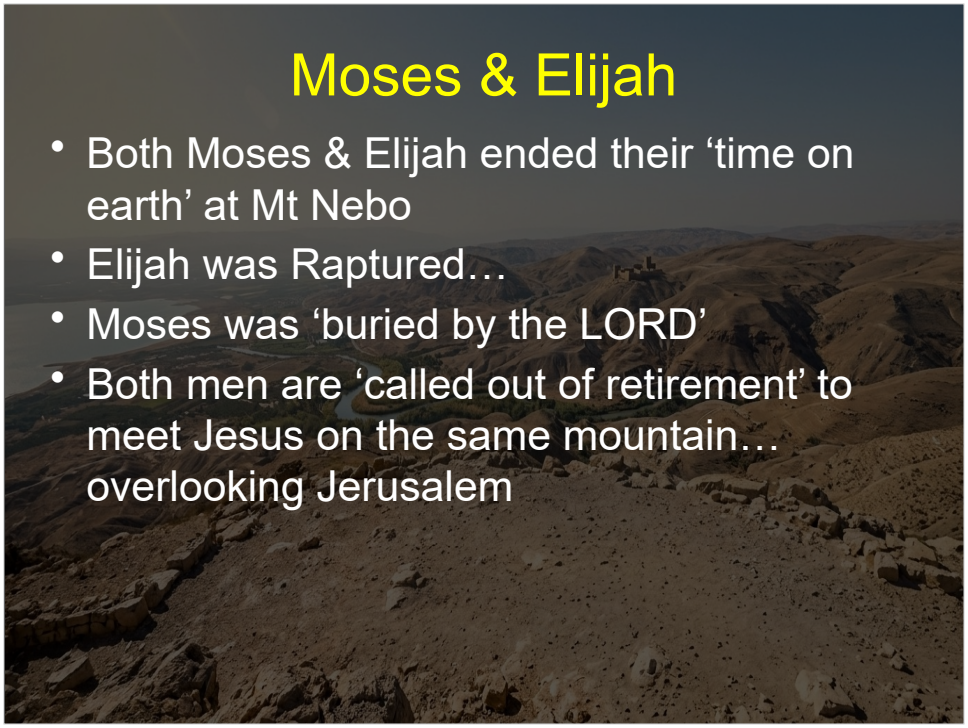

Mt Hermon or… Mt Nebo
1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
Matthew 17:1-2


Mt Hermon
Caesarea Philippi
↑ 1,886 m · ↓ 1,551 m
686 m
-286 m
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
44 hr
212 km
41 hr
202 km
Mount Nebo
Amman
Jerusalem
Tel Aviv-Yafo
Nablus
Jericho
Ramallah
Nazareth
Haifa
Netanya
Hadera
Tiberias
Safed
Acre
Karmiel
Nahariyya
Tyre
Ashdod
Bet Shemesh
Ashkelon
Kiryat Gat
Rishon LeTsiyon
Zarqa
As-Salt
Dhlail
Azraq
Safawi
Az Zalaf
Shahba
Jasim
Nawa
Qatana
Nabatieh
Zichron Ya'akov
Caesarea
Hadera
Jenin
Beit She'an
Afula
Tsfat
Golan
Daye Al Kahf


Mt Nebo
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 9:30-31


"And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee… And he came to Capernaum" (Mark 9:30,33)


Caesarea Philippi
Jerusalem
Mt. Nebo
Nebo to Capernaum via Galilee
MEDITERRANEAN
GALILEE
SAMARIA
JUDEA
PEREA
DECAPOLIS
TETRARCHY OF PHILIP
TETRARCHY OF HERODIAS ANTIPAS
TRANS-JORDAN
Trachonitis
Batanea
Auranitis
Sea of Galilee
Dead Sea
Jordan R.
Arnon R.
Yarmuk R.
Auja R.
Wilderness of Judea
Mt. Carmel
Mt. Tabor
Mt. Gilboa
Mt. Ebal
Mt. Gerizim
Plain of Sharon
Plain of Esdraelon (Megiddo)
Caesarea
Dora (Dor)
Joppa
Lydda
Jericho
Gerasa
Philadelphia (Rabbah)
Gadara
Hebron
Masada
Bersabe (Beersheba)
Ladder of Tyre
Phoenicia
10 Miles



Why Moses & Elijah
Two witnesses - The Law and the Prophets
Spoke of His Exodus
Moses led his Exodus
Elijah led his – on Mt Carmel

The Rapture of Elijah

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

2 Kings 2:11

The Death of Moses

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the
land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.
6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab,
over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his
sepulchre unto this day.
7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old
when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force
abated.

Deuteronomy 34:5-7

The Death of Moses

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

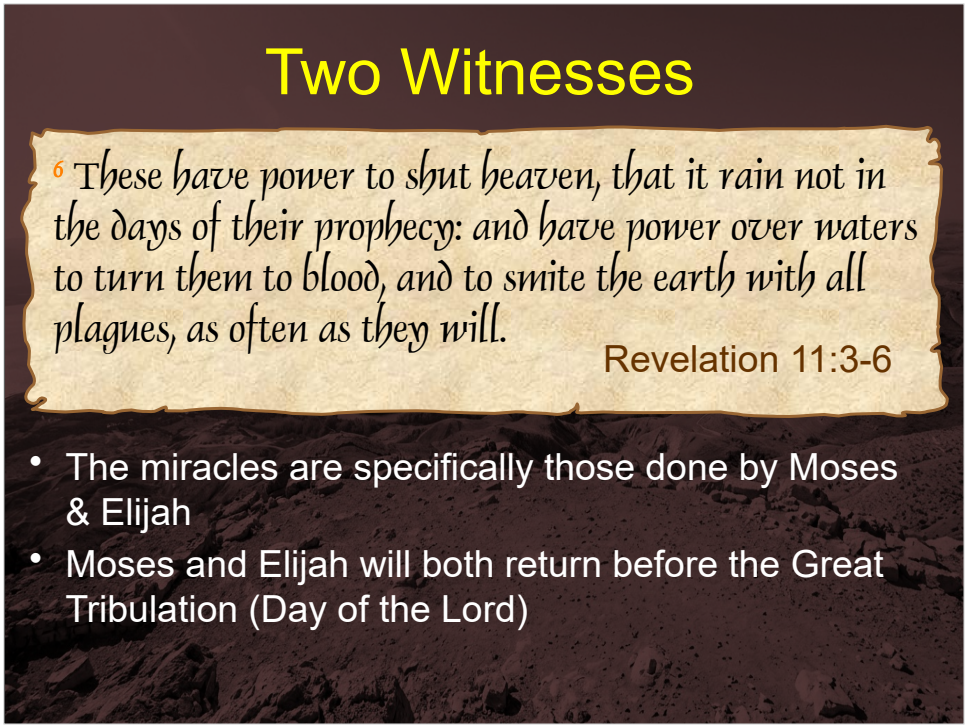
Jude v9



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



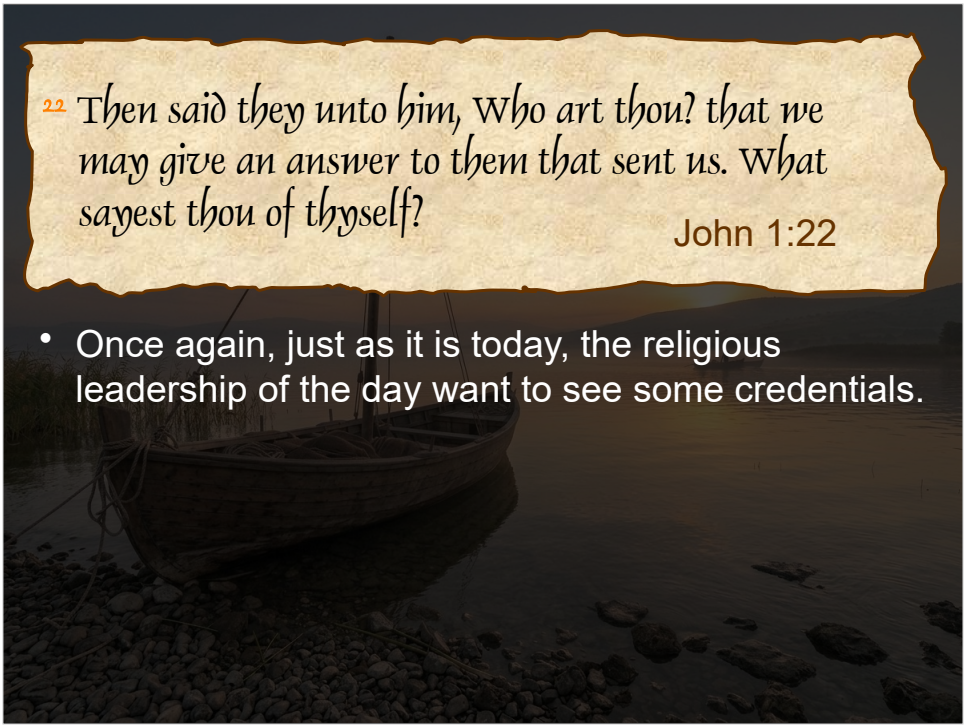
John 1:25 *"Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?"* The prophet that they were referring to was none other than Moses. From a prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18 the Jews believe that Moses himself will return.

Malachi 4:5-6 where we are told: *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:
6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

- It may well be the ministry of Moses and Elijah during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation that convert 144,000 Jews
- They will be a witness to the world
- They will be killed , resurrected and then raptured (again?)


22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?
John 1:22
• Once again, just as it is today, the religious leadership of the day want to see some credentials.

23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

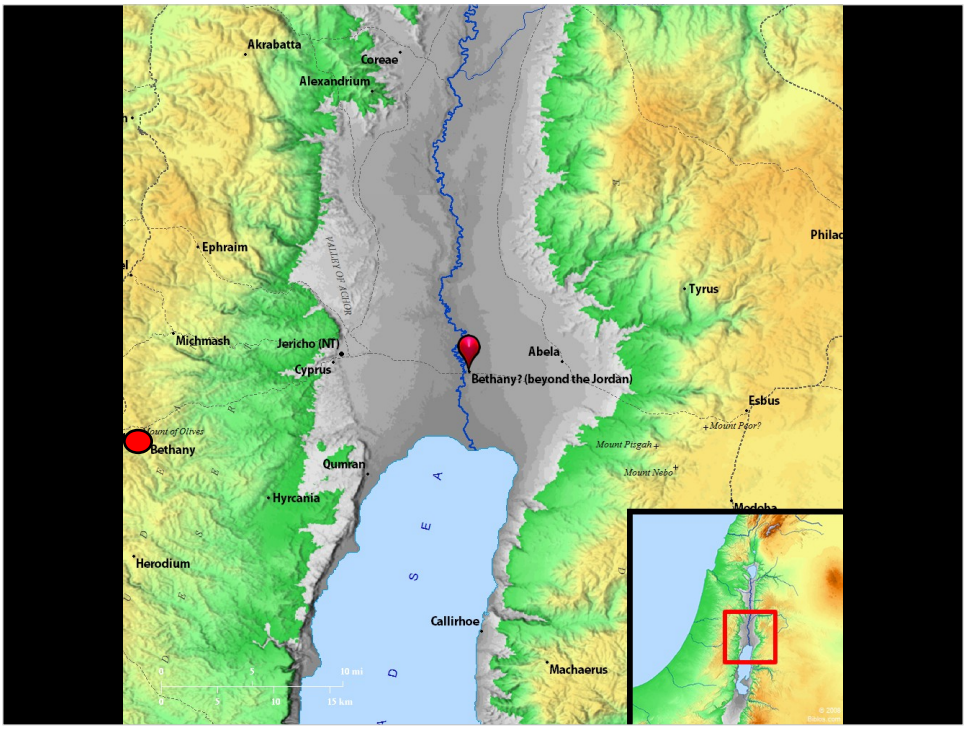
25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John 1:23-25

- Note: John's authority is the Word of God!
  - Specifically, Isaiah 40:3
- But that is obviously not good enough!
- Also note: The way is being prepared for YHVH, thus: Jesus = Yehovah.

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water:
but there standeth one among you, whom ye know
not;
27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me,
whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.
28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

John 1:26-28

- John's baptism was symbolic
- The real cleansing would be done by Christ


Akrabatta
Coreae
Alexandrium
Ephraim
Philac
Tyrus
Michmash
Jericho (NT)
Cyprus
Abela
Bethany? (beyond the Jordan)
Esbus
Mount of Olives
Bethany
Qumran
Mount Pisgah
Mount Nebo
Hyrcania
Herodium
Callirhoe
Machaerus
0
5
10 mi
0
5
10
15 km

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

- This was the answer to a 2000 year-old question!

Mount Moriah

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:7-8

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man
which is preferred before me: for he was before me.
31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made
manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing
with water.

John 1:30-31

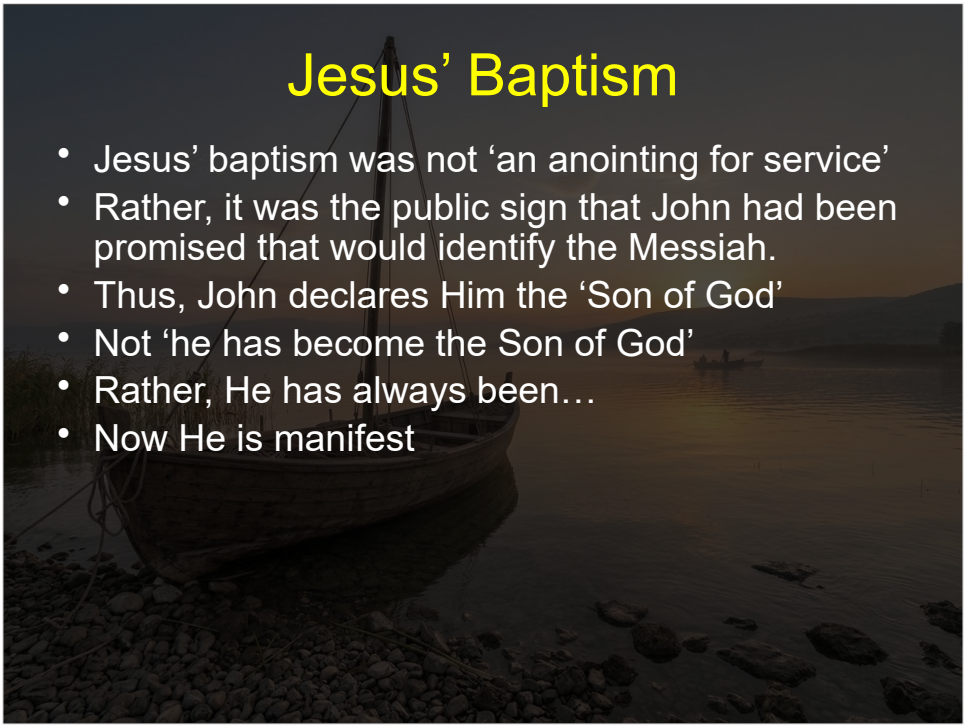
- Surely John knew his cousin?
- But he did not know Christ's divinity
- John's role was to prepare the way

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit
descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode
upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize
with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou
shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him,
the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:32-33


Jesus' Baptism
• Jesus' baptism was not 'an anointing for service'
• Rather, it was the public sign that John had been promised that would identify the Messiah.
• Thus, John declares Him the 'Son of God'
• Not 'he has become the Son of God'
• Rather, He has always been…
• Now He is manifest

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John 1:35-36

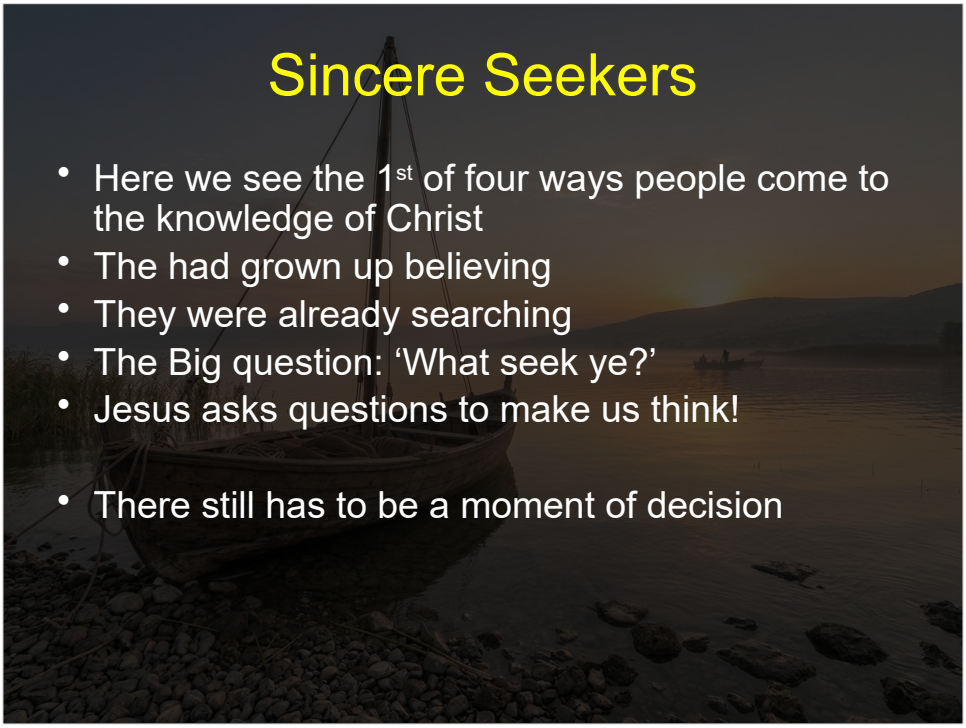
- John practiced what he preached
- Pointing men to Jesus (he must increase…)
- We are not to get converts to our opinions, but we are to point men to Christ

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

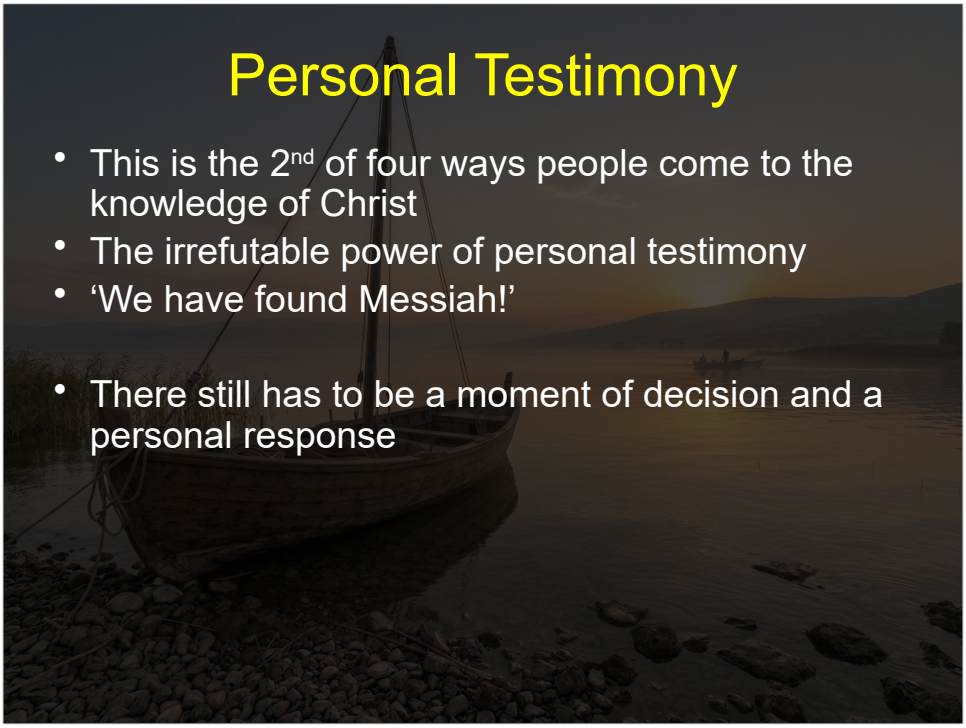
39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

John 1:37-39


Sincere Seekers
• Here we see the 1st of four ways people come to the knowledge of Christ
• The had grown up believing
• They were already searching
• The Big question: ‘What seek ye?’
• Jesus asks questions to make us think!
• There still has to be a moment of decision

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed
him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith
unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being
interpreted, the Christ.
42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld
him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou
shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A
stone.

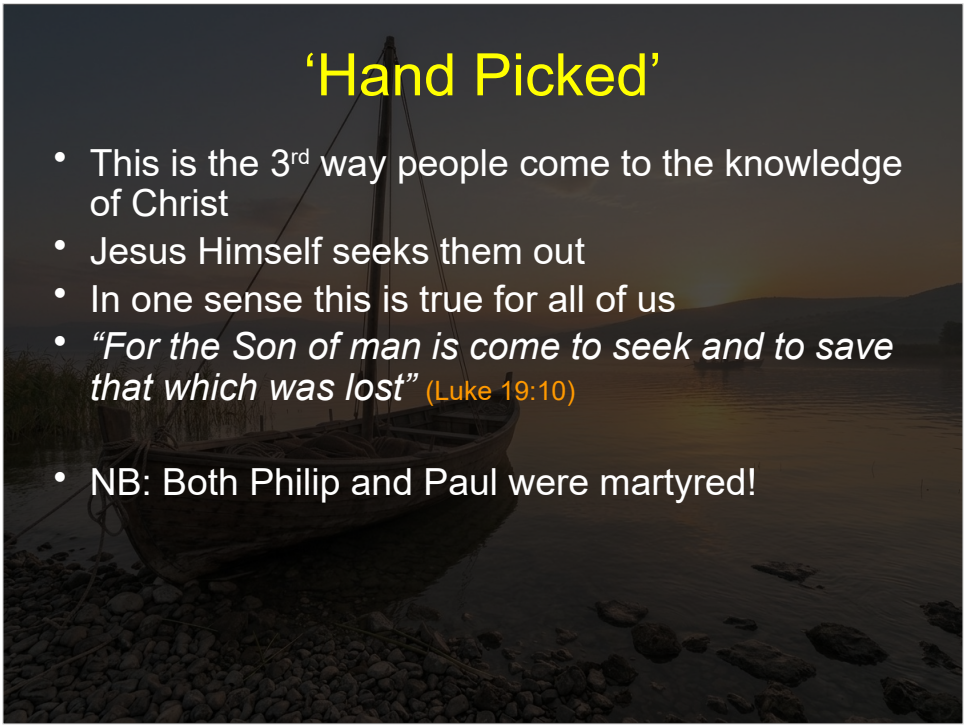
John 1:40-42


Personal Testimony
• This is the 2nd of four ways people come to the knowledge of Christ
• The irrefutable power of personal testimony
• ‘We have found Messiah!’
• There still has to be a moment of decision and a personal response

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

John 1:43-44


‘Hand Picked’
• This is the 3rd way people come to the knowledge of Christ
• Jesus Himself seeks them out
• In one sense this is true for all of us
• *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10)
• NB: Both Philip and Paul were martyred!

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

John 1:45-46

Appeal To Evidence

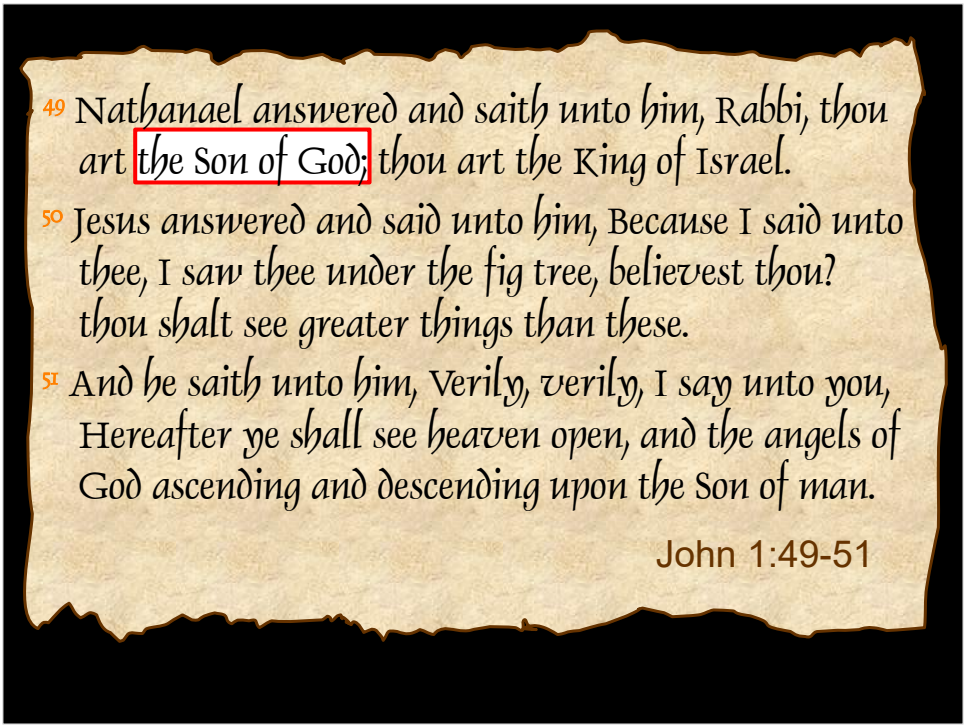
- The 4th way people come to the knowledge of Christ
- Testimony + Evidence
- God's two witnesses: 'Law & the Prophets
- The Law convicts men - Psalm 19:7
- The Prophets convince men
- We have overwhelming evidence
- *"To whom also he [Jesus] shewed himself alive after his passion by* many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3)

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

John 1:47-48

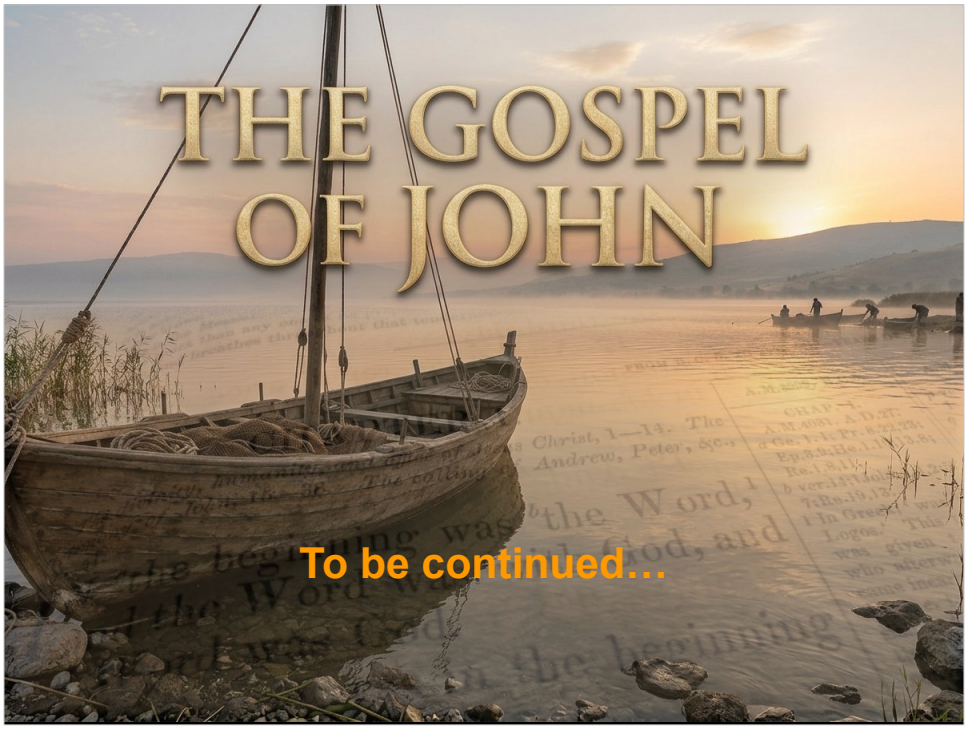
- *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do"* -
  Hebrews 4:13

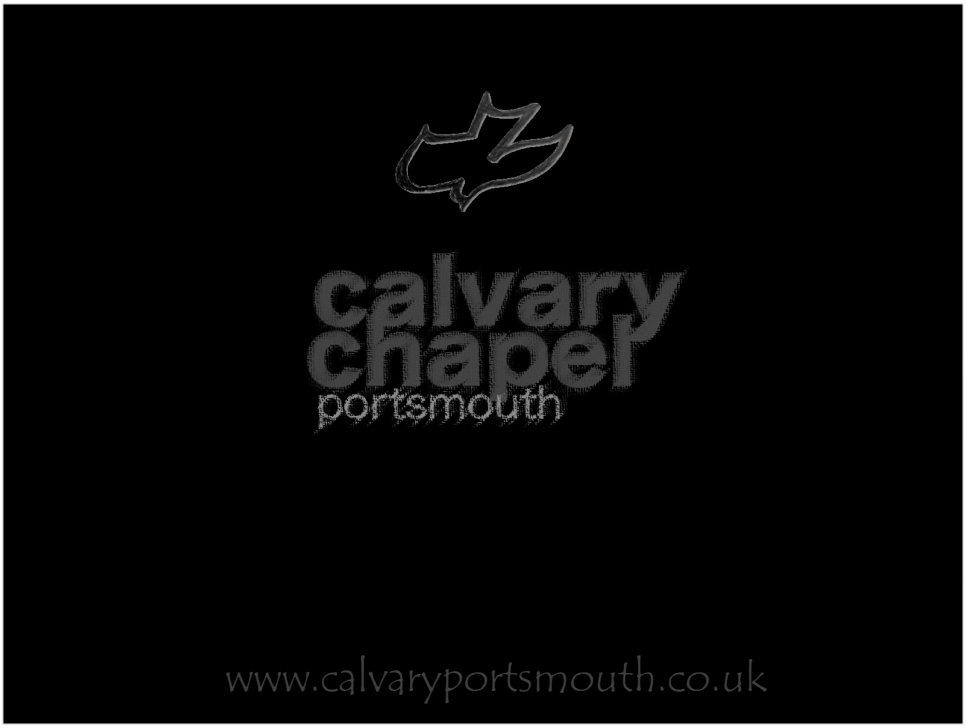


John declared his deity, now Nathanael does the same – and states that Jesus is King of Israel – something we have yet to see fulfilled. Jesus presented Himself as King in Luke 19, but the people rejected Him, they wanted to take him by force and make Him king after the feeding of the 5000, but Jesus would not allow it; but there is coming a day, when Jesus will return and sit upon the Throne of David, as promised by Gabriel to Mary (in Luke 1:32).

Adam Clarke

"As thou hast credited my divine mission on this simple proof, that I saw thee when and where no human eye, placed where mine was, could see thee, thy faith shall not rest merely upon this, for thou shalt see greater things than these-more numerous and express proofs of my eternal power and Godhead"


THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
To be continued…


calvary
chapel
portsmouth
www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk