

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

EPIC TALES

TOO



**What do you need from God
when you really mess up?**

Restoration



A foggy beach with smooth, rounded rocks in the foreground and a calm sea in the background. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Make Disciples

Matthew 28

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Matthew 28:1

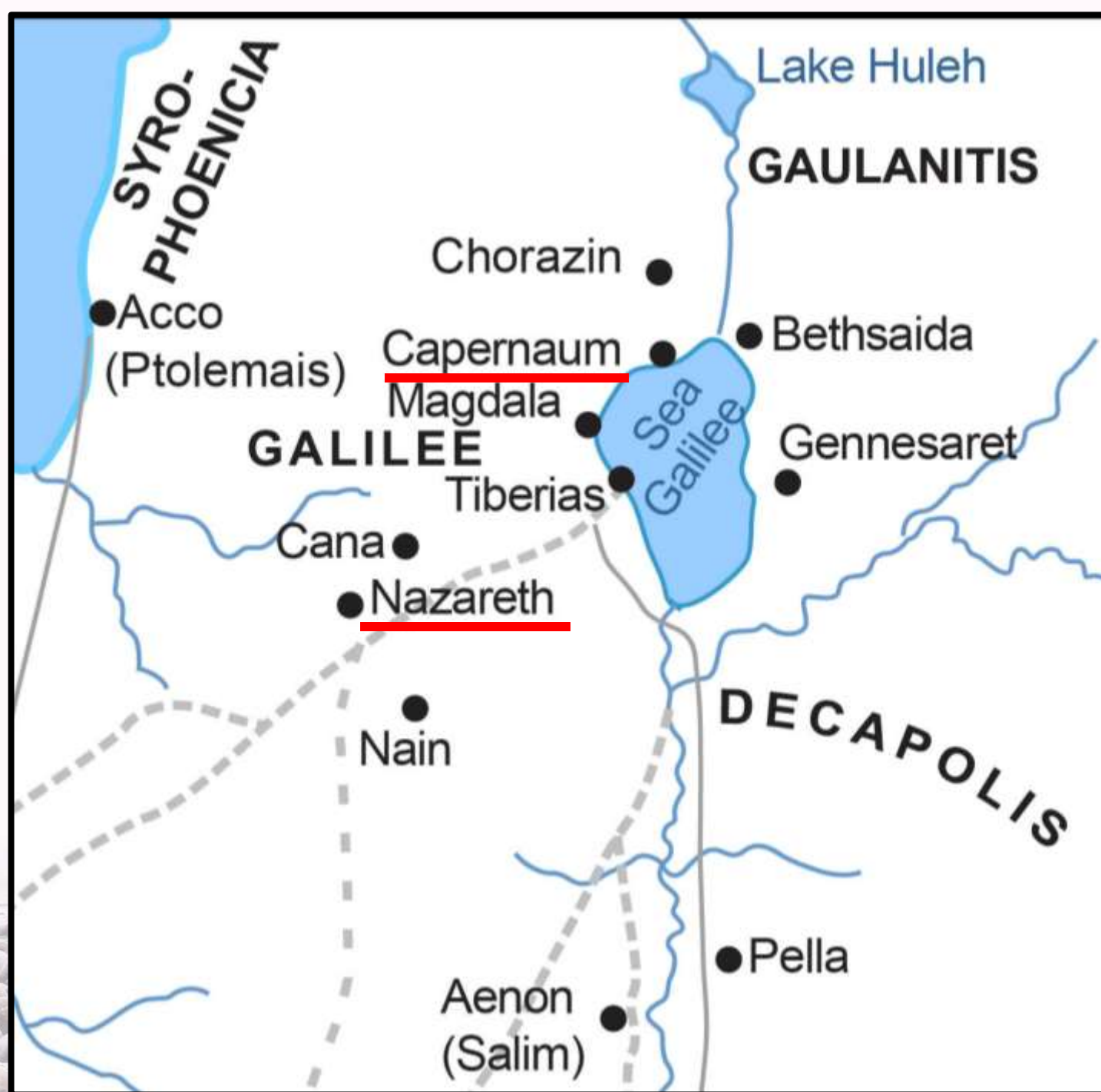
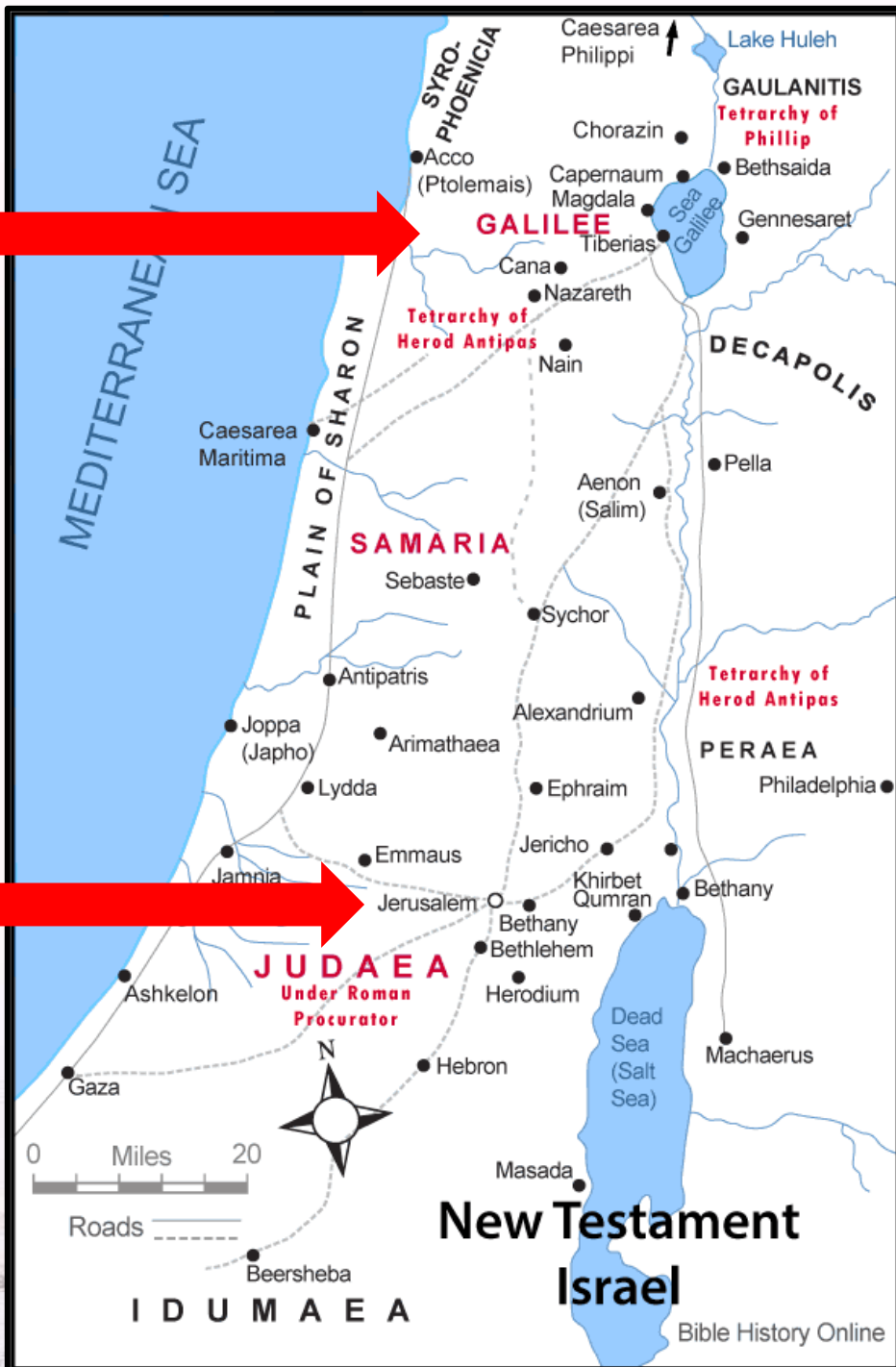


And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

Matthew 28:2-7

And they [women followers of Jesus] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them [the women] and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.” Matthew 28:8-10

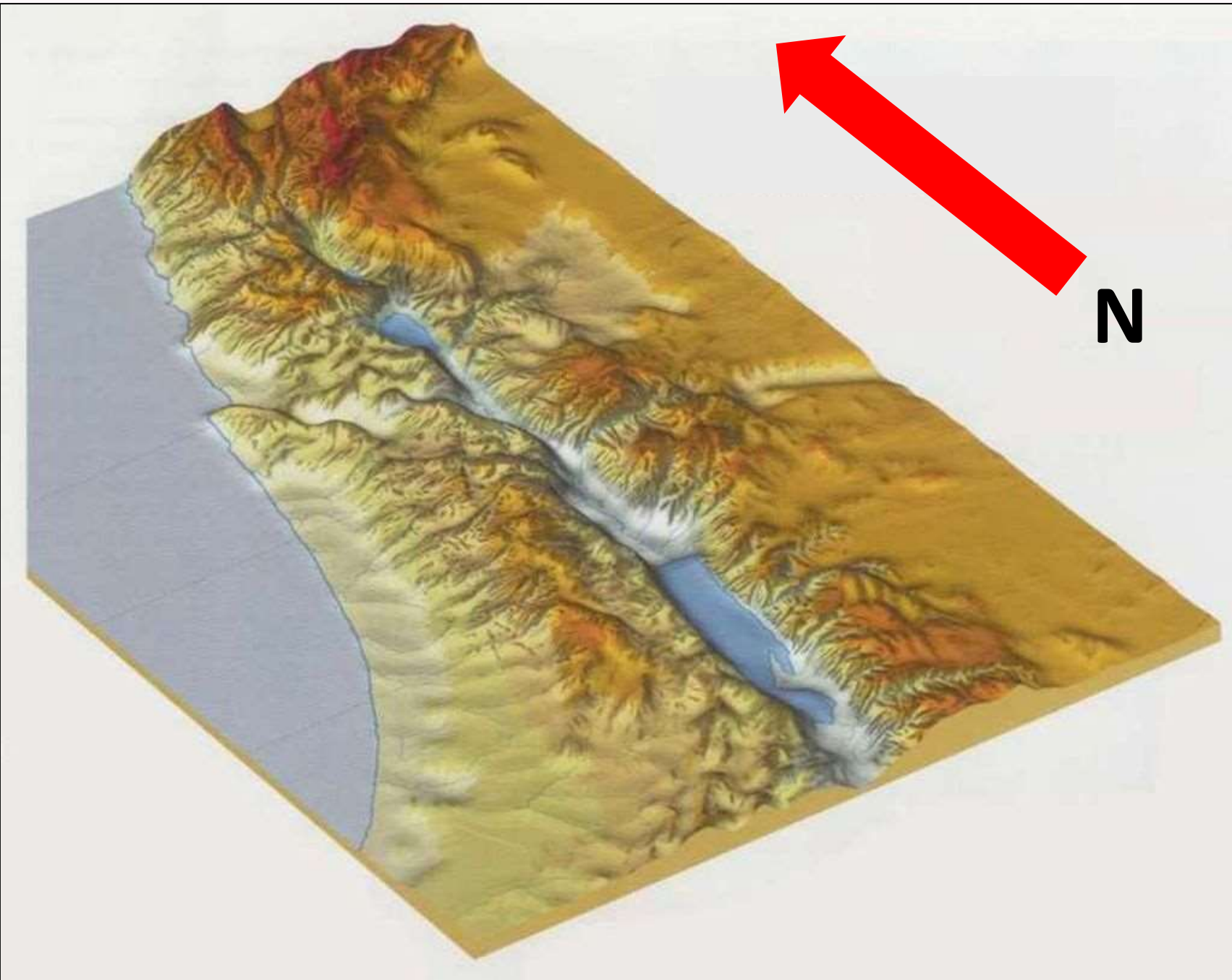
***All the Galileans in Jesus’ ministry would soon be returning home after the journey to Jerusalem for Passover**



What happens next?

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. Matthew 28:16

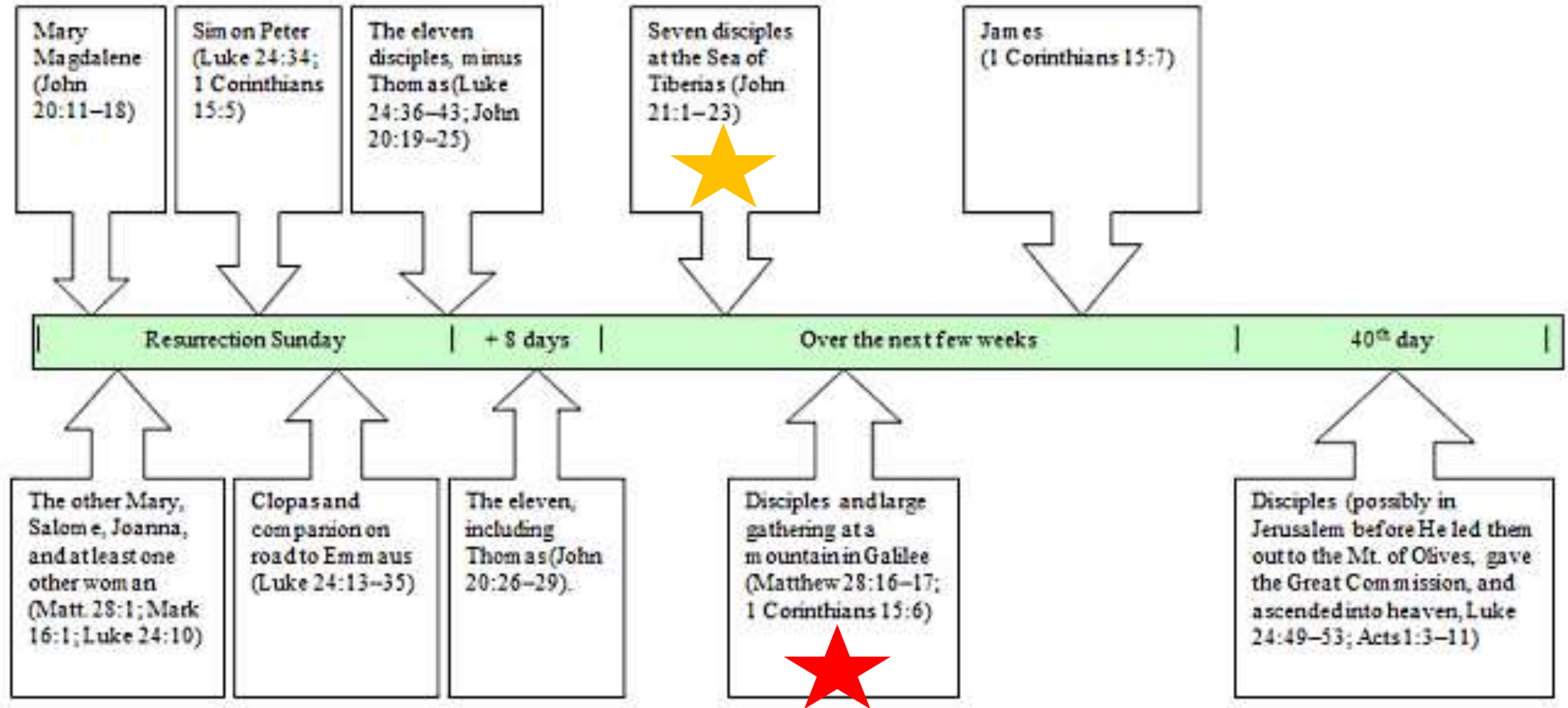
***The eleven disciples pointedly excludes Judas Iscariot, but equally pointedly includes Peter, despite his dismal failure at the trial. – New Bible Commentary**



**Which
mountain?**

**Topographic
map of Israel
looking from
the southwest**

Timeline of the Post-Resurrection Appearances



**How would you feel at this time?
How would you react?**

**When they saw Him, they
worshiped Him; but some were
doubtful. Matthew 28:17**



Why did they worship?

- They want to believe Jesus is the promised Messiah
- They saw Him killed on the cross and now He see Him alive
- Maybe His resurrection proves that He is the promised Messiah
- He arranged to meet them at this spot and He always keeps His promises
- They are beginning to understand His spiritual power
- They believe something great and unprecedented is about to happen in the spiritual realm

Why were they doubtful?

διστάζω [distazo] Greek verb meaning “to doubt, to waver”

- **Is Jesus really alive?**
- **What will happen to me if I follow Him this time?**
- **What is my mission now?**
- **Peter asks, “Will I deny Him again?”**
- **Other disciples ask, “Will I deny Him like Peter did?”**
- **All the followers ask, “Is this worth the cost?”**
- **Can I accomplish the spiritual assignment He gives me?**

Why were they doubtful?

“Doubtful” = διστάζω distazo meaning
“to waver, to hesitate”

Why do **we** have trouble believing?



Who sets the agenda?

And Jesus [the man who was dead and is now alive] came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

Matthew 28:18

**authority = Greek noun ἐξουσία *exousia* means
“official right or power, jurisdiction, influence”**

What did Yeshua say?

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

- That is quite a statement, to claim both spiritual and human authority.**
- Remember, Jesus previously had been crucified under human authority, namely the Romans. What is different now?**
- This statement was made after the Resurrection.**
- In effect, Jesus reassured His followers, “You can trust Me.”**

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

When Jesus was crucified, what were the charges in His trials?

Religious Trials before Jewish leaders

- Before Annas John 18:12–14
 - Before Caiaphas Matthew 26:57–68
 - Before the Sanhedrin Matthew 27:1–2
- *Charged with blasphemy, claiming to be **Messiah**, the Son of God.**

Civil Trials before Roman officials

- Before Pilate John 18:28–38
 - Before Herod Luke 23:6–12
 - Before Pilate John 18:39–19:6
- *Charged with treason, inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be **King**.**

The Great Commission

... spoken by the One with ALL authority

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” Matthew 28:19



We read this verse as “Go and Make”

- The only Greek imperative (command) in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) is “make”**
- “Go” is a participle in Greek, best translated “having gone” or “as you are going”**
- “As you are going” about your daily life**

“Go... Make”

- Go... Πορευθέντες poreuthentes = Verb, Aorist, Passive Deponent, **Participle**, Plural, Nominative, Masculine
- Make... μαθητεύσατε matheteusate = **verb**, aorist, active, imperative, second person, plural
 - The noun for Disciple μαθητής mathetes is implied, meaning “a disciple, pupil, or apprentice”

What are the Bible words for disciple?

- Disciple (Singular) Mathetes μαθητής
- Disciples (Plural) Mathetai μαθηταί
- Teacher (Singular) Didaskalos διδάσκαλος
- Non-New Testament Greek literature speaks of the μαθητής (mathetes) of a doctor, weaver, musician, philosopher, etc.
- We are to be the follower/learner/student of Jesus

Literary Definition of a Disciple in Greek

- The one designated as a μαθητής (Mathetes) is engaged in learning. His education consists in the adoption of specific knowledge or conduct, and it proceeds deliberately and according to a set plan.
- There is no μαθητής (Mathetes) without a διδάσκαλος (Didaskalos). The process involves a corresponding personal relationship.
- There is a direct dependence of the one under instruction upon an authority superior in knowledge, and which emphasizes the fact that this relationship cannot be dissolved.

What are followers of Jesus called to be?

Makers of Disciples

- Know Jesus**
- Follow Jesus**
- Display the character of Jesus**
- Tell others about Jesus**
- Treat people as Jesus would**

What are followers of Jesus NOT called to be?

- **Hateful**
- **Fearful**
- **Social media warriors**
- **Absent**
- **Political bullies**
- **Christian Jerks**
- **Politically apathetic**



What is our assignment?

The central command is MAKE disciples. At the heart of our mission is the reproduction in others of what Jesus has produced in us: faith, obedience, growth, authority, compassion, love, and a bold, truthful message as his witnesses. The early followers of Jesus were learners commanded to produce more learners.

What is a disciple?

Our lives belong not to us but to the One who died to purchase our freedom from sin and death. Along with our freedom, He purchased our availability and usefulness to Him as tools for the conduct of His ministry. We rob Him of His right when we fail to fulfill His marching orders. The entire Gospel of Matthew serves to equip us for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

- A fundamental mark of the μαθηταί (Mathetai) of Jesus is that they are called by Him to discipleship.
- The initiative is with Jesus Himself. The Messiah does the calling.
- Decisive here is the fact that He calls to Himself disciples who do not seem to enjoy the necessary qualifications for fellowship with Him, e.g., the tax-gatherer Levi [Matthew], for by their occupation tax-gatherers were regarded as sinners and were thus shunned by the pious.

“Make disciples of **all the nations”**

- Greek “ta ethne” = all the ethnic groups**
- Why do we believe in missions?**
- Why do we give money to missions?**





“Make disciples of **all the nations”**

Who was the greatest missionary ever?



How do disciples of Jesus think?

When you commit to follow Jesus, you are pledging to love what He loves and hate what He hates.

- What does God love?**
- What does God hate?**



What does God love?

“For God so loved the world [all the ethnic groups], that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

***If we love God, we must love the things He loves**



What does God hate?

There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

***If we love God, we must hate the things He hates**

“baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”

- English verb “baptize” comes from Greek verb βαπτίζω *baptizo* literally meaning “to immerse, submerge in water”
- Baptism does not earn or complete my salvation
- Baptism is the outward sign of my inward faith commitment to Jesus as my Redeemer
 - “very important second step”

“teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

- English verb “observe” is Greek verb *τηρέω tereo* meaning “to observe, to keep, to hold fast”
- Jesus does not say “teach them to believe in me”
- Jesus explained that there is more to this than “have faith in Me”
 - This is more than a call to believe, it is a call to believe AND act
 - This applies to every area of my life, including my roles as a family member and member of the workplace and as a citizen

“teaching them”

Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 14:23-26

“to observe all that I commanded you”

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39



“to observe all that I commanded you”

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. James 1:22



“I am with you always” = YOU ARE NOT ALONE

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13



How do I become a disciple of Jesus?

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:4-9

What do disciples of Jesus DO daily?

- **Spend time in God's Word**
- **Pray with thanksgiving**
- **Practice scripture memory**
- **Pray for someone's salvation by name**
- **Encourage someone specifically**
- **Pray for deliverance from one sinful action**
- **Pray for your leaders**
- **Show someone unconditional love**
- **Ask for forgiveness and offer forgiveness**

What do disciples of Jesus DO weekly?

- **Ask the Lord to expand your spiritual touch**
- **Make Sunday morning worship a priority**
- **Invite someone new to worship with you**
- **Get involved in a Small Group**
- **Give generously to God's work**
- **Find a place to volunteer in ministry**



Things to do in the public square

- Pray
- Study the issues
- Vote
- Speak truth humbly and intelligently
- Respect those who disagree
- Honor God



Our calling from Jesus today

- **Believe in Him**
- **Obey Him**
- **Tell others about Him**
- **Live out His Word**

Are we ready for this mission?