



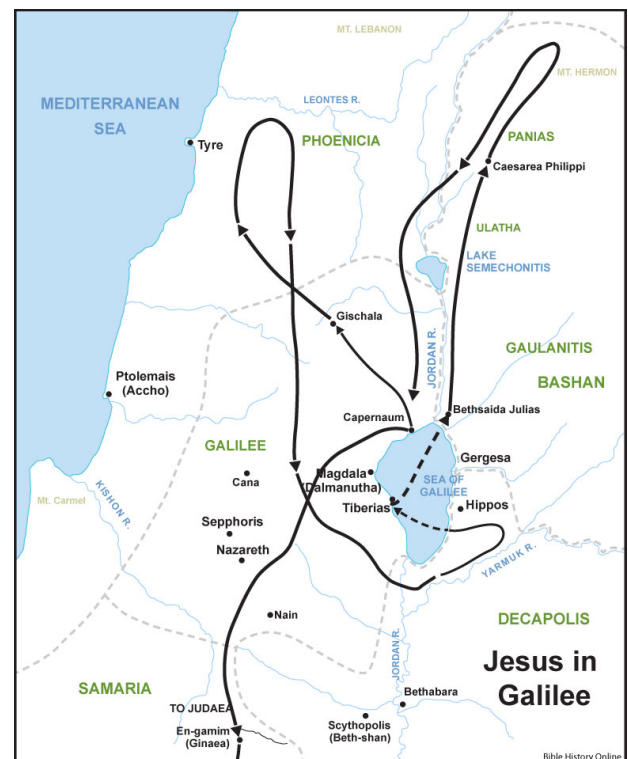
## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

### Introduction: The Ministry of Jesus Begins (Luke 3:1-4:13)

<sup>46</sup> “Why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? <sup>47</sup> **I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.** <sup>48</sup> It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. (Luke 6:46–48 NLT-SE)

#### - The Assignment of John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-20)

- **John’s Message** (3:7-14)...A baptism of **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. His was a message **preached**, “*He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!’*”
  - Peter replied, “Each of you must **repent** of your sins and **turn** to God, and **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 NLT-SE)
- John’s message was this, “*If you have truly repented of your sins, **change is happening from the inside out** and the way you live your life will reflect those changes* (the book of James).”
- **John’s Role** (3:15-17)...The first words out of the mouth of John’s father, Zechariah, at the birth of his son would prophetically tell the whole story: “And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because **you will prepare the way for the Lord.** (Luke 1:76 NLT-SE)



- John's baptism (water), would be followed by the Spirit's baptism (power) at Pentecost (Acts 2:3) and culminate with the baptism of Jesus (fire) prophesied by Malachi.
  - <sup>2</sup> "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. <sup>3</sup> **He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross.** He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord. (Mal 3:2–3 NLT-SE)
- **John's Ministry** (3:18-20)...This was a **short** and **intense** ministry! Like Jesus, John started his ministry as he approached the age of 30 (A.D. 29). His entire ministry lasted no more than three years—about one year out of prison and two years in prison. (Luke 9:7-9).
- **The Baptism of Jesus** (Luke 3:21-22)
  - **Why baptism?** All four Gospels gave an account of this spectacular event which signaled **the beginning of Jesus' public ministry**. John A Martin says, *"The purpose of the baptism was to anoint Jesus with the Spirit and to authenticate Him by the Father for beginning His ministry. Each Person of the Godhead was involved in the activity of the Son on earth, including His baptism. The Son was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and the Father spoke approvingly of Jesus. In His baptism Jesus identified Himself with sinners though He was not a sinner."*
  - Only Luke's gospel says that Jesus was **praying** during the time of his baptism (3:21). Luke records Jesus turning to prayer many times during his ministry, demonstrating his desire to hear from the Father and be led by the Holy Spirit (v. 21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:32, 40-44; 23:46).
  - When Luke writes that the "**heaven's opened**," he was painting a picture of this being a significant time in history, when God was breaking into human history with profound revelation of Jesus as the Son of God!
- **What was accomplished through Jesus' baptism?**
  - The dove was a **sign of peace or freedom** from judgment. The Holy Spirit appearing in the physical form of a dove would inform history of the **salvation** that was to come to those who turn to Jesus and believe in Him.
  - The voice of God did nothing less than "**authenticate**" the ministry of Jesus. To this day, people will say that there personal evidence of calling into ministry is hearing the internal voice of God, giving them a specific ministry assignment.
    - **Authenticate**: Authentication is the process of determining whether someone or something is, in fact, who or what it is declared to be. Logically, authentication precedes **authorization**, although they may often seem to be combined.
- **The Genealogy of Jesus** (Luke 3:23-38) It's striking that the genealogy of Jesus is recorded by Luke immediately after His authentication in baptism by the Father. It again testifies to the **sovereign**

**hand of God** in preparing the events of the world so that the Messiah could accomplish the Father's will.

- **Jesus' age:** Luke says that Jesus was *"about thirty years old when he began his public ministry."* He wasn't saying that he wasn't sure of Jesus' exact age. More than any of the other Gospel writers, Luke used investigation and interview to determine the truth about the life of Jesus. He was most likely referring to the fact that Jesus, at the age of 30, was **well prepared for public ministry**. In the Old Testament, 30 was often the age when one's ministry began.
  - **Joseph...**<sup>45</sup> So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. <sup>46</sup> He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. (Gen 41:45–46 NLT-SE)
  - **David...**David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in all. (2 Sam 5:4 NLT-SE)
  - **Ezekiel...**On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. (Ezek 1:1 NLT-SE)
- **A revelation of the sovereignty of God...Luke's** genealogy (*written to a mostly for gentiles*) starts at Jesus and works back to God. **Matthew's** (*written to a Jewish audience*), on the other hand, starts with Adam and moves toward Jesus. Luke stated that Adam was *"the son of God."* In spite of their differences, one thing is clear about Luke's genealogy. He connects Jesus, **not just back to Abraham, but all the way to Adam and to God Himself**. These genealogies demonstrate that God's hand was on the birth of Jesus, from the beginning and in perfection!
- **The Temptation in the Wilderness** (Luke 4:1-13) The first act of Jesus' ministry was not a move of his own desire, but a response to the leading of the Holy Spirit into **a 40-day period of utter discomfort!**
  - It is not by accident that Jesus' temptation continued for **40 days**, just as Israel's wanderings and temptation continued for 40 years in the wilderness.
    - **Noah...**Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. **And it will rain for forty days and forty nights**, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created." (Gen 7:4 NLT-SE)
    - **Moses...**<sup>17</sup> To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. **He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.** (Ex 24:17–18 NLT-SE)
    - **Elijah...**So he got up and ate and drank, and **the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights** to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. (1 Kings 19:8 NLT-SE)
  - Jesus is tempted with **physical need** (Luke 4:3-4)

- Since Jesus had gone without food for 40 days, it's not surprising that Satan would tempt him with food. Jesus threw it back at him by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, where Moses reminded the people of **the manna God had provided** them in the wilderness. The Father could be trusted, unequivocally! There was no way they were going to make it without trusting God's word.
- The same is true for Jesus here. He knew the Father's plan and he knew he would not die, but live. There was an assignment to complete and Jesus knew the Father would give him whatever he needed to endure to the end. **God would surely sustain him.**
- Jesus is tempted with **glory** and **dominion** (Luke 4:5-8)
  - The second temptation Jesus endured had to do with **control and who has it**. Satan offered him control of all the kingdoms of the world, with one condition, that Jesus worship (*lit., bend the knee to*) him.
  - Jesus again turns to **quoting Moses as pushback**. In Deut 6:13, Moses tried to warn the people not to get too haughty as they prepared to enter the Promised Land and achieve the glory they knew would follow. The obvious temptation for them would be to praise themselves and push God to the side. Jesus was not about to make that mistake. He would not fail as Israel had failed.
- Jesus is tempted with **timing** in ministry (Luke 4:9-12)
  - The devil was trying to get Jesus to **change the timing** of his ministry. Why? Jesus knew he had to go to the cross and die for the sins of all mankind. He knew he was the "Suffering Servant" Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 52:13-53:12.
  - The devil challenged Jesus to throw himself off the highest point of the temple, possibly the Southeaster corner of the wall overlooking the Kidron Valley. Satan knew, if Jesus threw himself off the temple, people would surely believe in him and follow him. The devil even quoted Psalm 91:11-12 to show him that **angels would swoop down and rescue him**. How dramatic, yet still wrong.
    - <sup>11</sup> For he will **order his angels to protect you** wherever you go. <sup>12</sup> They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. (Psa 91:11–12 NLT-SE)
  - Jesus was **not going to be distracted**, let alone fooled. He knew if people believed without him going to the cross, the whole plan of salvation might come into question. It wasn't worth the risk. That was the exact situation Moses wrote about in Deuteronomy, which Jesus quoted.
    - You must **not test the Lord your God** as you did when you complained at Massah. (Deut 6:16 NLT-SE)
  - **Jesus was confident that the Father's plan and timing were perfect.** Jesus was not going to sacrifice everything by changing the plan at the last minute.

- **Satan bows out...for now** (Luke 4:13)

- It is interesting that Luke writes about Satan backing off after the temptation. What was the “more opportune time” he is referring to? He knew the battle would continue, even after the Cross and he knew what “Plan A” was. The devil would invest himself into efforts to **discredit**, **discourage** and **disqualify** the sons and daughters of God.
- What’s most interesting about this is that **the Father is in no way intimidated** by the resourcefulness of the devil. This is not an even playing field. The only way the devil has to get to God is through people, like you and I.

- **What did we learn and how can we grow through this look at Jesus’ release into ministry?**

- The Father was preparing Jesus for ministry? He didn’t sit on the sidelines with Jesus, but was actively involved in launching Him into ministry, and He will do the same for you. **How is the Father preparing you for your assignment?**
- **Prayer**, an **open heaven**, and the **voice of God** were all part of Jesus’ baptism. Were you baptized and how did your personal baptism impact your life, especially in the area of spiritual calling?
- Were you **strengthened** by it? **Encouraged** by it? **Empowered** by it?
- Did you have a sense that your baptism was not only your proclamation of belief in God’s saving power, but **your invitation into a life of following and serving God?**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, “**If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.** <sup>24</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Luke 9:23–24 NLT-SE)