

The Gospel According to

SAINT MATTHEW

SAINT MARK

SAINT LUKE

SAINT JOHN

NOTHING RECORDED	NOTHING RECORDED	NOTHING RECORDED	CHAPTER 1, VERSES 43 1:43 - The day following ¹ Jesus ² would go forth ³ into Galilee ⁴ , and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.
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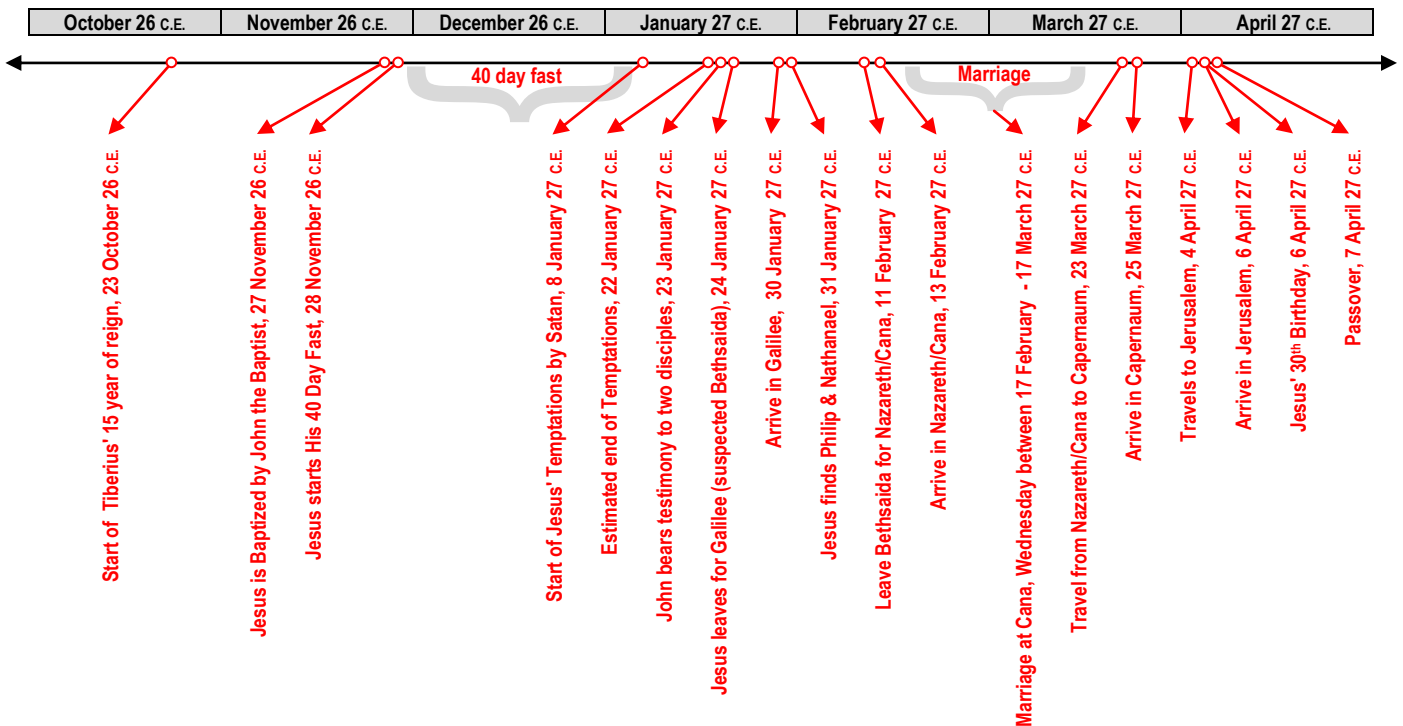
CHRONOLOGY: Around the Week of the 24th to the 30th of January 27^{CE} (J. Rueben Clark places the date between February-March 27^{CE}, based on Andrew's date of February 27^{CE} and Croscup's date of March 27^{CE})

LOCATION: The Jordon River, Bethabara, the road between Bethabara and Galilee, Galilee (probably Bethsaida)

COMMENTARY: Jesus has been baptized, and communed with His Father during 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. He has faced Satan, with 3 significant temptations, which He rejected without hesitation. He then returned to the site of His baptism. We are not told what His intentions were, but Jesus appears to be gathering followers. John the Baptist is there, and bears testimony to his disciple that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Andrew and presumably John the son of Zebedee follow Jesus. Jesus meets Simon. This brings us to this chapter. With new disciples, Jesus leaves the baptismal waters of the Jordan and heads for Galilee. Most probably, Jesus headed to the small fishing village off the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee. Again, we are not told why He went there, but Jesus met Philip and Nathanael in Bethsaida. We presume Jesus traveled there with the intention of adding these two valiant men to His fold. The trip to Bethsaida would have been a 88 mile walk taking over 4 days. Hardly a trip one would make without a reason. Jesus was preparing for His mortal ministry. In 67 days, Jesus would stand in Jerusalem at Passover. He would be 30 years old, and quickly considered a Master Teacher. Now was a time for preparation. Disciples were being gathered, most especially those that would later serve as Apostles, Seers, Revelators, and Leaders in the Church that Jesus would establish on the Earth.

FOOTNOTES:

1- **The following day** – The phrase "the following day" is translated from a single Greek word, "ἐπαύριον" or "epaurion". The Greek word means "on the morrow" or "the next day". The day after meeting Simon, Jesus and His new disciples leave for Galilee. It is assumed that they walked since that was Jesus' regular mode of travel. Below is a timeline for this chapter and the adjacent chapters. The dates are obviously estimates; however, they are estimated between anchor points which we believe to be fixed dates. The 15th year of Tiberius' reign, 23 October 26 CE is an anchor point, and the beginning of our time period relative to this book. The Passover on 7 April 27 CE, is also an anchor point, and the ending of our time period. With two fixed anchor points on each end of the time line, all the various travel periods were identified and the distances calculated to travel days and placed on the time line. Due to the number of activities and the limited time frame, the dates are relatively accurate. The time line is as follows;





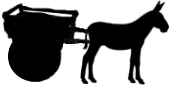


Since we are looking at the calendar it would be a good time to look at the Jewish week and days of the week. Each day did not start at midnight, like the western calendar we are used to. The Jewish Day started at Sundown. Consequently, trying to equate a day like Wednesday, for example, into a Jewish day is difficult. It would actually start Tuesday when the sun goes down, and end on our Wednesday at sundown. The Jewish week starts at sun down on our Saturday night or their Sunday. The days of the Jewish week are as follow;

- Yom Rishon - Equates to our Sunday
- Yom Sheini - Equates to our Monday
- Yom Shlishi - Equates to our Tuesday
- Yom R'vi'i - Equates to our Wednesday
- Yom Chamishi - Equates to our Thursday
- Yom Shishi - Equates to our Friday
- Yom Shabbat - Equates to our Saturday, but is the Jewish Sabbath

- 2- **Jesus** – The name "Jesus" is translated from the Greek word "Ἰησοῦς" or "Iēsous". It is a transliteration of the Hebrew word "יְהוֹשֻׁעַ" or "Yēhowshuwa". The English form of the Hebrew name is "Joshua" or "Jehoshua". The name means ""Jehovah is salvation".
- 3- **go forth** – The phrase "go forth" is translated from the Greek word "ἐξέρχομαι" or "exerchomai". It means to go or to come forth. It implies the place out of which one goes, or the point from which he departs. The language of this passage does not translate very clear. Translated directly, it says something like, "Jesus departed out of into Galilee". We assume that Jesus departed out of Bethabara and traveled to Galilee.

Travel in the ancient world was somewhat limited. Most people just walked. Animals were mostly used for cargo, though occasionally they were ridden. Walking was often slow and difficult. There were roads that were crudely maintained; however, most roads were not. Roads were often more like beaten and worn paths, though the Roman roads were more developed. Most road were not Roman roads. Consequently, travel rates varied depending on the road and the terrain. The worse the road, the slower the travel. Therefore, it is difficult to set a precise travel rate for Jesus and His disciples. We will attempt to establish a range for the purpose of understanding the approximate time it would take to travel from area to area. They are as follows;

 by Walking	 by Camel	 by Donkey	 by Horse	 by Cart
11 to 18 miles per day	20 to 25 miles per day	11 to 18 miles per day	25 to 30 miles per day	11 to 18 Miles per day

Walking speeds depended on the climate, season, and terrain, but one could generally walk about 20 miles in a day under **good** conditions. Itineraries and travelogues of ancient Egyptians suggest that such a rate was typical for millennia. People walking the Persian Royal Road from Persepolis to Sardis (1,560 miles) averaged 18 miles a day, completing the entire journey in three months; government couriers changing horses at posting stations could cover the same distance in nine days. The Book of Acts recorded Peter walking 40 miles from Joppa to Caesarea in two days. Of course, Jews did not permit travel on the Sabbath, when walking was limited to 2,000 cubits (about three-fifths of a mile). The distance one could walk in a day has many variable and consequently has a wide variety of opinions. Most scholars place the distance one could walk, in the ancient world, at between 11 and 18 miles per day.

Camels are powerful animals, able to easily carry humans and their wares. They stand about 7 feet (2.1 meters) tall at the hump and weigh 1600 to 1800 pounds (726 to 816 kilograms). Over a four-day period, a camel can haul 375 to 600 pounds (170 to 270 kilograms) at rates of 29 miles (47 kilometers) a day and 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) an hour. They have been clocked at over 40 miles (65 kilometers) an hour. There are several factors when considering travel by Camel. Often the traveler used the Camel to bear cargo, and the traveler led the camel by foot. If this is the case, the speed of the Camel would be limited to the walking distance of the traveler. If the traveler rode upon the Camel, the walking speed of the camel does not appear to increase over a walking speed of a man. It would appear that Camels just have more stamina and allow the traveler to go longer distances per day. Most scholars place the distance one could travel by Camel, in the ancient world, at between 20 and 25 miles per day.

Donkeys were frequently used to transport goods. They are fairly strong for their size, sure-footed, and even-tempered, especially when compared with camels. As early as 3,000 BCE, caravans ranging from 100 to 3,000 donkeys brought goods from Asia Minor to Mesopotamia. The animals were not used for riding except by women, children, or those too weak or old to walk. In story of the Good Samaritan, for example, the injured man was placed upon a donkey to transport him to the inn. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, it was an act of great humility. Most scholars place the distance one could travel by donkey, in the ancient world, at between 11 and 18 miles per day.

Horses were faster and more prestigious than donkeys, but also more expensive. A horse can travel 25 to 30 miles per day; changing horses throughout the day can yield extra miles. Roman couriers averaged 50 miles per day but could ride up to 200 miles a day if required, by changing horses at outposts. Emperor Tiberias, for example, rode 500 miles in three days to see his dying brother Drusus. Most scholars place the distance one could travel on a single horse, in the ancient world, at between 25 and 30 miles per day.

Carts and Wagons were sometimes used to transport goods. They were convenient for large loads; however, often cumbersome and challenging on rough roads. They were often pulled by donkey, and the traveler would lead the animal by walking in front of him. Carts and wagons made it easier to travel with larger cargo, or awkward cargo, but did not add any speed advantages. In fact, if the roads were difficult it could even contribute to a slower journey. Most scholars place the distance one could travel by cart or wagon, in the ancient world, at between 11 and 18 miles per day.

If Jesus were to travel a distance of 80 miles, an estimate from Bethabara to suspected locations in Galilee, it could have taken as long as 8 days and as short as 5 days to travel. It also depended on if a Sabbath day fell during your trip. Travel on the Sabbath was greatly restricted, being less than a mile total. This would add a day to the trip. Another variable is lodging. Travelers often stopped at various spots to lodge. Lodging was not just a time to sleep and eat, but they often lodged to trade and procure supplies. This was another fact that could slow the traveler. Another variable would be interaction between local villages and homes. I could imagine the Savior stopping at various spots to do service. Whether He taught someone, or encouraged a widow, these activities would slow the pace. Personally, I cannot image the Savior forging through the route without stopping and doing good.

4- **into Galilee** – The name Galilee is translated from the Greek word "Γαλιλαία" or "Galilaia". The Greek word means literally "Circuit". Galilee is the name of a region of northern Palestine, bounded on the north by Syria, on the west by Jordan, Tyre, Ptolemais and their territories and the promontory of Carmel, on the south by Samaria and on the east by the Jordan. It was divided into Upper Galilee and Lower Galilee.

After Jesus faced the temptations of Satan in the Judean wilderness, he returned to Bethabara. Bethabara was the location where Jesus was Baptized. There He met Andrew, Simon, and presumably John the Beloved. It was from this location that He departed and returned to the region of Galilee. There are two probable places that Jesus would have traveled to in Galilee; Bethsaida or Nazareth.

Bethsaida is a town, arguably just outside Galilee. The town has not been positively identified among modern archeology sites; however, it is either the site near the Beit Tsaida Zachi Reserve or it is a small site near Capernaum. The Beit Tsaida site is actually in Herod Philips province East of the Upper Jordan River. The Capernaum site is on the west side of the Upper Jordan and in Galilee. The two sites are relatively close to each other, within 3 to 4 miles. If Jesus traveled from Bethabara to Bethsaida, he would have traveled about 141 kilometers or 88 miles. At a walking rate of about 3 miles per hour, it would have taken about 29 hours of continuous walking to make this trip. Under good conditions, 18 miles a day is a great traveling distance per day. Poorer conditions could reduce the distance to 11 miles per day. It would have taken Jesus over 4 days to make this trip.



It is suspected that Jesus traveled to Bethsaida because it was the home town of Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathanael. We know that after He entered Galilee, Philip went and told Nathanael about the new found Messiah. Shortly thereafter, Jesus and Nathanael met. Since Nathanael did not appear to know of Jesus before this point, it is logical to assume that Jesus came to Nathanael's home town, not the other way around. Nathanael might have been interested in finding the Messiah, but he doesn't appear to know of Jesus of Nazareth prior to their meeting.

The other option would be that Jesus went home. Nazareth was Jesus' home town. It was a slightly shorter trip with only 77 miles between Bethabara and Nazareth. It still would have taken at least 4 days worth of travel to get there. In this scenario, Nathanael would have had to of left his hometown of Bethsaida and found his way to Nazareth. This would have been a 33 mile trip, taking two days. Since we have no hypothesis as to why Nathanael would be in Nazareth, most favor the theory that Jesus traveled to Galilee and came to Bethsaida.

If Nathanael traveled from Bethsaida to Nazareth, the distance between the two cities is 32 miles by foot. It would have taken two days to make such a trip.



