

Matthew 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

Analysis

This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee—The crowds' confession falls tragically short. Jesus is indeed *prophētēs* (προφήτης), but He's the Prophet-King-Priest, Yahweh incarnate. **Of Nazareth** was nearly contemptuous (John 1:46, 'Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?'), yet providentially fulfilled prophecy (Matt 2:23).

Galilee (Γαλιλαία) marked Jesus as provincial, not Jerusalem's elite. The crowd honored Him as a prophet—like Elijah or Jeremiah—when He deserved worship as Lord. This inadequate Christology paved the way for their later rejection: they wanted a prophetic liberator, not the divine Savior who must die for sin.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's population looked down on Galileans as backwards and theologically suspect (mixing with Gentiles). The religious establishment particularly scorned 'Galilee of the Gentiles' (Isa 9:1). Yet God chose this despised region to reveal His Son, fulfilling the pattern of divine elevation of the lowly.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. In what ways might you limit Jesus to 'prophet' or 'good teacher' rather than worshiping Him as Lord and God?
2. How does Jesus's Galilean origin challenge cultural Christianity's obsession with prestige and pedigree?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ὄχλοι	ἔλεγον	Οὗτός	ἐστιν	Ἰησοῦς	ὁ
G3588		And	the multitude	said	This	is	Jesus
G1161		G3793		G3004	G3778	G2076	G3588
προφήτης	ό	ἀπὸ	Ναζαρὲτ	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας		
the prophet	G3588	of	Nazareth	G3588	of Galilee		
G4396		G575	G3478		G1056		

Additional Cross-References

John 6:14 (Prophecy): Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 9:17 (Prophecy): They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

John 7:40 (Prophecy): Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

Luke 7:16 (Prophecy): And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Acts 7:37 (Prophecy): This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Matthew 2:23 (Prophecy): And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

John 4:19 (Prophecy): The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 1:21 (Prophecy): And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Mark 6:15 (Prophecy): Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

Luke 24:19 (Prophecy): And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: