

Matthew 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

Analysis

The phrase 'Galilee of the Gentiles' emphasizes this region's mixed population and its historical role in God's plan to include the nations. Isaiah's prophecy pointed to this cosmopolitan region as the starting point for messianic light, demonstrating that God's salvation extends beyond ethnic Israel. Christ's ministry beginning here foreshadows the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

Historical Context

After Assyrian conquest in 734-732 BC, many Jews were deported and Gentiles settled in Galilee (2 Kings 15:29). By Jesus' time, it had significant Gentile population, making it a fitting place to begin the gospel's expansion to all peoples.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Christ's ministry beginning in 'Galilee of the Gentiles' reveal about God's heart for all nations?

2. How does this geographic detail demonstrate that the gospel was always intended for Jews and Gentiles alike?

Interlinear Text

γῆ Ζαβουλὼν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν
The land of Zabulon and The land of Nephthalim, by the way
G1093 G2194 G2532 G1093 G3508 G3598

θαλάσσης πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν
of the sea beyond Jordan Galilee of the Gentiles
G2281 G4008 G3588 G2446 G1056 G3588 G1484

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:1 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

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