

## 30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

### #8 – Capernaum: City of Jesus | Matthew 4:12-17

#### CAPERNAUM: FULFILLING PROPHECY

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, due to prophecy – Micah 5:2
- Jesus was raised in Nazareth, due to prophecy – Matthew 2:22-23
- Jesus established His “ministry headquarters” in Capernaum, due to prophecy – Matthew 4:12-17.
- What is the prophecy of Matthew 4:12-17 all about?
  - It is a quote of Isaiah 9:1-2.
  - Isaiah 8:9-10 was a warning to the nations about aligning against Israel, for **God is with us** (v. 10).
  - Beginning in chapter 9, God tells explains information about the *Emanuel* He had promised.
  - The King of Assyria had **lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali** (v. 1 – compare 1 Kings 15:20).
  - Later, the King of Assyria **did more grievously afflict her** and eventually this region was the first to be carried off to Assyria – 2 Kings 15:29.
  - In Isaiah’s day, this had not yet happened. Therefore, Isaiah was prophesying about a *future* destruction.
  - In Isaiah 9:2, he also prophesied about a *future* blessing for this same land.
  - Matthew 4:12-17 tells us that the Isaiah 9:2 prophecy is undeniably Messianic. This helps us interpret Isaiah 9:6.
- The Lord planned hundreds of years in advance *to first bless those who had first been cursed*. The Kingdom was first announced where the earlier Kingdom had first been destroyed.

#### THE MIRACLES OF CAPERNAUM

- Jesus met the Centurion who begged healing for his servant – Matthew 8:5-13. Notice the interesting word about the Kingdom in verse 12.

- The miracle of the fish with the coin (Matthew 17:24-27) a miracle that displayed Jesus’ view that the current Kingdom was not legitimate, but that the time of the Messianic Kingdom was “not yet.”
- Jesus taught with authority and displayed that authority (Mark 1:21-28).
- Jesus healed a man carried by his friends (Mark 2:1-12) Jesus displayed He had the power to forgive sins.
- The people of Nazareth were jealous of the miracles at Capernaum - Luke 4:23
- Summary: Jesus proved His Messiahship in Capernaum by showing his *authority* in all things, physical and spiritual.

#### THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPERNAUM | MATTHEW 11:20-24

- Jesus began to **upbraid the cities** in which He had performed the greatest of His teaching and miracles - v. 20.
- He began with Chorazin and Bethsaida (vv. 21-22), comparing them to Tyre and Sidon.
- His greatest condemnation came to the city of Capernaum – vv. 23-24.
- In this context, Jesus brought one of His greatest invitations – Matthew 11:28-30.

#### LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

- God’s grace to **the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali** (Is. 9:2) shows us something of His character. Rather than allowing them utter destruction, He gave them a glorious second chance.
- God’s “second chance” for Capernaum was to get the “first glimpse” of His Messiahship.
- In addition to the first glance, Capernaum got the strongest testimony of any place in the world to prove His Messiahship.
- To whom much is given, much is required.
- Our “age of grace” is a stronger display of the grace of God than even Capernaum received. We must respond well.