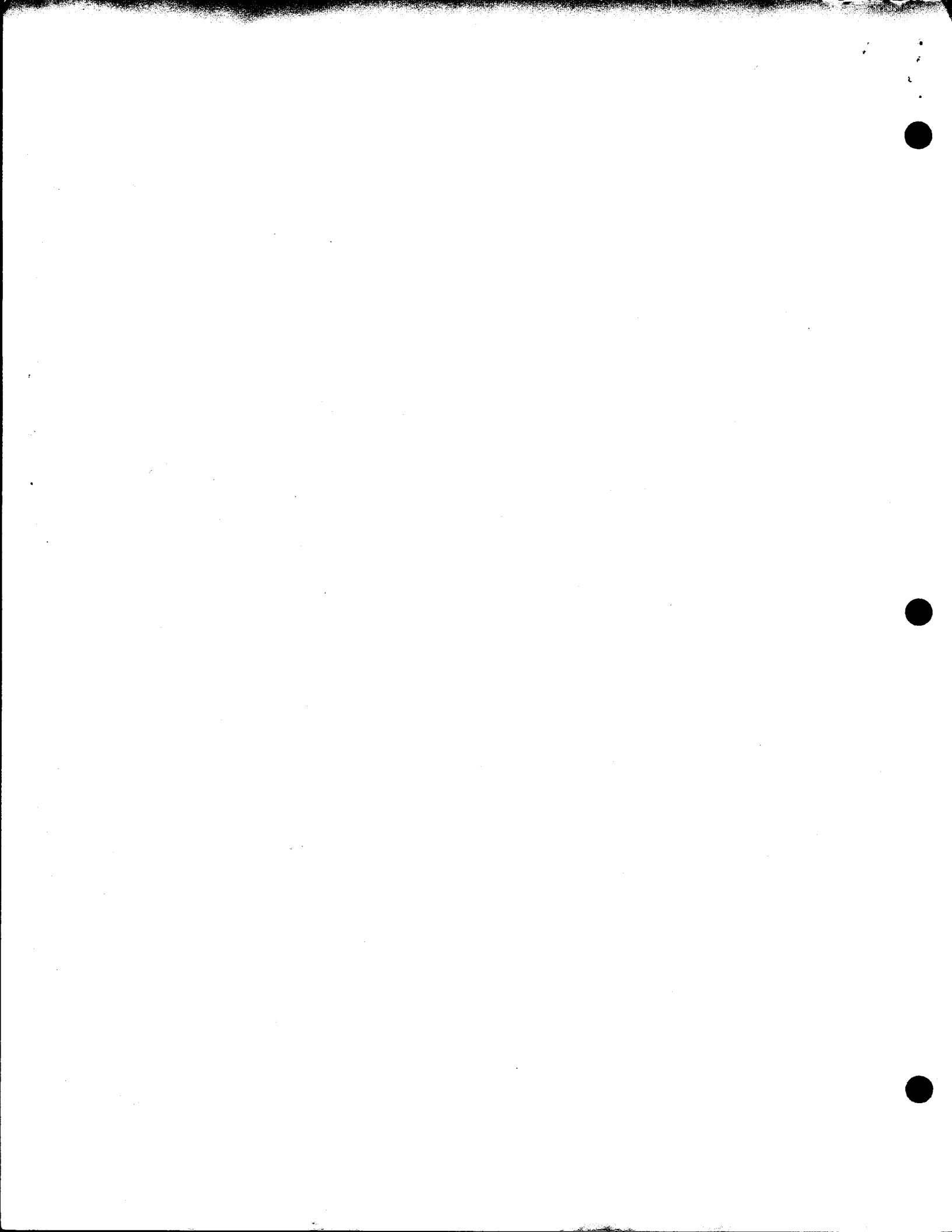


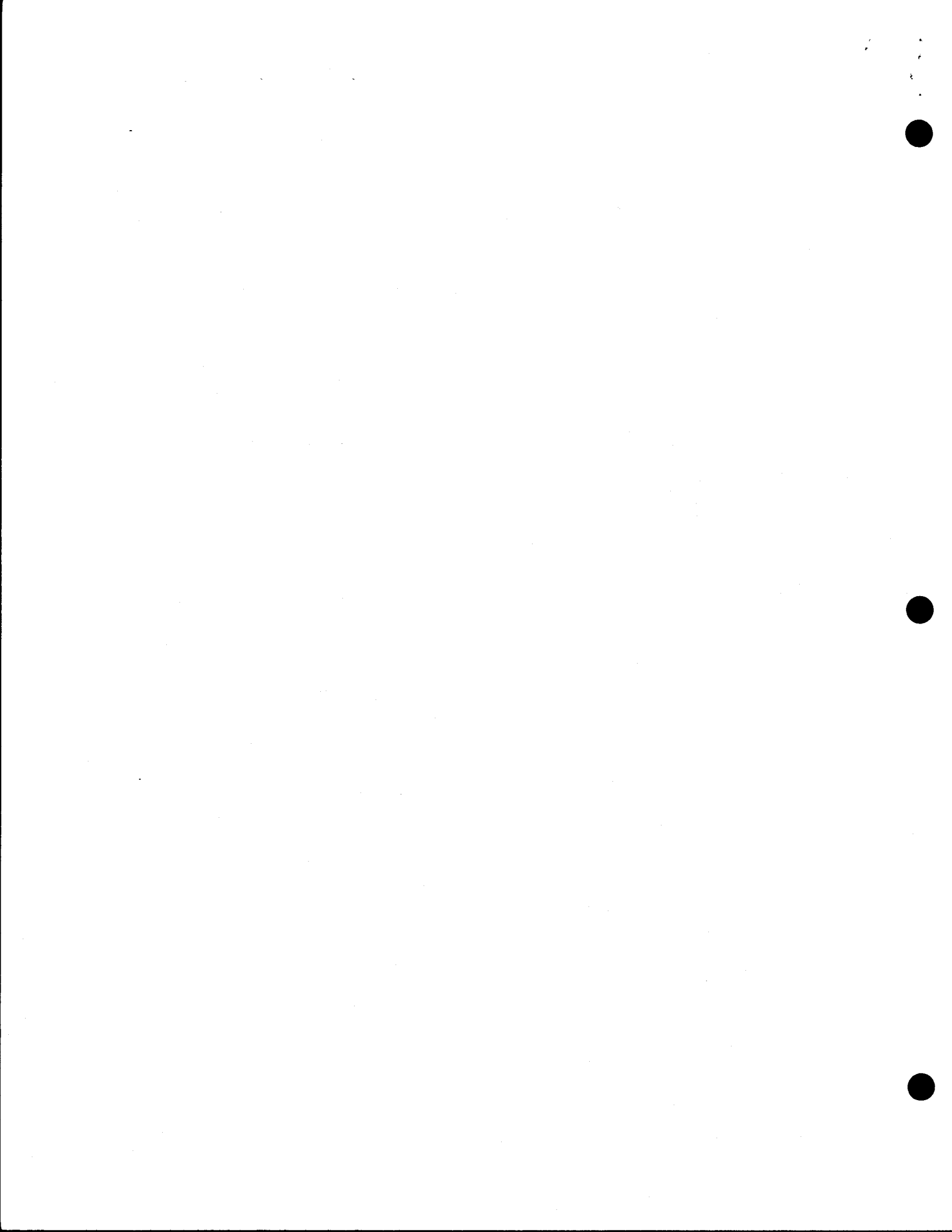
T H E
G O S P E L
A C C O R D I N G T O
L U K E



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

LessonsReading

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1 - Background, Outline, Purpose, Preface | 1:1-4 |
| 2 - Birth and Childhood of Jesus | 1:5 - 2:52 |
| 3 - Preparation for the Messiah's Ministry | 3:1 - 4:13 |
| 4 - The Galilean Ministry, I | 4:14 - 6:11 |
| 5 - The Galilean Ministry, II | 6:12 - 8:18 |
| 6 - The Galilean Ministry, III | 8:19 - 9:50 |
| 7 - The Last Journey to Jerusalem, I | 9:51 - 12:34 |
| 8 - The Last Journey to Jerusalem, II | 12:35 - 15:32 |
| 9 - The Last Journey to Jerusalem, III | 16:1 - 19:27 |
| 10 - The Last Public Teaching at Jerusalem | 19:28 - 21:38) |
| 11 - Arrest and Crucifixion | 22:1 - 23:56 |
| 12 - Resurrection | 24 |
| 13 - Review | |



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 1. Introduction and Preface

Reading: *Luke 1:1-4*

A. Background of Gospel

1. Authorship

- a. Luke, both a physician and Paul's traveling companion, is believed to be the author.
- b. He is mentioned three times in the New Testament.
 - Col.4:14 - termed a physician
 - Philemon 24 - fellow laborer of Paul
 - 2 Tim. 4:11- only one remaining with Paul
- c. Both external and internal evidence point to Luke as author
 - 1) Early external evidence holds him to be author ("church" fathers, etc.)
 - 2) Internal evidence
 - Luke and Acts are companion volumes, written by the same author (cp. Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1,2)
 - Luke is the likely author of Acts
 - ✓ The author is included in part of Paul's travels (indicated by the "we" sections (16:10-17; 20:5 - 21:18; 27:1-28:16))
 - ✓ Acts 20:4 eliminates a number of traveling companions, notably Timothy.
 - ✓ Titus is one of the few other possible candidates, yet no evidence exists for his authorship.

2. Unique traits of the gospel

- a. Each gospel account, although helpful to any reader, is written from a particular viewpoint with a special audience in mind.
 - Matthew presents Jesus as King of the Jews, particularly to a Jewish audience
 - Mark writes primarily of Jesus' actions to the action-conscious Romans
 - John presents Jesus as the Son of God, seizing on material mostly unique to his gospel
- b. Luke's gospel is written to the Greek-speaking empire, presenting the Redeemer of all mankind to both Jew and Gentile
 - He writes as a historian (1:1-4), intent on supplying a sure historical gospel. His account raises sacred history from Israelitish nationality to universal humanity.
 - He reveals Jesus more as a Redeemer of the whole world as opposed to the Messiah of the Old Testament.
 - He qualifies his message for a Gentile audience.
 - ✓ Nazareth in Galilee (1:26)
 - ✓ Feast of Unleavened Bread called Passover (22:1)
 - ✓ Genealogy goes back to Adam, 3:38
 - ✓ The good tidings are for all people, 2:10
 - ✓ Prophecies include all flesh, 3:5,6
 - ✓ Illustrates God's concern for the Gentiles, 4:25-30
 - He presents the kingdom as open to all: Samaritans and pagans, as well as Jews; poor, as well as rich; outcasts, publicans and sinners, as well as respectable people; women as well as men.

3. Theme: Jesus, as Savior (2:10), came to seek and save the lost. (19:10)

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

B. Division and Outline of Book

1. The gospel of Luke can be divided into the following four main sections:

- 1:1 - 4:13: Preparation
- 4:14 - 9:50: Identification (Miracles abound)
- 9:51 - 19:27: Instruction (Parables abound)
- 19:28 - 24: Sacrifice

2. For our purposes, we will outline the book as follows:

- Birth and childhood. 1:5 - 2:52
- Preparation for the ministry. 3:1 - 4:13
- Galilean Ministry. 4:14-9:50
- Last Journey to Jerusalem. 9:50 - 19:27
- Last Public Teaching at Jerusalem. 19:28 - 21:38
- Arrest and Crucifixion. 22:1- 23:56
- Resurrection. 24:1-54

C. Luke's Introduction, 1:1-4

In four brief verses, Luke accounts for the origin of his material and states its purpose. He also reveals to whom its contents is intended.

1. Is Luke's account the first to be attempted? What kind of account is it?
2. Is Luke an eyewitness of the events he records? What sources does he have available from which to draw his information?
3. Where does Luke begin his narrative? Does he put forth any effort in writing this narrative? What kind of account is it?
4. What goal is there in revealing his information to Theophilus?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 2. The Birth and Childhood of Jesus

Reading: *Luke 1:5 - 2:52*

Introduction. Luke's narrative begins with a background of John the Baptist's birth. Indeed, we discover that even his birth is linked closely with the birth of Jesus. Both Elizabeth and Mary bear their children in extraordinary circumstances. Both have children that will play important roles in the redemption of Israel. Luke gives us the only information we have about the childhood of Jesus, even though it is very limited.

A. Announcement of John's Birth, 1:5-25

1. What is the occupation of Zacharias?
2. Describe the character of Zacharias and Elizabeth.
3. What vision does Zacharias receive? What is he told? Why is this significant? What is the mission of his child to be?
4. Is Zacharias' muteness a sign or a punishment?
5. Does the prediction come to pass?

B. Announcement of Jesus' Birth, 1:26-38

1. What is Mary's situation?
2. What does Gabriel promise her? vv.30-33 What did this indicate about the nature of her child?
3. What assurance does Mary receive?

C. Mary Visits Elizabeth, 1:39-56

1. Where does Mary go? Why?
2. Does she receive any confirmation of her vision from Elizabeth? If so, what?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

D. John's Birth, 1:57-80

1. What is amazing about John receiving his name?
2. What does Zacharias predict about John's mission? To what covenant is this connected?

E. Jesus' Birth, 2:1-21

1. Where is Jesus born? What circumstance brings this about?
2. To whom is His birth announced? Is this what the Jew's would expect concerning their Messiah? How is Jesus identified to them? vs.11

F. Revelations of Simeon and Anna, 2:22-40

1. What kind of people are Simeon and Anna?
2. To whom does Simeon predict the Messiah will bring light?
3. For what are some in Jerusalem looking? vs.38

G. The Childhood of Jesus, 2:41-52

1. What does Jesus evidence at an early age?
2. Does His childhood differ from those of other children?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 3. Preparation for the Messiah's Ministry

Reading: *Luke 3:1 - 4:13*

Introduction. Jesus is now ready to begin His ministry. Luke sets it in the context of human history. John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus, both with a message and by the command of baptism. Jesus Himself receives this baptism and the commendation of His heavenly Father. Luke then provides a genealogy of Jesus, linking Him with the first created human being. Jesus then overcomes the temptation of Satan in the wilderness before beginning to preach His message.

A. Preparation by John the Baptist, 3:1-22

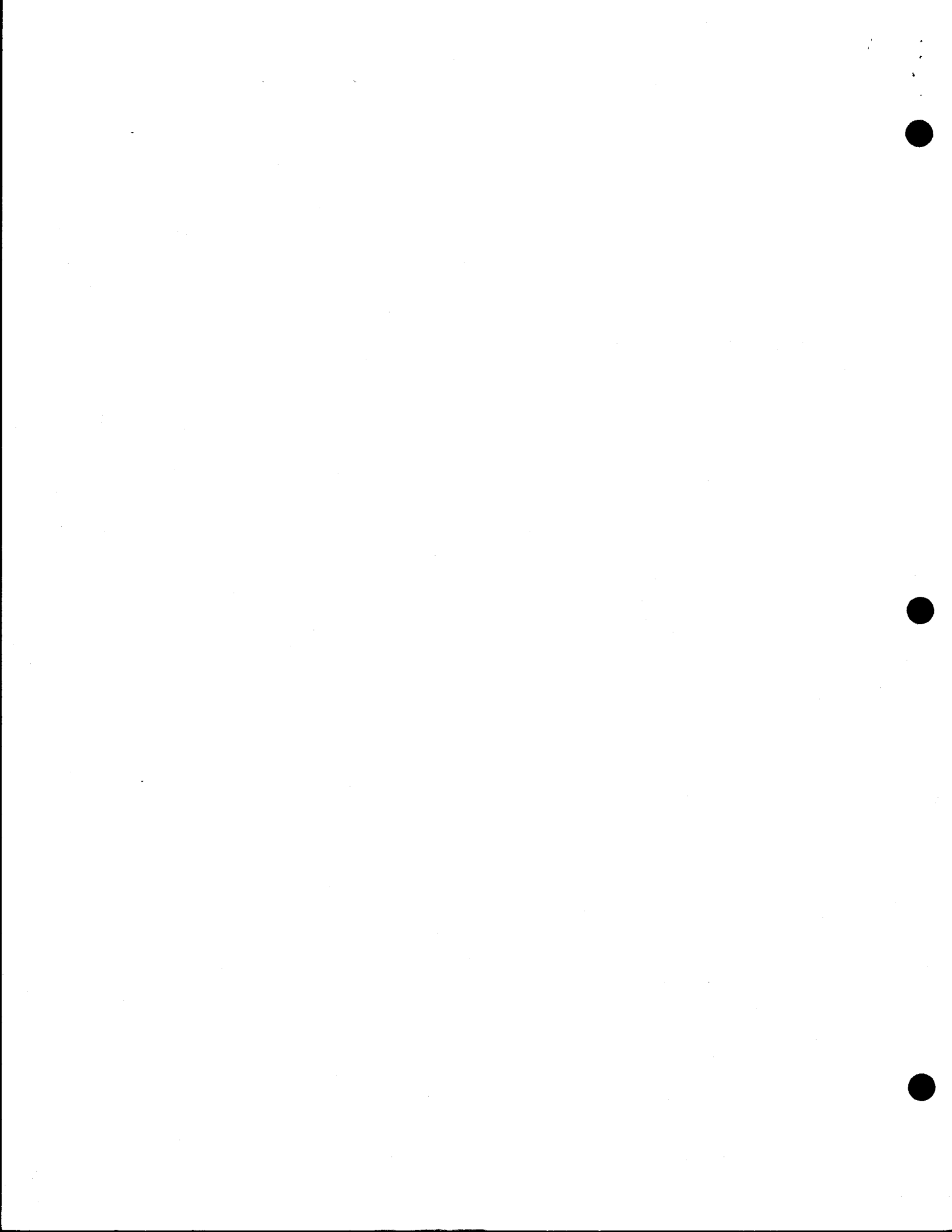
1. How does Luke define the historical setting of Jesus' ministry?
2. In what way is John preparing the way for Jesus?
3. What primary message does John preach? How does he apply it?
4. Of what are the people expectant? How does John's message strike them?
5. How does John ultimately prepare the way for Jesus? vv.21,22

B. Origin Revealed by Genealogy, 3:23-38

1. Which of the gospel writers deal with Jesus' genealogy? Why do they? Why don't the others?
2. Compare Luke's genealogy with Matthew's. How does it differ? Can you account for any differences?
3. What purpose does this genealogy have in Luke's gospel?

C. Preparation by Overcoming Temptation, 4:1-13

1. Where is Jesus led by the Spirit? Why?
2. What efforts does Satan make to tempt Jesus? Why are these of any importance?
3. Is it significant that these occur at the beginning of His ministry?



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 4. The Galilean Ministry, I

Reading: Luke 4:14 - 6:11

Introduction. Luke begins His account of Jesus' ministry by focusing on His work in Galilee. This section (4:14 - 9:50) records some of Jesus' teaching, but the greater emphasis is upon His miracles. Jesus is shown to be a man possessing great power. He moves throughout Galilee, teaching in its synagogues and doing His signs. He also proceeds to select certain men as His followers.

A. Return to Nazareth, 4:13-30

1. What does Jesus do in the synagogue service that causes a stir?
2. What proverbs does Jesus teach? What illustrations does he make? Why is this of interest, given the target of Luke's gospel?
3. Why does Luke begin the teaching of Jesus' ministry with this event?

B. Work in Capernaum, 4:31-44

1. What event reinforces the authoritative teaching of Jesus in the synagogue?
2. Why do the demons confess? vv.34,41 Why does Jesus not use them in acknowledging His identity?
3. Where does Jesus teach during this time?

C. The Calling of the Fisherman, 5:1-11

1. What faith does Simon demonstrate when Jesus works His miracle?
2. Why does Simon ask the Lord to depart?
3. What does this prompt Simon's partners to do?

D. Healings of Leprosy and Palsy, 5:12-26

1. Why does Jesus send the healed leper to the priest? How does this affect His popularity? Where does Jesus go?
2. What claim of Jesus upsets the religious leaders? What proof does Jesus offer for His claim?
3. What does this event indicate about the purpose of His ministry?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

E. Early Opposition, 5:27 - 6:11

1. What is the real point of conflict to which Jesus directs His comments?
2. What do pieces of cloth, wineskins and wine have to do with answering the criticism these men direct at Jesus?
3. What actions of Jesus cause controversy on the Sabbath? What claim does He make? How do the Pharisees respond? Why?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 5. The Galilean Ministry, II

Reading: Luke 6:12 - 8:18

Introduction. Jesus continues His Galilean ministry, now selecting twelve men to be His special messengers. Even though He spends this time in the northern region of Palestine, opposition from the religious leaders spreads. They begin to oppose His actions and teaching. Jesus, sensing this unhealthy desire on the part of some of the multitude, changes tactics and begins teaching in parables.

A. Selection of Twelve Apostles, 6:12-19

1. How does Jesus decide who to select as His apostles?
2. Memorize this list of apostles.

B. A Sermon of Jesus, 6:20-49

1. What character does Jesus describe by the blessings and the woes? vv.20-26 Is this attained immediately? Is it necessary? Why or why not?
2. What encouragement does Jesus give in helping us to love our enemies?
3. What lesson does Jesus teach to counteract hypocrisy?
4. What determines the fruit we bear? From what ultimate source must any good fruit come?

C. Two Mighty Miracles, 7:1-17

1. What faith does the centurion express? Why does Jesus marvel at it?
2. What prompts Jesus to raise the widow of Nain's son?

D. Questions from John, 7:18-35

1. Why does John send his disciples to ask about the identity of Jesus?
2. What indirect answer does He give John?
3. How can John be greatest among men yet least in the kingdom?
4. What screening process continues to take place?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

E. The Penitent Woman, 7:36-50

1. At what is Simon repulsed?
2. What does Jesus illustrate about the woman by his parable? About his host?
3. Why does Jesus forgive the woman?

F. Parable of the Sower, 8:1-18

1. Who is listed among the followers of Jesus? Of what help are they?
2. Why does Jesus begin His parables with the parable of the sower? Why does He place so much emphasis on hearing? vv.8,18

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 6. The Galilean Ministry, III

Reading: Luke 8:19 - 9:50

Introduction. Capernaum serves as Jesus' headquarters while in Galilee, but this does not stop Jesus from traveling to other regions. He sails to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, an area less Jewish in its composition. After John the Baptist's death, He withdraws to the wilderness, only to be followed by a great multitude. After His miraculous feeding of this group, He reveals to His apostles that death awaits Him in Jerusalem. Again and again He begins to warn them of the great hazards that await Him there.

- A. The country of the Gerasenes, 8:19-39
1. What frightens the disciples while crossing the lake? What kind of attack is this upon their faith?
 2. Jesus now goes to the country of the Gadarenes. Locate this area on a map. How do the people here differ from those around Capernaum?
 3. Decide whether the the man with an unclean spirit is possessed by some other being or merely has a mental disorder. Give evidence for your answer.
 4. Why does Jesus give permission for this man to spread the good news when He denies others this right (next section)?
- B. Jairus' Daughter, 8:40-56
1. On the way to Jairus' home, who touches Jesus? Why? What is her situation? What results?
 2. What is Jesus told when He reaches Jairus' home? Does this affect Jesus' intention?
- C. The Apostles' Mission, Feeding of 5,000, 9:1-17
1. What does Jesus delegate to His twelve disciples?
 2. How are they to provide for themselves? What makes this possible? Are they successful?
 3. Who receives credit for Jesus' activity? What does Herod desire?
 4. Where does Jesus retire with the apostles upon their return? What does He do when a multitude follows? Does this miracle indicate a benevolent thrust to the ministry of Jesus?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

D. Death Foretold, The Transfiguration, 9:18-50

1. What does Jesus reveal once Peter confesses His identity? Why?

2. What does this mean for His followers? vv.23-26

3. Of what does Jesus speak when He is transfigured? Is this transfiguration of any comfort to Him?

4. Why do the apostles need to "hear Him?"

5. What other lessons does Jesus teach? vv.37-50

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**Lesson 7. The Last Journey to Jerusalem, I**

Reading: Luke 9:51 - 12:34

Introduction. Luke now turns his attention to the last six months of Jesus' ministry. Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem (9:51). This appears to suggest one last journey to the city, but in fact there is other travelling that occurs during this time. Some have termed this section (9:51 - 19:27) the Perea ministry, an area just beyond the Jordan between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Luke spotlights the teaching of Jesus in this section, notably the parables of Jesus. Many of these are unique to Luke's gospel.

A. Hard Sayings, 9:51-62

1. What time does Jesus now reach in His ministry? What is His response?
2. How do James and John react to the Samaritan's snub?
3. How does Jesus respond to would-be followers who wish to fall in with Him?

B. Mission of the Seventy, 10:1-24

1. What appears to be the purpose of this mission?
2. What message are they to announce? Is there a possibility of rejection?
3. What is the outcome? What does Jesus impress upon them?
4. To whom has the Son chosen to reveal the things of the Father? What does this mean?

C. Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, 10:25-42

1. Does the lawyer understand the law? Why or why not?
2. Is there anything impressive about Jesus' visit with Mary and Martha? Who invites Him in?

D. Lessons about Prayer, Jesus Accused, 11:1-28

1. What two elements does Jesus teach us to pray for?
2. How does He encourage His disciples to pray?
3. What inconsistency does Jesus pinpoint in the charge that He casts out demons by Beelzebub?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

E. Jesus Denounced by Religious Leaders, 11:29-54

1. What sign does Jesus promise the sign seekers?
2. How does the eye serve as a lamp to the body? To what is this referring?
3. How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus' rebuke at dinner?

F. Proper Perspectives, 12:1-34

1. What warning does Jesus give about hypocrisy?
2. Whom should we truly fear? Why?
3. What guidance does Jesus promise those put on trial?
4. Against what excess does Jesus warn with His parable?
5. What is the opposite concern, yet just as dangerous? How can it be avoided?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 8. The Last Journey to Jerusalem, II

Reading: Luke 12:35 - 15:32

Introduction. Even though the popularity of Jesus seems to have peaked in Galilee when He refuses to be made a political king, it is evident that even now Jesus enjoys a healthy following among the common people. The religious leaders increase their opposition to Jesus with every step that brings Him closer to Jerusalem. Yet, even with a public who appreciates His courage in denouncing the self-righteousness and hypocrisy of the ruling parties, Jesus makes it clear that discipleship is demanding. He calls upon the multitudes following Him to count the cost.

A. Preparation, 12:35 - 13:9

1. What point does Jesus make from the parable of the servants?

2. Of what conflict does Jesus warn?

3. For what attitude does Jesus upbraid the multitudes?

4. How does Jesus explain the suffering of others? What does He emphasize?

B. Opposition, 13:10 - 14:6

1. Why does Jesus contend the Sabbath day is a fitting day on which to heal? What two reactions result?

2. What is the essence of Jesus' answer to the question, "Are they few that are saved?"

3. Of what perfection is Jesus speaking when told of Herod's threat?

4. What lesson does Jesus teach about the Sabbath while healing the man with dropsy?

C. The Invitation of God, 14:7-35

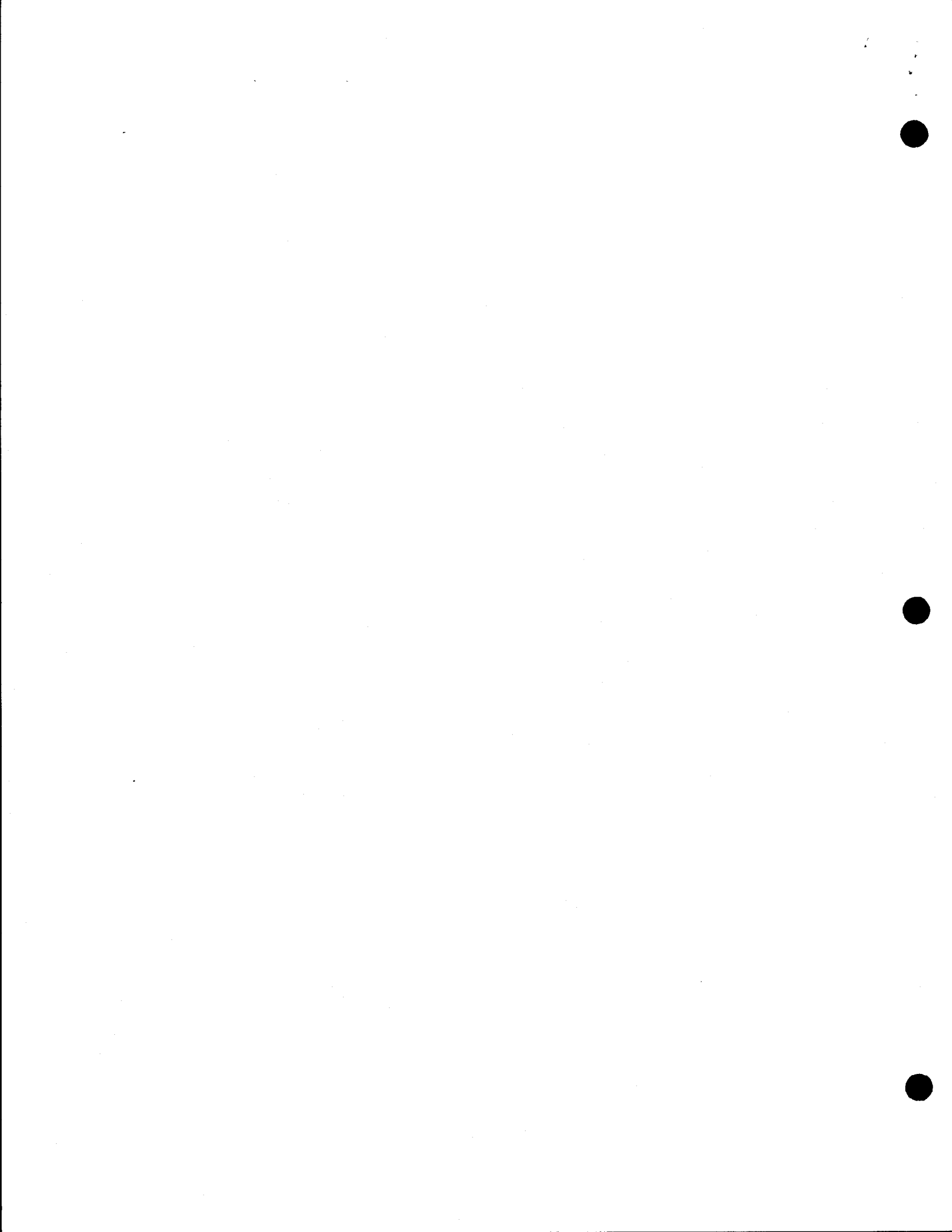
1. What attitudes does Jesus attack in each of these parables?

2. How would the followers of Jesus react to the previous teaching and confrontations of Jesus with the religious leaders described in this lesson? What results? (vs.25) Does Jesus capitalize on this opportunity? Why or why not?

D. God's Invitation to Sinners, 15:1-32

1. What criticism is leveled at Jesus? Why?

2. How do His three parables answer His critics? What is His answer?



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**Lesson 9. The Last Journey to Jerusalem, III**

Reading: Luke 16:1 - 19:27

Introduction. Jesus is now ready to enter Jerusalem, knowing what end awaits Him. He teaches about the exacting standards of His kingdom, one different from earthly kingdoms. His kingdom is predicated on personal communion and fellowship with God by those who are aware of their spiritual poverty. Even as He nears Jerusalem there are those like the blind man and Zacchaeus who grasp in their imperfect way their spiritual need and demonstrate a faith in Jesus to provide for that need.

A. The Unrighteous Steward, 16:1-18

1. What applications does Jesus make from this parable? vv.10-12
2. What choice must ultimately be made?
3. How do the Pharisees respond? How are they pressing into the kingdom?

B. Lazarus and the Rich Man, 16:19-31

1. List at least three principles Jesus teaches in the story about Lazarus and the rich man.
2. Toward whom is this directed?

C. Lessons of Faith and Gratitude, 17:1-19

1. What particular offense does Jesus address?
2. How does Jesus answer the apostle's request to "increase our faith?"
3. Where is Jesus when He meets the lepers? What importance is attached to giving thanks? Who does it?

D. The Kingdom, 17:20-37

1. What is the nature of the kingdom being preached? What does this mean?
2. What precedes the coming of the Son of Man? What will be the state of preparedness when He comes?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

E. Jesus' Question, 20:41 - 21:3

1. What question does Jesus ask? Why? What is the answer?
2. What lesson does Jesus teach about the widow giving in the treasury? Why is it necessary?

F. The Coming Destruction, 21:4 - 38

1. What signs are to accompany the destruction of the temple?
2. When will the desolation be near?
3. With what is this desolation connected? vs.27
4. What does Jesus encourage them to do?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Lesson 11. Arrest and Crucifixion

Reading: Luke 22:1 - 23:56

Introduction. The time which Jesus has foretold now nears. As He awaits His death, He keeps the Passover with His apostles, teaching them the significance of His death. Their minds are on other things - thoughts of grandeur in an earthly kingdom. As Jesus warns of His death, they are ready to defend Him. Indeed, when Judas betrays Jesus and comes to the garden with his band to arrest Him, the apostles seem ready to defend Him. However, when Jesus is taken to His mock trials before the authorities, their resistance weakens, resulting in Peter's denial. After a miscarriage of justice before Pilate, Jesus is unceremoniously put to death in a murderer's place.

A. Judas' Decision, 22:1-6

1. What are the religious leaders plotting? What must they take into account?
2. What accomplice do they find? Why is he interested?

B. Location of the Supper, 22:7-13

C. Last Supper, 22:14-38

1. What does Jesus institute after the Passover? What does He reveal about His death?
2. With what matter are the disciples concerned? What lesson does Jesus teach about greatness?
3. Why does Jesus pray for Peter?
4. How does Jesus seek to warn His disciples of the impending struggle? Do they understand?

D. In the Garden, 22:39-53

1. What assistance does Jesus receive in the garden of Gethsemane?
2. What resistance do Jesus and His disciples offer the party coming to take Him? What irony does Jesus note about His enemies methods?

E. Peter's Denial, 22:54-62

1. What prediction of Jesus does Peter fulfill?
2. What accounts for change from protector to issuing a denial?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

F. On Trial, 23:1-26

Before the elders: What does Jesus note about the attitude of the Sanhedrin?

Before Pilate: What charge does the multitude bring against Jesus before Pilate?
What is his verdict?

Before Herod: Why is Jesus taken to Herod? What conclusion do they reach?

Before Pilate again: What does Pilate propose? How do the people respond? To what exchange does Pilate agree?

G. Thief on the Cross, 23:27-43

1. How does Jesus respond to their lamentation?

2. What contrasting attitudes do the thieves demonstrate? How can Jesus offer the thief a place in Paradise?

H. Death and Burial, 23:44-58

1. How does the centurion respond to Jesus' death?

2. Who watches the crucifixion from afar? What do they later observe?

3. Who requests the body of Jesus in order to bury Him? Why?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**Lesson 12. Resurrection**

Reading: Luke 24:1-54

Introduction. The women, so close to Jesus and intent to take care of His body, find an empty tomb. Angels announce Jesus has been raised. The disciples at first are unbelieving. Then Jesus appears to two disciples on the way to Emmaus, then to the twelve in Jerusalem. He commissions them to wait in Jerusalem to receive the promise, then ascends up into heaven.

A. The Missing Body, 24:1-12

1. Who goes to the tomb after the Sabbath? Why? What do they find? What do they not find? What are they told?

2. Who do they tell? What is the reaction? Who investigates for himself?

B. The Road to Emmaus, 24:13-35

1. What do the two disciples on their way to Emmaus express about their hope for Jesus?

2. How does Jesus inform them about Himself?

3. What does Jesus say to them?

C. Appearance in Jerusalem, 24:36-43

1. In what form does Jesus return to the disciples?

2. What proof does He provide of His resurrection? What else evidences a bodily resurrection?

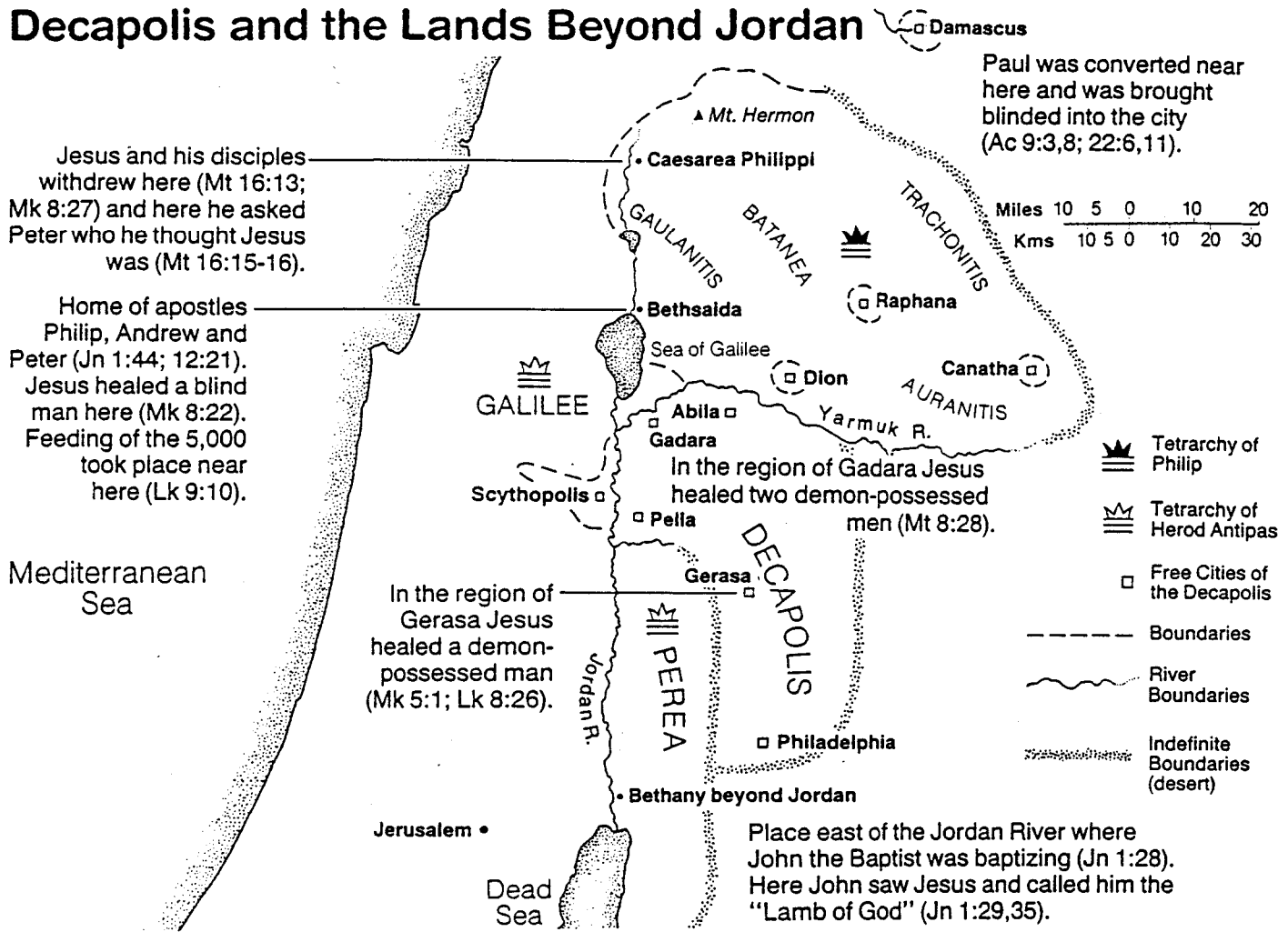
D. Message to the Apostles, 24:44-53

1. What part of the Scriptures does appeal to as being fulfilled?

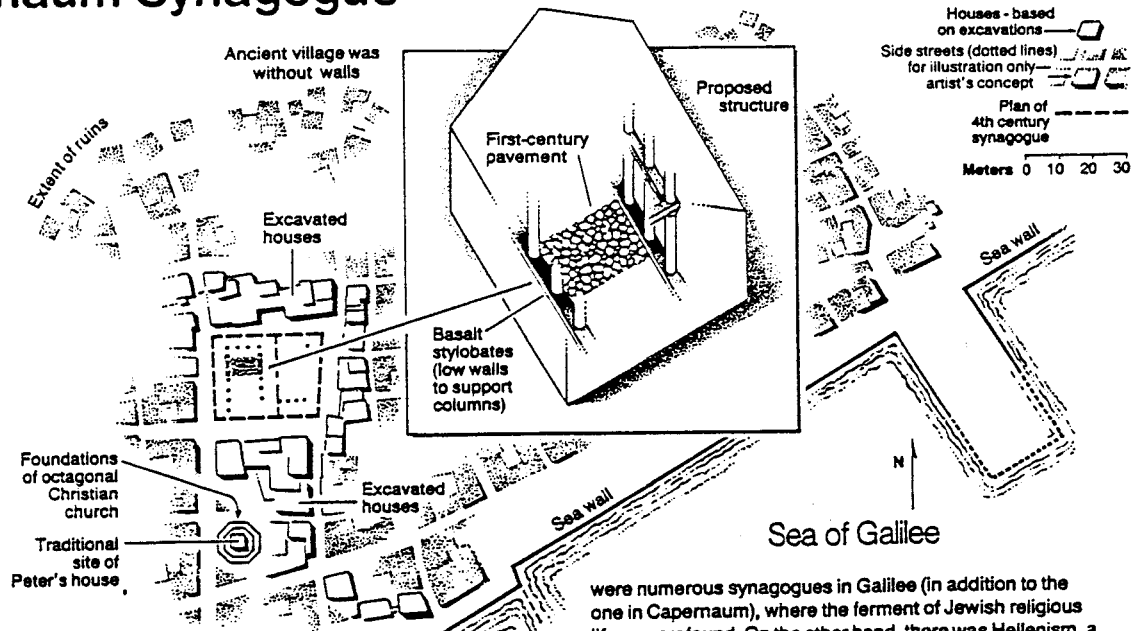
2. To what does He connect His death and resurrection? What promise does He describe to the apostles?

3. What happens once He commissions them?

Decapolis and the Lands Beyond Jordan



Capernaum Synagogue



Capernaum was more than a seaside fishing village in the days of Jesus. It was the place that Christ chose to be the center of his ministry to the entire region of Galilee, and it possessed ideal characteristics as a point of dissemination for the gospel.





There were good reasons for this. The town itself was named *Kephar Nahum*, "village of (perhaps the prophet), Nahum" and was the centerpiece of a densely populated region having a bicultural flavor. On the one hand, there

were numerous synagogues in Galilee (in addition to the one in Capernaum), where the ferment of Jewish religious life was profound. On the other hand, there was Hellenism, a pervasive culture already centuries old and potent in its paganism—a lifestyle that influenced manners, dress, architecture and political institutions as well.

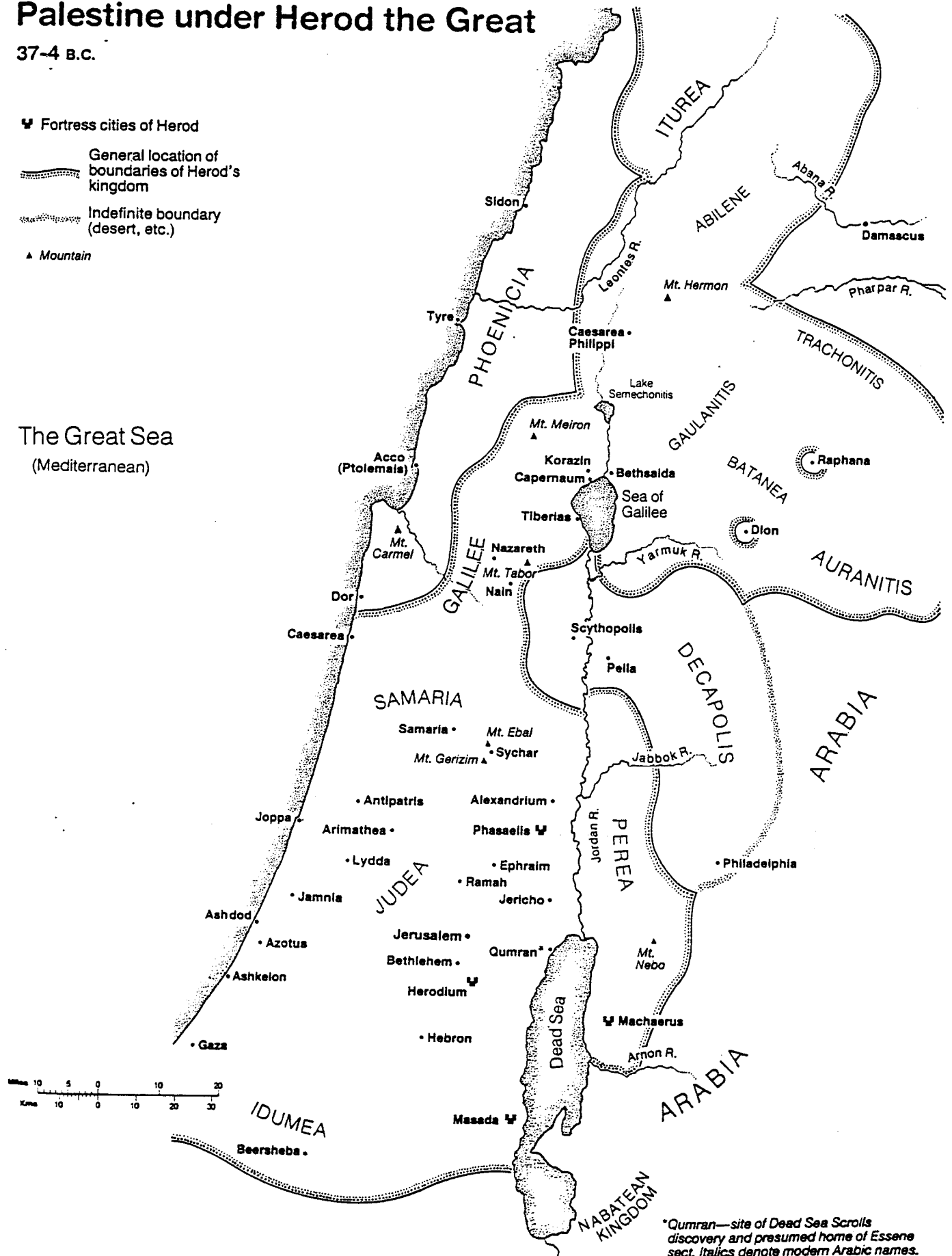
Recent archaeological work at Capernaum has revealed a section of the pavement of a first-century synagogue below the still-existing ruins of the fourth-century one on the site. A private house later made into a church and a place of pilgrimage has yielded some evidence that may link it to the site of Simon Peter's house (Lk 4:38).

Palestine under Herod the Great

37-4 B.C.

-  Fortress cities of Herod
-  General location of boundaries of Herod's kingdom
-  Indefinite boundary (desert, etc.)
-  Mountain

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean)



*Qumran—site of Dead Sea Scrolls discovery and presumed home of Essene sect. *Italics denote modern Arabic names.*

House of Herod

