

Matthew 4:12-17 **Jesus begins His Ministry in Galilee – First Commandment**

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:

16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned."

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ After Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. [Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14-15]
 - ✧ Jesus had been preaching in the area of Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, and by the Jordan river not too far from where John was preaching and baptizing. [John 1:24 – 3:36]
 - ✧ Before John was imprisoned, the Pharisees heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John. [John 4:1]
 - ✧ John's imprisonment is mentioned in [Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14-15, 6:14-29, Luke 3:19-20]
- ✚ Jesus went from his home town of Nazareth, to Capernaum which is located on the north bank of the Sea of Galilee. [Matthew 4:13, Luke 4:31-32]
 - ✧ This put Him in the area near the border between the land of inheritance of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali.
 - ✧ By this time the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali had long since been carried away captive by the Assyrians when they conquered the Northern kingdom of Israel, about 150 years before the Southern kingdom of Judah was carried away captive to Babylon.
 - ✧ When Jesus was there, there were a few Jews living among the foreign peoples who had been sent into the country after the Children of Israel had been carried away, and the Romans were the occupying force ruling the territory. So the prophecy is correct in calling it the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.
 - ✧ Matthew, as his pattern is, continued to demonstrate that Jesus did indeed fulfill all prophecies concerning the Messiah, saying:
 - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: [Matthew 4:14-16]
 - "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:
The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."
[Isaiah 9:1-2]

First Commandment of Jesus

- ✚ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." [Matthew 3:1, 4:17, Mark 1:15]
 - ✧ The first message that Jesus preached, was the same as the message of John the Baptist.

- ✧ In introducing the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven, it is important to stress the requirement for entering the Kingdom, and that is, “Repent.”
- ✧ We must first turn to God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.
- ✧ Then seek His plan of Salvation for our lives.
- ✧ This calls for an active choice toward God for each of us.
- ✧ Repent! Remains the call for people throughout the Great Tribulation, where it is stressed that God is looking for Repentance. [[Revelation 9:20-21, 16:8-9, 10-11](#)]