



MATTHEW

kingdom identity

Matthew: Handbook for Discipleship

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....or what do I need to understand in order to be
a surrendered follower of the glorious Christ?

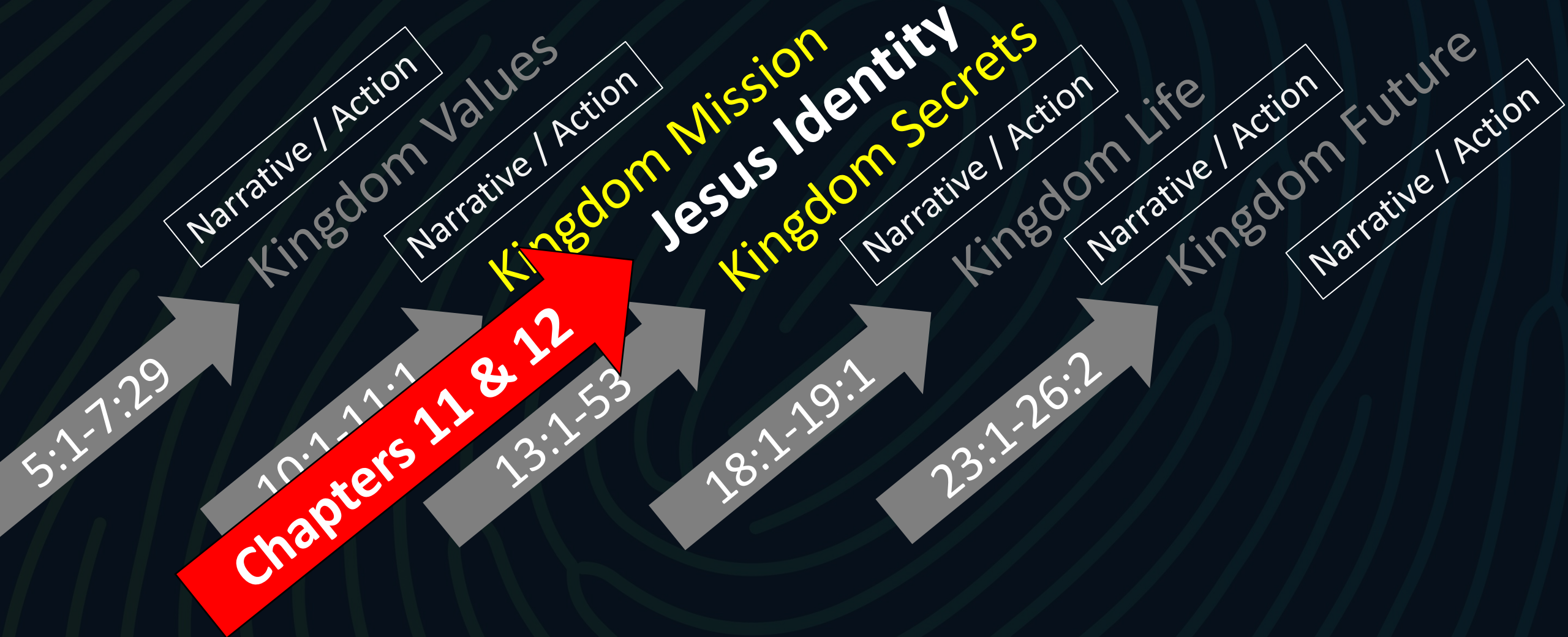
Matthew: Handbook for Discipleship



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Kingdom Identity

Why is Jesus' identity important?

- When we understand *Jesus' identity* more clearly, we can begin to comprehend what He means to our daily lives.

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- We can find *our identity* in the foundation of who Christ is and what He has designed us to be and do.
- God's design for our lives brings *ultimate freedom* rather than restriction.

Identity determines what you value and what you do.
Identity determines how you relate to God, yourself and other people.



Where do you ground your identity?

Matthew 11 & 12

Jesus reveals His identity

Matthew 11 & 12

11:1-19

Jesus is the promised *Messiah* from the past.

Jesus reveals His identity

Matthew 11 & 12

11:1-19

Jesus is the promised *Messiah* from the past.

11:20-24

Jesus is the coming *Judge* in the future.

11:25-39

Jesus is the present *Savior* right now.

Jesus reveals His identity

25 At that time Jesus declared,

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

27 All things have been handed over to Me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

28 Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

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20 Then He began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!

For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

You will be brought down to Hades.

For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

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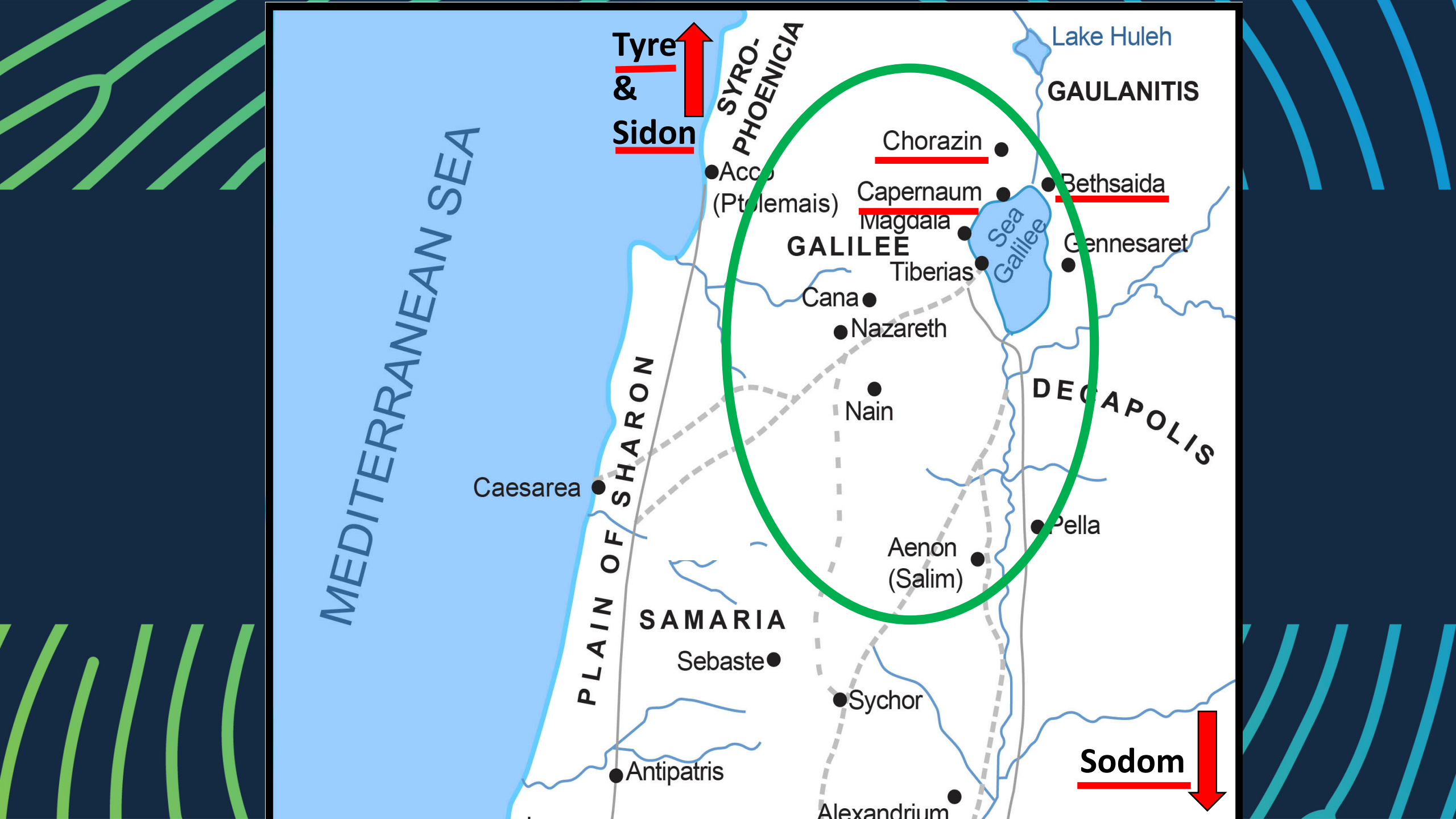
Map of Israel in the New Testament

Bible History Online



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MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Tyre
&
Sidon

SYRO-
PHOENICIA

Lake Huleh
GAULANITIS

Chorazin

Acco
(Ptolemais)

Capernaum

Bethsaida

Magdala

GALILEE

Sea
Galilee

Gennesaret

Tiberias

Cana

Nazareth

Nain

DECAPOLIS

Caesarea

PLAIN OF SHARON

SAMARIA

Sebaste

Aenon
(Salim)

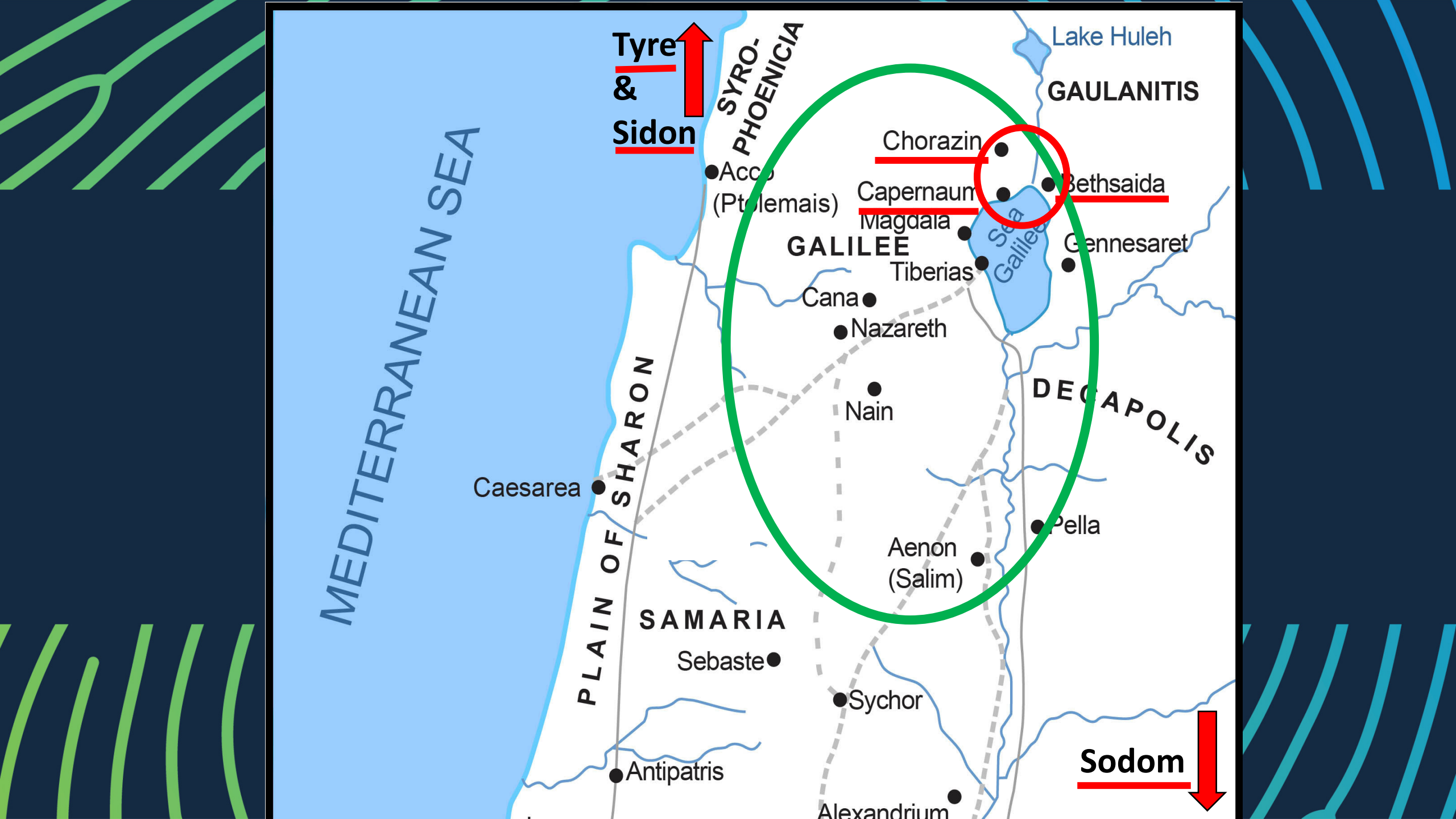
Pella

Antipatris

Sychor

Sodom

Alexandrium



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oneidizó

22 **Definition:** to reproach, revile, upbraid.

– properly, to *disgrace, to insult; to mock or to curse;*

to *cast blame, to create shame;*

viewing someone or something as **culpably guilty**

and therefore *deserving* punishment.

This can be based on *fact* (Mt 11:20),

or *incorrect assumptions* (Mt 5:11).

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23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted as heaven,
You will be brought down to the foundation.

24 But I

metanoieó

Definition: to change one's mind or purpose
--to repent, to change my mind, to change the inner man
(particularly with reference to acceptance of the will of God).

metá, "changed after being with" and *noiéō*, "think"
– properly, "think differently *after*," "after a change of *mind*";
to *repent* (literally, "**to think differently afterwards**").

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"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

27 Somehow and somewhere, behind and above a discouraging world, stands a poised Father, completely in control and utterly unfrustrated.

28 To believe that human beings are the final arbiters of history is inevitably to become a whiner rather than a thanker because human irresponsibility does embitter. The church needs her Master's acquiescence in the sovereignty of

29 God if she is to have Jesus' poise in ministry. Excessive attention to the unresponsive world and insufficient appreciation of the relaxing reality of God's sovereignty can drive Christians into the slough of despondence.

30 Humanism without theism is cynical; theism without humanism is cruel.

Frederick Bruner, Matthew Commentary, Eerdmans

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Matthew 16:13-18

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus answered Him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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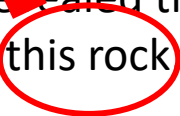
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So...therefore...what now?

Through God's redemptive plan of using the 'advance man' to call us to repentance, we are prepared to meet Jesus in His grace and His joy:

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Repent.....change direction.....aim your life in a trajectory toward God who will be our judge.

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Enter the grace and joy of Christ that is found only in His presence...His rest!

Repent....a change of direction;

a change of mind.

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