

THE DAWNING LIGHT OF THE KING
(Matthew 4:12-17)

- I. Occurred at the Divinely Appointed TIME (Matt. 4:12*a*)
 - A. SKIPS nearly a YEAR of Jesus' ministry
 - 1. An early ministry in GALILEE (John 1:19-2:12)
 - 2. An extended ministry in JUDEA during the ministry of JOHN THE BAPTIST (John 2:13-3:21)
 - 3. A return journey to Galilee through SAMARIA (John 3:22-4:42)
 - B. Begins with the REMOVAL of the HERALD
 - 1. John's ministry had paralleled with that of MOSES, while Jesus' would parallel that of JOSHUA
 - 2. John called people to recognize the coming KING, while Jesus would call them to recognize the coming KINGDOM
- II. Revealed in the Divinely Appointed PLACE (Matt. 4:12*b*-16)
 - A. Jesus "WITHDREW" into Galilee
 - 1. He was REJECTED in Nazareth (cf. Luke 4:14-30)
 - 2. He made Capernaum His HEADQUARTERS (cf. Luke 4:31)
 - B. This FULFILLED the prophecy of Isaiah (Isa. 9:1-2)

- C. Region came to be known as “Galilee of the GENTILES”
 - 1. Zebulon and Naphtali had FAILED to expel the Canaanites, and had INTERMARRIED with them (cf. Josh. 19:10-39)
 - 2. Assyria had removed many JEWS and repopulated the region with FOREIGNERS ca. 740 BC
 - 3. Region RECLAIMED by Judas Maccabaeus (164 BC) and Aristobulus (104 BC)

- D. The people there had long been “in DARKNESS” and under the sway of “DEATH”
 - 1. SPIRITUALLY and MORALLY careless at best
 - 2. Far from the supposed “LIGHT” of the TEMPLE

- E. “A GREAT LIGHT” would “DAWN upon” these people
 - 1. It would be a demonstration of divine GRACE
 - 2. It would prefigure CHRIST coming to the WORLD

III. Proclaimed the Divinely Appointed MESSAGE (Matt. 4:17)

- A. “REPENT”
 - 1. Requires CHANGING the direction of your LIFE
 - 2. Acquired as a GIFT from GOD (cf. Acts 5:31; 11:18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:25)

- B. “The KINGDOM is NEAR”