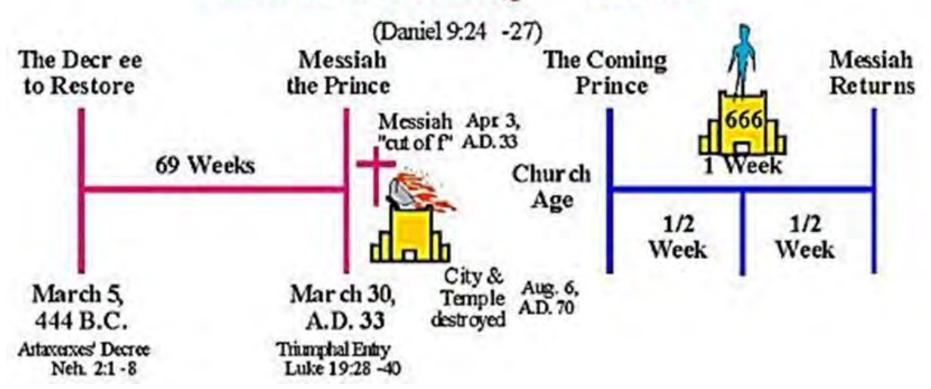
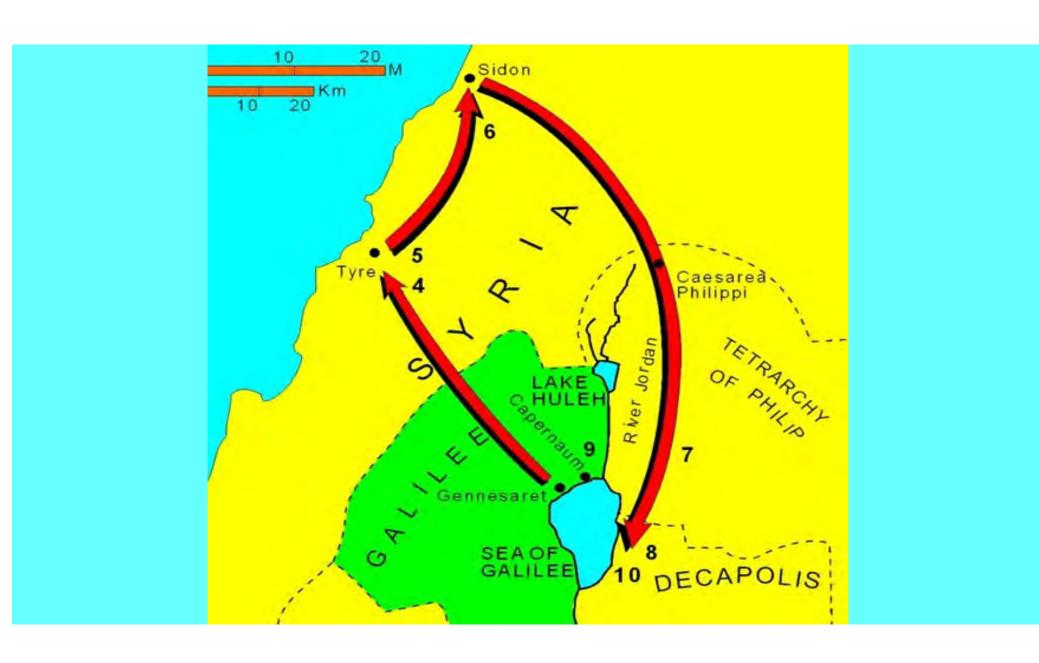
"Jesus' Ministry to the <u>Gentiles</u>" <u>Matthew 15: 21-39</u>

Daniel's Seventy Weeks



Verse 21 - 22 Jesus and a desperate <u>Gentile</u> mom



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1) Wherever Jesus is becomes a sacred space, space under the authority of Jesus/God
- 2) Believers are sacred space under the authority of God
- 3) Believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit, sacred space 2 Corinthians 6: 16

Verse 23 - 28 Jesus ignores the Gentile woman's request Why?

The woman addresses Jesus with the Messianic title, "Son of David"

The woman is a Canaanite – enemies of the True God and has no right to Messianic blessings

Jesus' seemingly cold response:

"But He answered her not a word"

His reasoning: "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (verse 24)

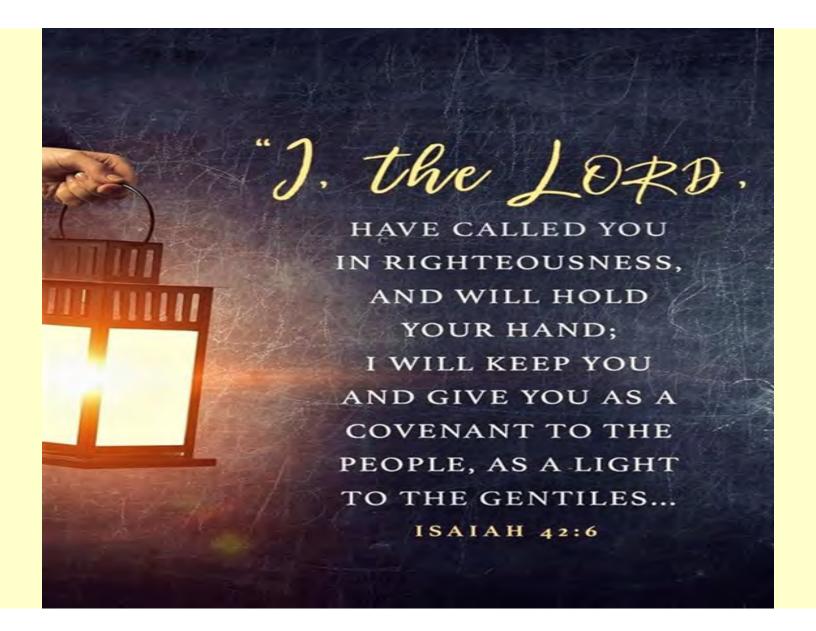
Scripture principle: Paul states - ". . . . for the Jew first and also for the Greek" - Romans 1: 16

Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, sent to the Jewish people with an offer of the kingdom

The Jewish people rejected the offer

God's plan always included the Gentiles for salvation

Isaiah helps us:



The Gentile woman does an un-gentile thing, she worships Jesus

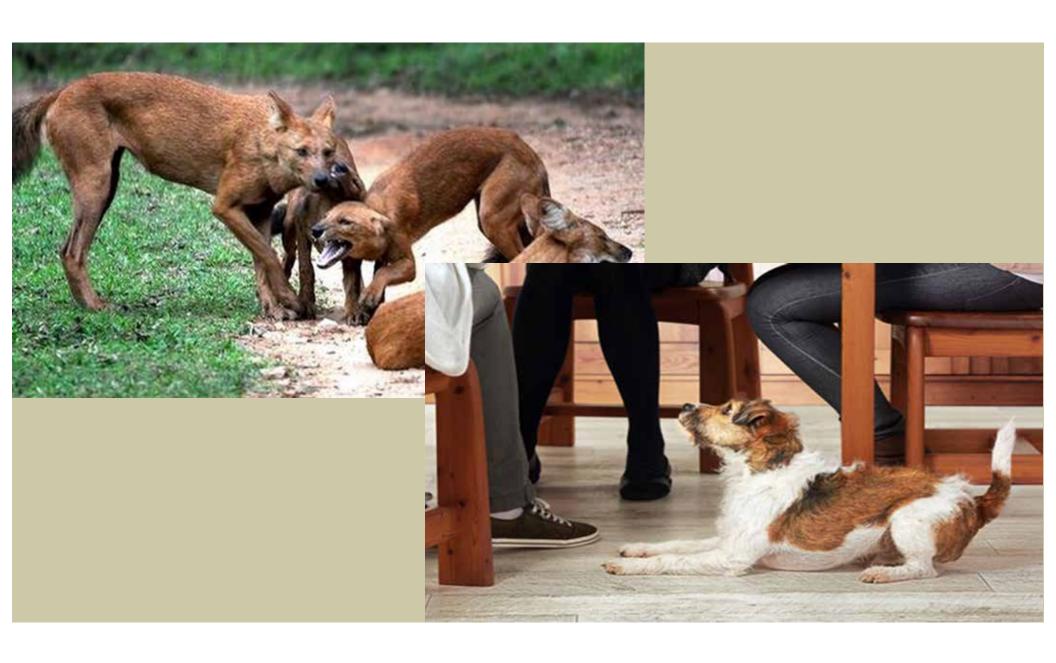
"Lord, help me!"

This simple phrase changed everything for this woman

May our cry, at the time of need, be:

"Lord, help me!"

This woman's simple act of worship, this act of faith in Jesus, moved the heart of Jesus



"Yes, LORD, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Jesus' response to this woman is recorded forever:

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."

Verse 29 - 31 Jesus heals many Gentiles; He sets them free!

Jesus heals the multitude; this time <u>all</u> of them are Gentiles

They are all worshippers of foreign gods; in meeting the True God, they are *SET FREE!*

Foreign gods place people in bondage

Jesus frees people from demonic bondage <a>2 Corinthians 3: 17

Anyone can turn from the worship and control of the gods of this world

Demonic strongholds can come down and people can be set free! This is the <u>TRUTH!!</u>

Freedom is found in a relationship with the One who created you, the One who died for you!

Freedom is burned into the soul of mankind; when removed, people suffer immensely

"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed"

John 8: 36

Verse 32 - 39 Jesus feeds 4000 <u>Gentiles</u>

Jesus is teaching His disciples a necessary lesson

Jesus values the 4000 Gentiles, just like He did the 5000 Jews that were fed

What is wrong with the disciples? They just saw Jesus feed the 5000

It seems the disciples suffer from the human disease of forgetting quickly

The present trial, the present "impossible", seems to quickly erase past successes

For 6 months the disciples are in intense "Jesus" school

They will carry the mantel of the Gospel to the world – *they must be ready!!*

Jesus will return to Jewish territory - Magdala

It is there that He will again be confronted by the Pharisees and Sadducees

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

It is an adventure to follow Jesus

In the journey come tests - tests of faith and tests of loyalty

The disciples will soon go with Jesus to Caesarea Philippi where another test awaits

Jesus will ask, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

I sense that, today, Jesus is asking the same question of His Church:

Who do men say that I am?

Who do you say that Jesus is?

How you answer this question has eternal consequences

How will I do with the persecution test? What will I say?

KNOW THIS:

GOD WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO SAY, AT THE TIME! - Matthew 10: 19-20

"But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

Tests are coming

Evil days and deceiving spirits are here NOW!

May we stand in the evil day - Ephesians 6: 13

The disciples are in "Jesus" school, learning to stand - so are you!

If you feel you are all alone as you take a stand for God, JUST REMEMBER......

- 1) Only EIGHT PEOPLE got on the Ark
- 2) Only FOUR PEOPLE fled Sodom and Gomorrah
- 3) Only DAVID stood against Goliath
- 4) Only ELIJAH stood against the prophets of Baal
- 5) Only THREE HEBREW CHILDREN refused to bow to the king's idol
- 6) Only ONE WOMAN anointed Jesus' feet
- 7) Only ONE APOSTLE stood by the cross of Christ

Being a TRUE CHRISTIAN can get lonely, but being a part of the HEAVENLY MINORITY is worth it all in the end!

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12: 1-2