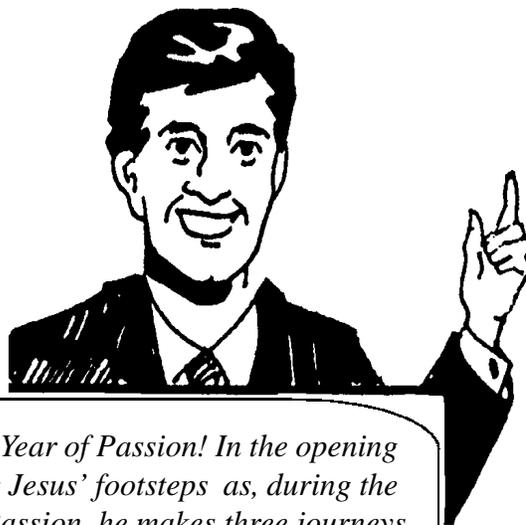
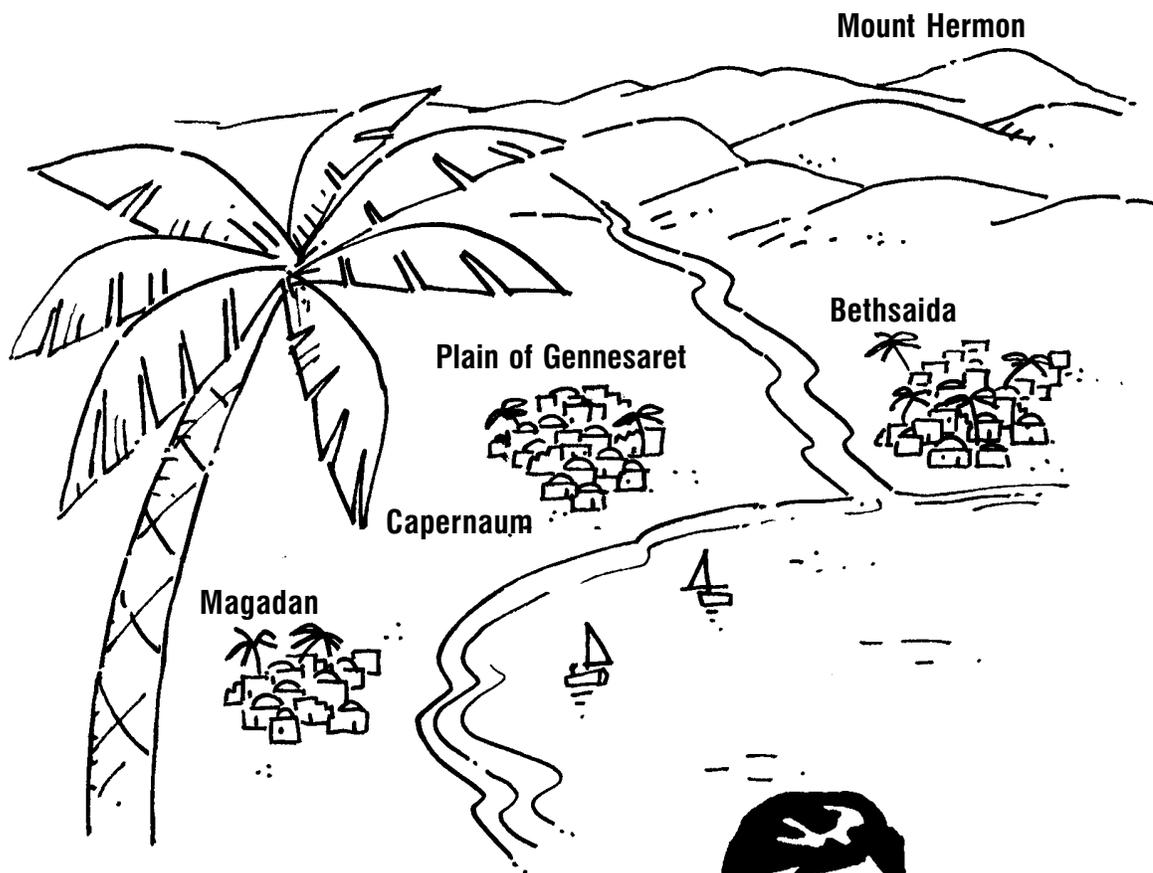


# Lesson 1A Analysis of the Year of Passion: The two Semesters



*Welcome to Book 4 on Jesus' Year of Passion! In the opening lessons, we shall be following Jesus' footsteps as, during the first semester of the Year of Passion, he makes three journeys out of Galilee to avoid his enemies. Here, we are looking out over the territory from which he set out and to which he returned from each of these journeys. So, let's have a look!*

1. The Year of Passion, as recorded by Matthew in chapters 14 to 27, can be divided into two semesters.
  - A. The first half of the year (chapters 14 to 18) we will call “**The Semester of Withdrawal**”. Although Jesus’ home was still in Capernaum, he repeatedly had to **withdraw** to out-of-the-way places (Matt. 14:13; 15:21) to avoid his enemies. He did not do this through fear, but because it was not yet his time to die.
  - B. The second half of the year (chapters 19 to 27) we will call “**The Semester of Surrender**”. Luke 9:51 tells us, “*As the time **approached** for him to be taken up to heaven, he resolutely set out for Jerusalem*” (to die for us there). So Jesus finally left his home in Capernaum in Galilee and went into the region of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan (Matt. 19:1), as he moved closer and closer to the cross.

In the following list write:

“W” by the phrases which describe the Semester of Withdrawal

“S” by the phrases which describe the Semester of Surrender

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus’ home was in Capernaum.
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus lived in Galilee but frequently withdrew to places beyond the reach of his enemies.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem in Judea.
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus finally left Capernaum and Galilee once and for all.
2. So, during the first half of the Year of Passion Jesus still had his home in the town of a) \_\_\_\_\_, although he was seldom there; instead he had to b) w \_\_\_\_\_ to isolated places to avoid his enemies (Matt. 14:13; 15:21). This continued for six months, until in Matt. 19:1 he finally left his home in the province of c) \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the region of d) \_\_\_\_\_. His time was e) a \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 9:51) and so he resolutely set out for f) \_\_\_\_\_ where he was to die for us six months later.
3. The Year of Passion is told in Matthew 14-27. As Matthew 19:1 says that Jesus left Galilee to go to Judea, it is simple to work out that:
    - a) the first half of the Year of Passion, which we have called the “Semester of Withdrawal”, is found in chapters \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b) the second half of that year, which we have called the “Semester of Surrender”, is found in chapters \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answers

- |                             |  |                               |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. a) W; b) W<br>c) S; d) S | 2. a) Capernaum<br>b) withdraw<br>c) Galilee<br>d) Judea<br>e) approaching<br>f) Jerusalem | 3. a) 14 to 18<br>b) 19 to 27 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

4. **Exercise:** Using your red pencil, write:
1. "Semester of Withdrawal" above Matthew 14:1
  2. "Semester of Surrender" above Matthew 19:1
5. a) The first half of the Year of Passion we have called the Semester of \_\_\_\_\_, found in Matthew \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Describe this period in Jesus' life. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The second half of the year we have called the Semester of \_\_\_\_\_, found in Matthew \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Describe this period in Jesus' life. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Very good! We will start by analyzing the first semester, in Matthew 14-18. Remember, the basis of any analysis is to be able to identify the central idea which unites the different parts of a passage, just as a string joins the beads in a necklace. What do we call the thread of thought which unites the different parts of a passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Its theme. \_\_\_\_\_ Its title.
7. The ability to identify the main theme of any Bible passage is the basis of the technique of analysis. Which four of the following are united by a common theme?
- a. Capernaum.                       d. Decapolis.  
 b. A horse.                             e. The Sea of Galilee.  
 c. Tyre and Sidon.
8. The main theme uniting the four items correctly selected above is not too easy to identify. Two are the names of cities, one an area in Palestine and the fourth, a body of water. What main theme unites these four?
- a. They are all cities.  
 b. They are all geographical places.  
 c. They are all on the sea coast.
9. Our analysis of the Year of Popularity was made on the basis of different topics (Edicts, Evidences, Examples etc.), so we say that it has a **topical** structure. On the other hand, an analysis based on places has a **geographical** structure and an analysis based on the Bible text has a **textual** structure. We can use the analysis of the life of Christ as an example of all three of these structures. Fill in the following chart. (You may use your Bible).

Continued

## Answers

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5. a) Withdrawal 14 to 18                      6. Its theme  
Home in Capernaum                      7. a. c. d. e.  
Withdrew to solitary places            8. b.  
b) Surrender 19 to 27  
Left Galilee for Jerusalem to die

A Five Steps	B Associated Places	C Ref. in Matt.
Introduction		1
1. _____	_____	_____
2. Year of _____	_____	_____
3. Year of _____	_____	_____
4. Year of _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

10. Which of the analyses in the chart you just did, A, B, or C, was used as a basis for:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ A geographical structure?
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ A topical structure?
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ A textual structure?

11. There are still other kinds of structures! For example, our analysis of the Year of Preparation was based on a chronological structure.

In other words, it follows the order in which the three events in Matthew’s gospel took place. Complete the chronological analysis of the Year of Preparation in Matthew 3:1 to 4:11.

Analysis of the Year of Preparation	
Chronological Analysis Events	Textual Analysis Refs. in Matt.
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

12. In contrast to this analysis of the Year of Preparation, our analysis of the Year of Popularity in Matthew 4 (v.12 to 13) was, as we have noted, made by using a still different structure. It is very important that we understand this. So Matthew does not tell the events of the Year of Popularity in chronological order but arranges them according to their subject matter or topics. For example, the material dealing with the Sermon on the Mount is in chapters 5-7.

The miracles are in chapters 8-9 and the eight parables of the kingdom, in chapter 13. So analyze the Year of Popularity according to its topics, by completing the following chart.

(You may use your Bible).

Continued

## Answers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>9. Introduction 1<br/>                 Infancy/<br/>                 Bethlehem 2<br/>                 Preparation/Nazareth 3-4 (v.11)<br/>                 Popularity/Capernaum 4 (v.12)-13<br/>                 Passion/Jerusalem 14-27<br/>                 Risen Life/All Nations 28</p> | <p>10. a) B; b) A; c) C<br/>                 11. 1) Preaching of John Baptist - 3:1-12<br/>                 2) Baptism of Jesus - 3:13-17<br/>                 3) Temptation of Jesus - 4:1-11</p> |
|--|--|

12. Continued

Analysis of the Year of Popularity		
Titles	Topical Analysis Themes	Textual Analysis Chapters
1) _____ of the Kingdom	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____
6) _____	_____	_____

13. You are now going to analyze the first part of the Year of Passion in Matthew’s Gospel; you will do this based on its **geographical** structure, i. e. the **places** that Jesus visited during the Semester of Withdrawal.

Read the following instructions several times to understand what you are supposed to do.

- 1) Read Matthew’s account of this Semester of Withdrawal, in chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17, verse by verse. Do not skip anything! Read carefully beginning with Matthew 14:1.
- 2) As you read, note each time the passage says that Jesus and his disciples **traveled to another place**. Then write below the name or description of the place and the reference in Matthew where it is found. The first two have been done as examples. Check against the feedback and where necessary make corrections.

Reference in Matthew		Name or description of place
Chapter 14	14:13	A solitary place
	14:22	To the other side.
	14:34	_____
Chapter 15	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Chapter 16	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Chapter 17	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

**Answers**

- |  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 12. 1) Expansion<br>Beginning of ministry in Galilee 4 | 12. 4) Envoys of Kingdom<br>Choosing 12 Apostles - 10 | 13. Feedback in Frame 1A.16 |
| 2) Edicts of Kingdom<br>Sermon on Mount - 5,6,7        | 5) Enemies of Kingdom<br>Growing Opposition - 11,12   |                             |
| 3) Evidences of Kingdom<br>Miracles - 8,9              | 6) Examples of Kingdom<br>Parables - 13               |                             |

14. On what kind of structure did you base your analysis of the Semester of Withdrawal, in Matthew 14 to 18? \_\_\_\_\_
15. During this first Semester of the Year of Passion, Jesus had to leave Galilee **three times** because of his enemies. The **places** that you have found in your Bible will serve as signposts to point out the route that Jesus took during each of these a) \_\_\_\_\_ journeys outside the province of b) \_\_\_\_\_.

16. **Practical work**

Underline these signposts in your Bible, using the colors shown in the instructions below.

Note: Each color corresponds to one of the three journeys outside of Galilee. We will look at these journeys in our next lesson.

Reference	Phrase to underline	Color
14:13	A solitary place	Red
14:22	To the other side	Red
14:34	Landed at Gennesaret	Blue
15:21	The region of Tyre and Sidon	Blue
15:29	Along the Sea of Galilee	Blue
15:39	The vicinity of Magadan	Green
16:5	Across the lake	Green
16:13	The region of Caesarea Philippi	Green
17:1	Up a high mountain	Green
17:9	Coming down the mountain	Green
17:24	Capernaum	Green

17. Notice that some of our signposts do not have the name of a place. Matthew writes that Jesus withdrew to a solitary place or that he went by boat, but the place is not named. We can, however, discover the name of some of these places by using the technique of comparing with the other synoptics. For example, we can find out the name of the solitary place mentioned in Matthew 14:13 by looking up the parallel passage, in Luke 9:10. What is the name of the solitary place to which Jesus withdrew? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Furthermore, when the same verse tells us that Jesus **“withdrew by boat”** we can assume that he did so from his lake-side home town of a) \_\_\_\_\_. It was here that he must have heard of the death of b) \_\_\_\_\_ which led to his withdrawal to a solitary place, in the region of the town of c) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answers

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 14. Geographical | 17. Bethsaida       |
| 15. a) 3         | 18. a) Capernaum    |
| b) Galilee       | b) John the Baptist |
|                  | c) Bethsaida        |

19. Now you have found the names of the first two places Jesus visited in the Semester of Withdrawal, referred to in Matthew 14:13. They are:
- The place from which he withdrew. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The place to which he withdrew. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Quickly read the episodes in Matthew 14 to discover the two important events that happened in these places. These events belong to the fourth bridge of our analysis of Matthew's Gospel, the one leading from the Year of Popularity to the Year of Passion, so they are particularly important. Which event took place in:
- Capernaum? News of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bethsaida? \_\_\_\_\_
21. These events are closely related to Jesus' withdrawal from his home in Galilee. They are important for a proper understanding of this.
- What did Jesus do when he received the sad news about John the Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What sad news caused Jesus to withdraw? \_\_\_\_\_
  - From what town did Jesus withdraw? \_\_\_\_\_
  - To what type of place did he go? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Near which town? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How did he travel? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What miracle did Jesus perform in this place? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Look at the map in Supplement 2B on page 293. Which letter on the map marks:
- Capernaum? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bethsaida? \_\_\_\_\_
23. By looking at this map we can understand why Jesus chose to travel by boat instead of going overland. Bethsaida was located near the river a) \_\_\_\_\_, on the opposite shore from Capernaum. So, the miracle of the feeding of the b) \_\_\_\_\_ took place on the northeast shore of the Sea of c) \_\_\_\_\_, in the Province of d) \_\_\_\_\_.
24. **Note:**  
 Nowadays, tourists visiting Israel are shown a place within Galilee as the site of the feeding of the 5,000. Clearly, this is not likely to be correct for, as we have seen, Jesus left Galilee by boat. Furthermore, Herod Philip rebuilt this city in Iturea (then called Julias), and Pliny and Jerome both say it was on the east of the Jordan, i.e. in Iturea. However, it is possible that there was a suburb of Bethsaida on the west bank of the Jordan, which would account for the confusion.

## Answers

- |                                 |                            |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 19. a) Capernaum                | 21. a) Withdrew            | 22. a) D; b) E |
| b) Near Bethsaida               | b) About the death of John | 23. a) Jordan  |
| 20. a) John the Baptist's death | c) Capernaum               | b) 5,000       |
| b) The feeding of the 5,000     | d) A solitary place        | c) Galilee     |
|                                 | e) Bethsaida               | d) Iturea      |
|                                 | f) By boat                 |                |
|                                 | g) Feeding of 5,000        |                |

25. This gives us some idea why Jesus withdrew to that particular place. We know that John the Baptist had been killed by Herod the a) \_\_\_\_\_ who ruled over the provinces of b) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It was natural, then, for Jesus to withdraw from the province of Galilee, because this was under the rule of this brutal man. So he took refuge in the neighboring province of c) \_\_\_\_\_, which was ruled by d) \_\_\_\_\_, the only e) \_\_\_\_\_ Herod.

To reach this place of safety, Jesus had to cross the boundary between these two provinces which was the river f) \_\_\_\_\_. Here, in a solitary place, he performed the miracle of g) \_\_\_\_\_.

26. **Review and Observation of the Map in Supplement 2B.**

Notice that the map in Supplement 2B represents the area from the Sea of Galilee northward. Also, notice the broken lines that mark parts of the boundaries of Galilee, Iturea and Decapolis.

- a) In which of the provinces are the following letters found?
  - 1. "D" and "G" \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. "B", "C" and "E" \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. "H" \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) In which foreign country is the letter "A" found? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What is the name of the Sea marked with the letter "F"? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) As review, say approximately how many miles this Sea is:
  - in length (north to south)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - in width, (east to west)? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) What is the river which feeds the lake from the north and then continues to flow southward until it reaches the Dead Sea? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) What three provinces border on the shores of the Sea of Galilee? \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Which of the Herods governed the place marked on the map by the letter:
  - "B" \_\_\_\_\_ "E" \_\_\_\_\_
  - "C" \_\_\_\_\_ "G" \_\_\_\_\_
  - "D" \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Which letter marks a place in the only province not ruled by a member of the Herod family? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) What is the name of this province? \_\_\_\_\_

27 Now do Test 1A on page 253 at the back of this book. Remember to do the corresponding test on completing each lesson.

**Answers**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 25. a) tetrarch<br>b) Galilee and Perea<br>c) Iturea<br>d) Philip<br>e) good<br>f) Jordan<br>g) the feeding of 5,000 | 26. a) 1. Galilee<br>2. Iturea<br>3. Decapolis<br>b) Phoenecia<br>c) Sea of Galilee<br>d) 12½ miles long<br>7½ miles wide<br>e) Jordan | f) Galilee/Iturea/Decapolis<br>g) "B" Philip<br>"C" Philip<br>"D" The tetrarch<br>"E" Philip<br>"G" The tetrarch<br>h) H<br>i) Decapolis |
|--|--|--|