

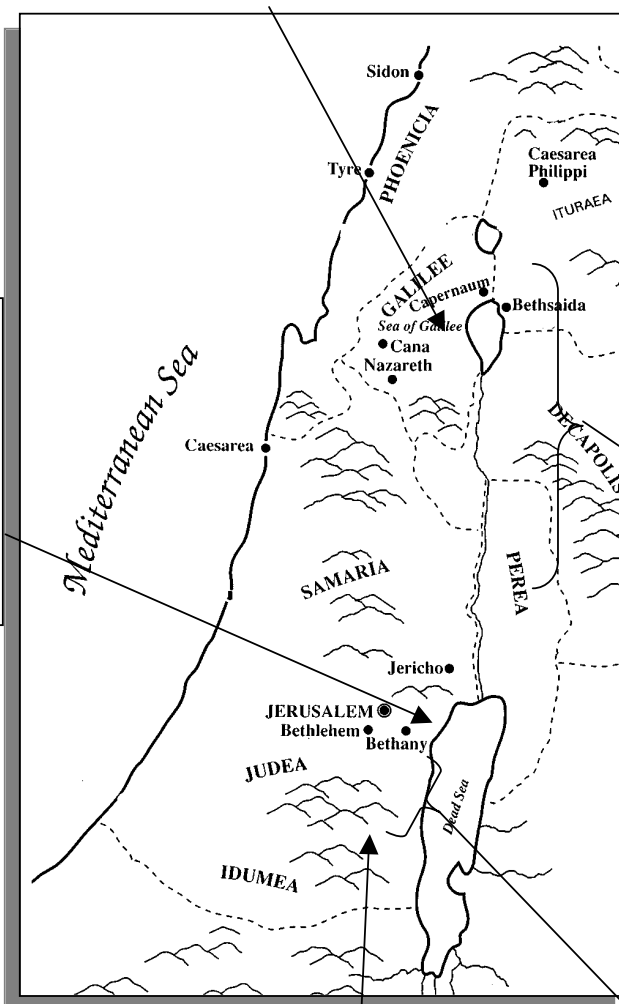
PALESTINE AND ST MARK'S GOSPEL

If St Mark's Gospel were a play, it would have about five scenes.

Scene 2 Public preaching ministry in Galilee 1:14 - 4:41
Jesus calls his first disciples there.

Scene 1 Baptism and Ministry in the Jordan Valley 1:1 - 1:13

John the Baptist baptises Jesus. Jesus then spends forty days in the desert, fasting and resisting Satan's temptations



Scene 3 Journey into Trans-Jordan (outside Israel) 5:1 - 9:50

Jesus and his disciples cross the Lake to the pagan territory of **Decapolis** (Ten Towns). Jesus heals a demon-possessed man in a dramatic fashion. Close to **Caesarea Philippi**, Peter makes his famous declaration that Jesus is the Messiah.

Did you know ...?

Some important towns in Galilee receive no mention in the Gospels. For example, the city of Sepphoris, quite close to Nazareth, was a splendid, cosmopolitan place. It's quite likely that Jesus visited the place, and yet it seemed of little importance in the Gospel story.

Scene 5 The Last Week of Jesus' life. 11:1 - 15:47

This would be in and around **Jerusalem**, the main city of the Jews. The scene holds the last epic week leading to Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection. About a third of St Mark's Gospel is devoted to this scene.

Scene 4 Journey south towards Jerusalem 10:1 - 10:52

Judea near the lower reaches of the River Jordan and then to **Jericho**. Jesus cures the blind man, Bartimaeus.