

I. BARELY NOTICED

A. Easy to overlook a single verse

1. Tempted to just throw it in to the other verses
2. Tempted just to view it all as part of the next paragraph
3. Started thinking about the words “down to Capernaum”
 - a. Just let that soak in for a second
 - b. Say it with me “down to Capernaum”
 - c. Your thinking, “Preacher, I can’t tell you what that means to me...”
4. Matt. 5:18 - “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

B. Down

1. The village of Cana was in the hill country
 - a. John 2:1 – That’s where the marriage took place
 - b. He was there – He put His stamp of approval AGAIN on Marriage
 - c. People tend to think that following Christ takes all the fun out of life, but they are WRONG
 - i. It is OKAY with God to be joyful and be merry!
 - ii. “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” – John 10:10
2. Capernaum was DOWN from those hills
 - a. Down on the shores of the sea of Galilee
 - b. We sometimes think in terms of maps (south / down)
 - c. Trust me – if you walked everywhere, you’d notice up and down!

C. What’s the big deal?

1. These are the details that prove this is a Supernatural Book!
 - a. Man cannot capture these details and keep them straight
 - b. Man COULD not capture these details and keep them straight
 - c. Certainly 40 men couldn’t keep them straight
 - d. Particularly when most of them had never met!
2. Simple VBS knowledge
 - a. How many men did God use to record His Word? About 40
 - b. How long did God take to record His Word? About 1600 years
 - c. Who were the men that God used to record His Word?
 - i. Fishermen, Priests, Kings, Farmers, Prophets, Leaders, Captives, Doctors, Tax Collectors
 - ii. Most of whom never met
 - iii. And yet – NO contradictions!
 - iv. One true theme – Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!
3. Why is “down” a big deal?

- a. We'll get to that at the end of the message
- b. And you won't want to miss it!

II. BASE OF OPERATIONS

A. Our Lord

1. We sing about Him scriptural songs
2. Like "Man of Sorrows, what a name! For the Son of God Who came."
3. Luke 9:58 – "And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

B. And yet, as much as He dwelt anywhere, He dwelt at Capernaum

1. Mat 4:13 – "And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim;" (14) "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying," (15) "The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;"
2. Mat 9:1 – "And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city."

C. Mother and Brethren AND His Disciples

1. Mary – blessed woman, but still just a woman
 - a. We see her and His brethren standing without trying to claim special privilege in Matt. 12:46
 - b. We see her in Cana, and we see her at the Crucifixion
2. The brethren, that's another story
 - a. Not all of them believed
 - b. Look at John 7:5

D. Capernaum was His base of operations – Key thought

1. But now, let's shift gears slightly
2. Before we get to the word "down"

III. BIBLE PROPHECIES

A. The Bible's Standard for Truth is IMPOSSIBLY high

1. Unobtainably high. Unreachably high!
2. Deut 18:21-22
3. We're going to look at just six places in Scripture
4. And it will blow your mind...

B. Daniel 8:5&8

1. Psalms, find Isaiah or Jeremiah, Ezekiel, then Daniel
 - a. Goats and horns?
 - b. The horns are used to symbolize people in this verse and even secular scholars agree about the historical identity of that goat's first horn. Only one person conquered the world so speedily

(touched not the ground – vs. 5), died young (broken when it was strong), and had four generals divide his empire (the four horns which then arise.

2. Alexander the Great
 - a. Died in his thirties
 - b. And his four generals divided the empire:
 - c. Cassander, Ptolemy, Antigonus, and Seleucus

C. Ezekiel 26:7-9, 14-18

1. Just before Daniel
 - a. Fall to Babylon, specifically Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Scrapped flat like the top of a rock
 - c. Be a place to spread fishing nets
 - d. Never be rebuilt
2. Prophesied in 590 BC - What happened?
 - a. Two cities actually – coastal town and an island
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon destroyed the coastal city after a 13 year siege in 573 BC (17 years later)
 - c. But he could not capture the island
 - d. However! In 332 BC Alexander built a bridge and destroyed the island city – what do you think he made the bridge out of?
 - e. And it has never been rebuilt to this day DESPITE being near fresh water springs that would make it an ideal place!
 - f. Guess what people do in this nice flat place... wash fishing nets!

D. Joshua 6:26 (IF TIME)

1. Prophesied in 1450 BC
2. What happened?
3. I Kings 16:35 – 930 BC
4. 520 Years Later!

E. Isaiah 44:28

1. Prophesied in 712BC
 - a. Estimated that 27% of all Bible prophecy HINGES on this verse
 - b. Before Nebuchadnezzar conquered in 606 BC
 - c. And then the ANOTHER empire conquered in 536 BC
 - d. 176 Years Later!
2. What was his name? Ezra 1:1-2 (after II Chronicles)
 - a. The odds of naming a king, born in another nation, of another culture, who would conquer a nation that itself had yet to rise, 176 years before it happened are impossible to calculate.
 - b. Think of all the names of all the people in the world...

F. Wonder if there were any prophecies about Capernaum?

IV. BITTER END

A. Yes. Christ Himself uttered a prophecy against Capernaum

1. Matthew 11:23 – 24
2. He went down, but Capernaum would be brought down
- B. Because Capernaum was lost to history
 1. UNTIL - In 1838, American explorer Edward Robinson discovered the ruins of ancient Capernaum.
 2. In ruins. Destroyed.
- C. Let God be true but every man a liar
- D. God's Word is true. It is reliable
 1. It is filled with precepts – the black and white thou shalt!
 2. It teaches us principles – the things we need to apply to our lives
 3. And this is one of those principles

V. BETTER LEARN

- A. America has a Bible in every home and a church on every corner
- B. If Jesus could proclaim such a sentence to his own city
- C. What will He say about us?
 1. We must learn to live for Him righteously
 2. We must learn to serve Him faithfully
 3. We must learn to follow Him tenaciously
- D. Or we will hand our children the ruins of this once great nation
- E. It begins with telling others about Him!