

INTRODUCTION

Our lifetime study of this tremendous revelation - The Urantia Book - with its beautiful, ever-consistent story of the vast cosmos and the innumerable personalities therein, we find each section and each small part, of deep significance in the pattern of the whole. There is an intricate relatedness from the tiniest facet to the deepest concept and through it all we continually hear the sublime theme song: The Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man to be expressed by us as humans in LOVE and SERVICE and WORSHIP.

But sometimes in our serious studies of the complexities found in this revelation, it is fun to explore some of the by-paths in depth. Clyde Bedell, on page xiii of his Concordex says: "Reading and studying the Urantia Book is something like traveling over a vast and strange, yet mysteriously familiar country on a limitless network of great highways and beautiful feeder roads." Today we are going to take one of the feeder byways. Taking one topic and diligently pursuing it through the book is an educational and exhilarating adventure.

For some time I have wanted to prepare a paper on the remarkable, dependable David Zebedee and his corps of runners. I happen to believe that there are thousands of business men and women who have the same type of personality that David had and who will wish to serve the kingdom as David did. He did not wish to be an evangelist or a preacher, or even a philosopher or a teacher, but he did love Jesus and he believed in him with all his heart and he served him effectively as few men ever did or will. His work is an inspiration and an example to all of us in giving true and dedicated service. And Jesus was aware of all of this and said (P. 1967): "David, my son, others have done that which they were directed to do, but this service have you done of your own heart and I have not been unmindful of your devotion. You, too, shall one day serve with me in the eternal kingdom."

In preparing this paper, I have tried to provide you with a rather comprehensive resource on David Zebedee and his messengers. I have attempted to make this a practical guide and reference to use in your own teaching and communicating about this book wherever you will be. I suggest that you keep it in your own growing and expanding file of materials which will hopefully aid you throughout your life time of work with the Urantia Book. It had originally been planned for teen-agers who are especially interested in physical prowess, but I find we are all young at heart and can truly appreciate the type of hero David was, from this living and true history.

Today we will touch only the highlights in our reading, but we leave with you the comprehensive outline to use in the future. I believe that as "a picture is worth ten thousand words," a map is worth five thousand, so I am providing you with maps and we will use them freely in our readings today.

David Zebedee was a strong leader of men and an effective organizer whom other men trusted, respected and obeyed. He was a man who commanded the esteem and admiration of a hardy and robust group of from 40 to 50 stalwart and strong messengers who did his bidding without question and at a moment's notice. This says a lot about his character. Faith, strong unquestioning faith was one key to his character... and faith that went into action for the needs of the kingdom. These messengers knew from experience that David was a man of his word, a man who could do a big job and do it well and successfully. These messengers who were physically strong and well trained would drop their nets or other work immediately when David would say: "Go. Go take this message to Judea, to Samaria, to Galilee, or even to far off Alexandria in Egypt!"

REFERENCES ON DAVID ZEBEDEE AND HIS MESSENGERS

THE URANTIA BOOK

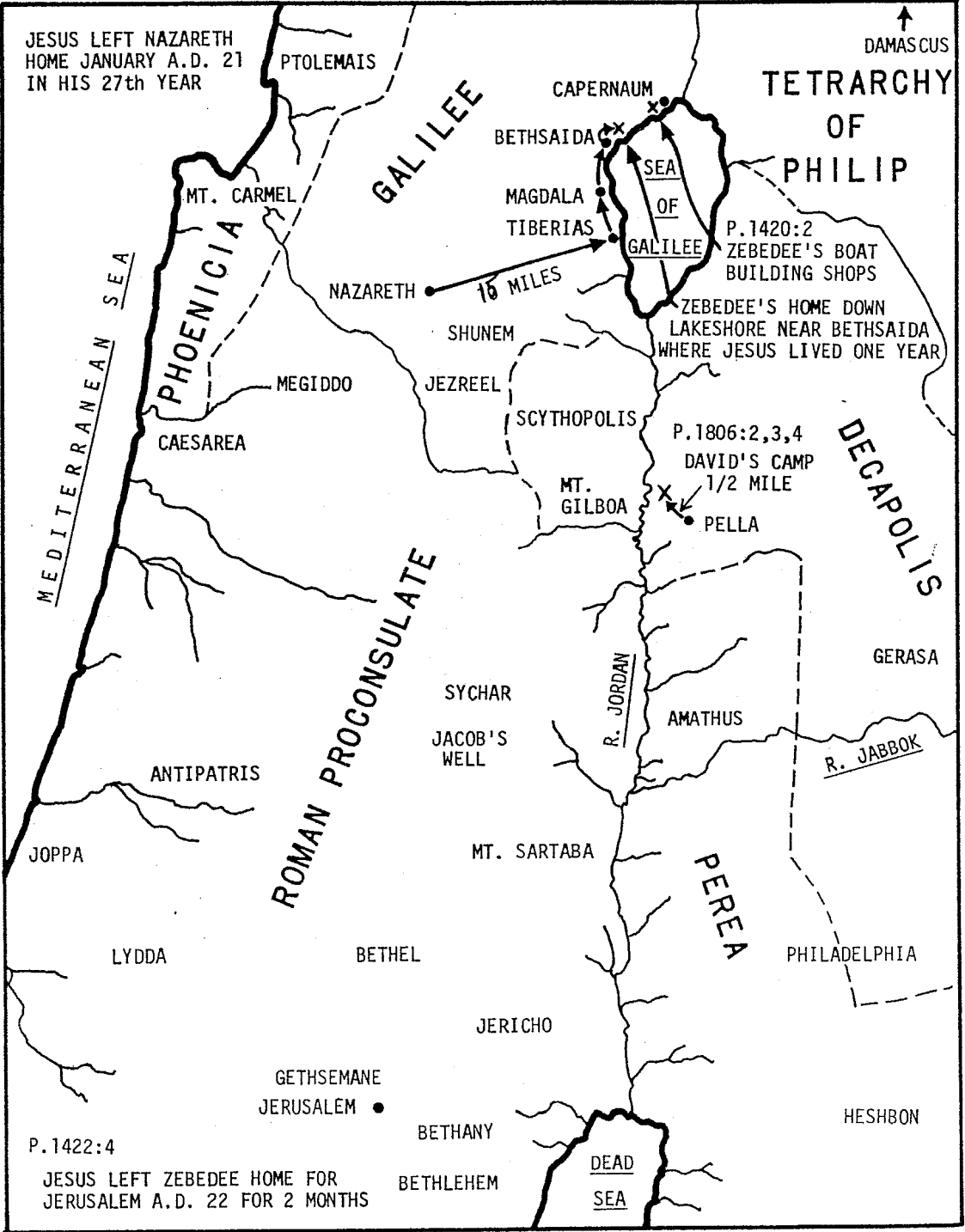
I. Background Leading to David's Association With Jesus

Spiritual Lessons: Faith; Devotion to Family, Friends and Work

Pages

- 1387:5 - Jesus' fourteenth year, A.D. 8; Capernaum property mentioned. Father possibly then a friend of Zebedee from early work in Capernaum. 1360:3,4.
- 1405:3 - Jesus' twentieth year, A.D. 14. Equity in Capernaum property sold. "This real ~~estate~~ deal was with a boatbuilder named Zebedee." First direct mention of Zebedee.
- MAP 1419:3,4 - Jesus' twenty-seventh year, A.D. 21. (January). Jesus left home.  
5,6 Lived at Zebedee home a little more than a year. Here he first knew David well, who was 4 or 5 years younger than Jesus. (possibly 22).
- READ1420:1,2 - Jesus expert boatbuilder and master at working with wood. Created a  
3 new style of boat and entirely new methods of boatmaking.
- 1421:1,2 - David respected Jesus as a mechanic, a boatbuilder, and as a  
3 fisherman.
- MAP 1422:2 - Jesus owns his first and only home in Capernaum - two rooms - clear title - from money earned as a boatbuilder and tutor.
- MAP 1423:3 - John Zebedee took presents up to Mary and Ruth each month as Jesus had instructed. Probably walked the more than 15 miles from Bethsaida to Nazareth.
- MAP 1484:4 - Jesus called a family conferance to propose that his mother and Ruth move to his home in Capernaum which he had recently given to his brother James, (1483) not far from David Zebedee's home. (Ruth, age 15, Jesus in his 30th year. David possibly in 25th year.) May have been beginning of romance between Ruth and David.
- 1542:5 - Zebedee and Salome went to live with their son David so that their large home could be turned over to Jesus and his twelve Apostles (for a while).
- 1554:4 - John "was the youngest member of his father's family and the youngest of the apostolic group." When the two brothers joined Jesus as Apostles, James was 30, John was 24, so David was possibly 27 at that time. Jesus was 32.

JESUS LEFT NAZARETH  
HOME JANUARY A.D. 21  
IN HIS 27th YEAR



## II. The Development of Physical Prowess

To provide a better understanding and deeper appreciation of David Zebedee's runners and their tremendous service to the kingdom workers, let us digress here and consider some of the requirements for runners and certain of the distances they were able to cover and how men train to do this.

A careful study of maps and distances covered by these stalwart messengers reveals the startling fact that they ran, not only the shorter distances of from 20-30 miles per run, but that they indeed also ran distances of from 75-100 miles in a twenty-four hour period.

I began to wonder how this could be possible and during some of the research on this topic, I was fortunate in being able to have a long conference with Norman Higgins from New London, Connecticut, one of the greatest long distance runners in the United States. He formerly held the record for the Western Hemisphere Marathon which includes runners from all over the world. Norman Higgins' record for the 1965 Marathon was 2 hours, 19 minutes, and 13 seconds. The Marathon Run is 26 miles and 385 yards and appears to have been established in 490 B.C. when Pheidippides, an Olympic champion, carried the news of the Athenian victory over the Persians from Marathon to Athens, a distance of more than 26 miles. The legend goes that as he arrived shouting: "Peace and rejoice - we conquer!" he dropped dead. It is noteworthy that our Zebedee messengers often ran about 26 miles in one run, and several times ran up to 100 miles.

Norman Higgins was most helpful in answering my many questions and to one he said: "Yes, indeed runners can cover over 100 miles in one 24 hour period. They do this by several methods and one way is to jog awhile, run awhile, then rest by walking and at judicious intervals they may stop and completely rest and lie down a short time period. All of this is, of course, carefully prepared for by keeping the body in top condition. Runners eat and drink very lightly on these long runs and sometimes fast before a run of this type. Foods are carefully selected.

Early runners at the time of Christ, often ate a breakfast of grape juice or other fruit juice and fermented breads. A similar light lunch was followed by a short rest at noontime. In the early evening, cheese, fruit and a vegetable or one small fish would be a typical meal with very light portions. But the day after a long run a big meal was enjoyed with large portions of meat.

Norman Higgins, who well knew the long history of running, said that these men were highly regarded and that people along the way would consider it an honor to help them in any possible way. He pointed out that these runners covered a difficult terrain. They would have to run up hill at times over rocky and thorny paths, often in a sandstorm or in heavy rain and wind. It was necessary in almost all areas to ford streams as there were few bridges. Many dangers might be encountered such as wild animals, snakes, and even brigands often ambushed runners. But they were trained and wise and they knew how to handle these emergencies.

## II. The Development of Physical Prowess (cont.)

It is noteworthy that the first recorded Olympics were held in 776 B.C. and that the first contests were foot races. The historian Timacus first used the interval between the Olympics as a unit for measuring time - called the Olympiads. These contests and training for them went on until 394 A.D. when they were stopped by Emperor Theodosius. They were not resumed until June 23, 1894, and full credit for their revival should go to Baron Pierre de Coubertin who believed this would help the cause of one peace for one united world. This is the year the exciting Olympics will be held at Munich, Germany, Aug. 28 through Sept. 10, 1972.

It was the Greeks who trained and worked so hard for these contests and all Grecian towns and provinces would have contests leading up to the Olympics. It was one of those annual celebrations, so interestingly described on page 1370 in the Urantia Book, that the boy Jesus visited with his father.

1370:5 ¶ About the middle of May the lad Jesus, age 11, accompanied his father on a business trip to Scythopolis, chief Greek city of the Decapolis . . . Jesus had often gazed curiously upon this magnificent Greek city from the hill at Nazareth, about 25 miles away . . . It so happened that just at this time the annual competitive games and public demonstrations of physical prowess between the Greek cities of the Decapolis were in progress at Scythopolis amphitheater and Jesus was so insistent that his father take him to see the games that Joseph hesitated to deny him. The boy was thrilled and entered most heartily into the spirit of the demonstrations of physical development and athletic skill. Joseph was inexpressibly shocked to observe his son's enthusiasm as he beheld these exhibitions of "heathen" vaingloriousness. After the games, Joseph received the surprise of his life when he heard Jesus express his approval and suggest that it would be good for the young men of Nazareth if they could be thus benefited by wholesome outdoor physical activities.

The only time Jesus ever saw his father angry with him was that night at the inn when, in the course of their discussions, the boy so far forgot the trends of Jewish thought as to suggest they could go back home and work for the building of an amphitheater at Nazareth. When Joseph heard his first-born son express such un-Jewish sentiments, he forgot his usual calm demeanor and, seizing Jesus by the shoulder, angrily exclaimed, "My son, never again let me hear you give utterance to such an evil thought as long as you live." Jesus was startled by his father's display of emotion; he had never before been made to feel the sting of his father's indignation and was astonished and shocked beyond expression. He only replied, "Very well, my father, it shall be so." And never again did the boy even in the slightest manner allude to the games and other athletic activities of the Greeks as long as his father lived.

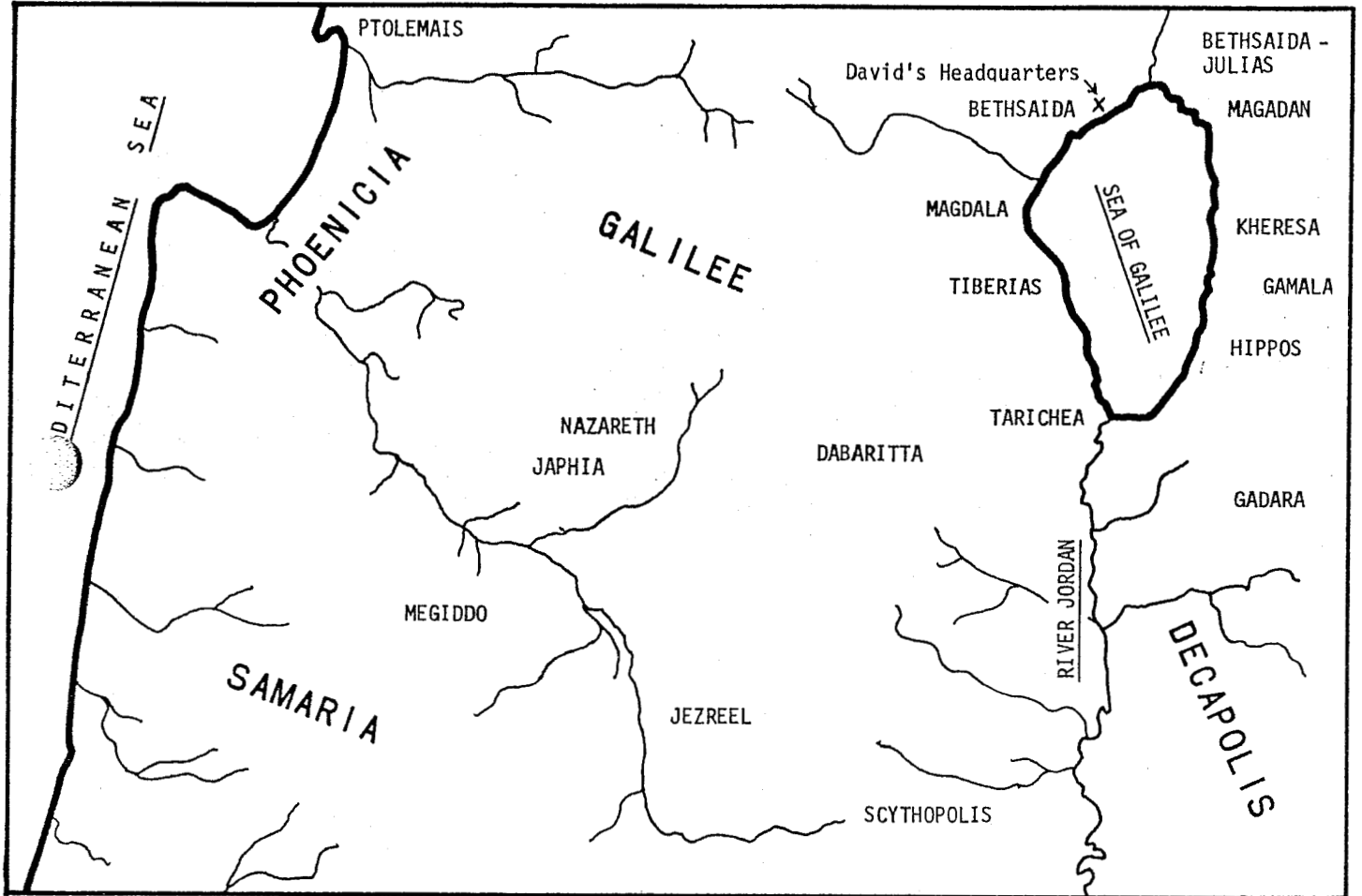
Nevertheless, throughout his life he endeavored to introduce the idea of wholesome recreation into his personal plans and, as far as Jewish practice would permit, into the later program of regular activities for his twelve apostles. Note how he first gave his loyalty to his father, subduing his own personal wishes and how he respected the current beliefs of the Jews and yet tried to be tactful in bringing in his own ideas about play and recreation. Even earlier, before he was ten, Jesus had become the leader of a group of seven lads who formed themselves into a society for promoting the acquirements of manhood - physical, intellectual and religious. Among these boys Jesus succeeded in introducing many new games and various improved methods of physical recreation.



### III. David Zebedee and His Associates Forsook Their Nets and Followed Jesus

- READ 1628:3 - In Capernaum and Bethsaida. Jesus used boat to preach to crowds. Boat named "Simon", formerly Peter's, built by Jesus' own hands. Ruth's secret visit for almost an hour was in a boat with Jesus. She was about 18 years old at this time, and never once doubted her father-brother's mission.
- READ 1629:1, - "Miracle of the Fishes." David and Simon and their associates forsook  
2 their nets and followed Jesus. David was probably 28. Jesus a close student of nature so in no sense was this a miracle draught.
- MAP 1657:1 - David's camp at Bethsaida at seaside cared for 500-1500 persons. In  
READ 2,3,4,5 five months several thousand came from every part of the Roman empire. Consider the organization required by David which was very effectively accomplished. Training evangelists by apostles.  
May 3, to October 3, A.D. 28-(Jesus 34, David 29, Ruth 19.)
- 1666:3 - Kermeth gets dunked by David and self-appointed committee and advised to depart!
- MAP 1668:1 - Second Preaching Tour. Sun. Oct. 3 to Dec. 30, A.D. 28. David  
READ 2,3,4 maintained a headquarters at Bethsaida with 40 to 50 messengers in this intelligence corps. This camp served as a clearing house for Jesus' work on earth. A relay station for messengers. Rapidly enlarging and extending work of kingdom.
- 1669:1 - After camp closed, sick continued to come and asked David for Jesus.
- READ 1678:5 - Third Preaching Tour. Jan. 16, A.D. 29. Southern Galilee. First  
1679:1, Women's Evangelistic Corps, the last two were Mary Magdalene and  
2 Rebecca, the daughter of Joseph of Arimathea, 12 women.  
David's messenger service kept all groups informed as they went separate ways.
- READ 1720  
Sect.5 - Last days at Capernaum. Sun. morning meeting May 22, A.D. 29, David sends messengers calling in all disciples for emergency meeting. David's farewell "Don't let the bigots catch you and never doubt that the messengers will follow after you."
- 1721  
Sect.6 - Family of five arrive. Only one, Ruth, believed continuously and wholeheartedly in Jesus.
- 1722:4,- David posted 25 sentinels about Zebedee house. Jesus warned apostles  
6 that " a man's foes may be they of his own household," but he hardly realized how near this prediction would come to apply to his own experience.

DAVID ZEBEDEE'S HEADQUARTERS NEAR BETHSAIDA A.D. 28



P, 1668



MAP 1723:3,- Boats escape to Kheresa, then to Caesarea-Philippi then to Phoenician  
 4 coast in west. Jesus from now on never had a settled home. The  
 STUDY 5,6,7,8 Master "had not where to lay his head."

1724:2 - Jesus' family return to Capernaum home. Ruth learns from David that  
 her father-brother was safe and making his way toward Phoenician coast.

#### IV. Consolidation of Tried and True Believers

##### Gradual Curtailment of Number of Messengers

READ 1741: - Return from Phoenicia: July 24, A.D. 29. Met David at Gennesaret  
 4,5 south of Capernaum. He advises them to cross lake to meet near  
 MAP Kheresa. Only 50 men and women attend - sifted tried and true  
 remnants of vast crowd of 5000 once fed here.

1743: - Jesus arranged through David to meet his family at the Zebedee boat-  
 1,2 shop. Pharisees installed themselves in Mary's home. So again  
 through no fault of either, Jesus and his earthly family fail to meet.

READ 1743 - The Temple Tax Collector. Work of David's secret messengers. True  
 1744 story of the "Fish with the Shekel in its Mouth."  
 Sec. 1

MAP 1745: - Jesus said: "And when the feelings of service for your fellow men  
 arise within your soul, do not stifle them; when the emotions of love  
READ for your neighbor well up within your heart, give expression to such  
 urges of affection in intelligent ministry to the real needs of your  
 fellows." (At Magadan Park)

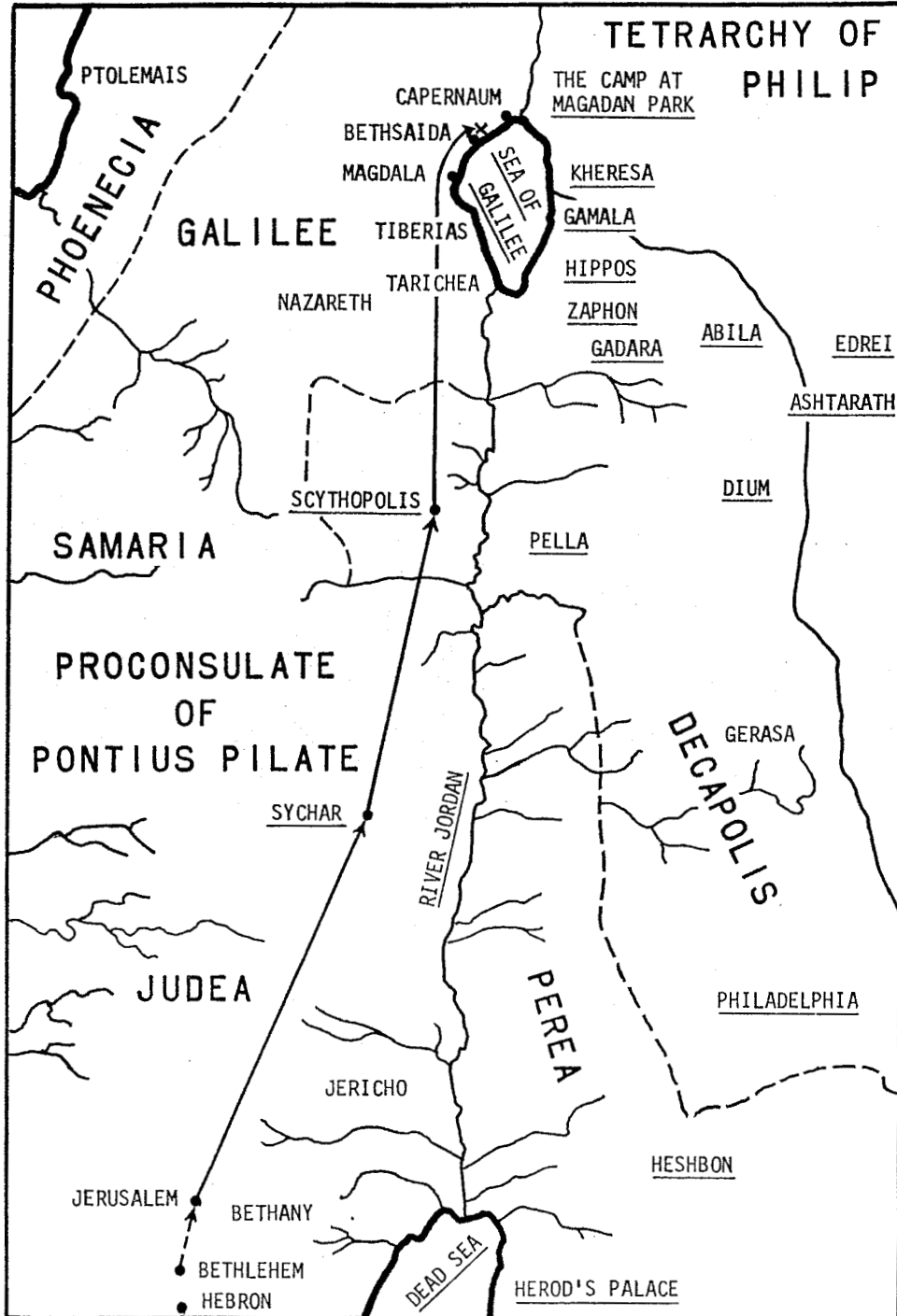
READ 1745: - Describe scene at Caesarea-Philippi capital of Tetrachy of Philip.  
 3,4 "Nestled in charming valley where Jordan pours forth from an under-  
 MAP ground cave - heights of Mt. Hermon in full view to the north."

READ 1748 - Need for funds supplied by David's messengers. David, over the far-  
 Sect.6 sighted business man of good judgment had foreseen the diminution of  
 funds as Jesus' popularity decreased and had previously sent messengers  
 to Judea, Samaria and Galilee to collect funds from believers.  
 Matthew had sold his last piece of property at Capernaum.

READ 1761:2 - 8. At Peter's House. David waited to take them across lake to  
 Magadan. Jesus continued: "But most of all, see that you despise not  
 one of these little ones, for their angels do always behold the faces  
 of the heavenly hosts."

READ 1771 - Messengers kept believers throughout Palestine in touch with each  
 Sect.6 other and collected funds not only for the sustenance of Jesus and his  
 associates, but also for the support of families of the 12 apostles  
 and 12 evangelists.

20-30 MILE RELAYS BY DAVID'S MESSENGERS



DAVID MAINTAINED AN OVERNIGHT RELAY MESSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND BETHSAIDA. THESE RUNNERS LEFT JERUSALEM EACH EVENING, RELAYING AT SYCHAR AND SCYTHOPOLIS, ARRIVING AT BETHSAIDA BY BREAKFAST TIME THE NEXT MORNING.

- 1932:3 - "Do not strive with men, even with unbelievers." David and associates prepared lunch for about fifty of Jesus' trusted associates. David kept advised by secret agents in Jerusalem (his intelligence corps) of Judas' plans and of plans to arrest and kill Jesus, but he told no one.
- AD 1933:1 - David's connection with all the events leading up to Judas' betrayal.  
2,4,8 Judas turns all money over to David, and all receipts.
- P 1934:1 - The Master leads all 12 apostles over the trail to the Bethany and on to Jerusalem for the last supper. His last journey.
- AD 1966: - Last hour before betrayal. After the eight apostles had gone to their tents, Jesus called to David Zebedee: "Send me your most trustworthy messenger." David brought to the Master one messenger from approximately 30 miles to Philadelphia.  
1,5  
66:5  
67L;
- P 1967:7 - David's goodbye to Jesus and Jesus' reply. David only one night." David kept watch on upper trail Mt. Olivet. John kept one to observe what transpired in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- AD 1971:1 Messengers seek David. Peter tells them where David is seen.  
L 1974:A11
- 74:3 1975:3 - John Mark made his way in haste to David guarding the trail.  
1975:1 - told him of Jesus' arrest and all that transpired.
- AD 1976:1 - David remained at Gethsemane camp to maintain a clearinghouse center for messenger service. By 2:30 that morning, the camp was deserted except for David and three or four messengers. They were dispatched to secure information about Jesus. John was supplied messengers with events leading up to crucifixion.  
L 2,3,5,6
- AD 1997:1 - Mary, Ruth and Jude went to see Jesus. The rest of the family at Bethany under direction of James and almost every hour messengers brought reports concerning the progress of that business of putting to death their eldest brother, Jesus.  
2,3

#### V. Closing Scenes With the Dependable David Zebedee

- AD 2000#3 - David believed that Jesus' enemies would return and he ear some 5-6 tents up the ravine where he maintained a coordinating center for his messenger service during the terrible scenes of the crucifixion. It is interesting that none of the apostles lived along these lines.
- P STUDY
- 2011:6 - "In the midst of the darkness of the sandstorm, about half past 11 o'clock, David Zebedee sent out the last of the messengers to deliver the news of the Master's death."  
AD all #6
- 2013:1 - "Aside from David Zebedee and Joseph of Arimathea, very few disciples really believed or understood that he was due to die in the tomb on the third day."

READ

2012 &amp; Sections

2013

2019 2014/#3 - On the Sabbath (Saturday), David Zebedee remained at the home of Nicodemus where he arranged for his messengers to assemble early Sunday morning. Mary, Ruth and Jude returned to Bethany to be with their family there.

READ 2030 - Heralds of the Resurrection - David's Messengers. Scene in the upper chamber where David declares his belief. David's address to the messengers in Nicodemus' courtyard, as they go on their last mission. David and Ruth are married and move to Philadelphia in June. David about 31 and Ruth age 21. (Mary and Martha moved to Philadelphia).  
All page  
 2030 &  
 2031 to #2  
 MAP STUDY

2032:1 - David always believed in Jesus' resurrection in 3 days. David sees morontia Jesus in fourth appearance at Bethany with all earthly family and friends - 20 in all.  
 4,5

MAP 2044/#6 - The Alexandrian Appearance to Rodan and 80 believers. Nathan of Busiris, 5th in the Jerusalem to Alexandria runners. David's messengers were the first heralds of the mighty truth-fact of the resurrected Jesus. P. 2031  
 STUDY  
 Picture

"Even as Nathan spoke, the morontia Master appeared there in full view of all. And when Nathan sat down, Jesus said: Peace be upon you. That which my Father sent me into the world to establish belongs not to a race, a nation, nor to a special group of teachers or preachers. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to both Jew and gentile, to rich and poor, to free and bond, to male and female, even to little children. And you are all to proclaim this gospel of love and truth by the lives which you live in the flesh. You shall love one another with a new and startling affection, even as I have loved you. You will serve mankind with a new and amazing devotion, even as I have served you. And when men see you so love them, and when they behold how fervently you serve them, they will perceive that you have become faith-fellows of the kingdom of heaven, and they will follow after the Spirit of Truth which they see in your lives, to the finding of eternal salvation.

"As the Father sent me into this world, even so now send I you. You are all called to carry the good news to those who sit in darkness. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to all who believe it; it shall not be committed to the custody of mere priests. Soon the Spirit of Truth will come upon you, and he shall lead you into all truth. Go you, therefore, into all the world preaching this gospel and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the ages."

When the Master had so spoken, he vanished from their sight. All that night these believers remained there together recounting their experiences as kingdom believers and listening to the many words of Rodan and his associates. And they all believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. Imagine the surprise of David's herald of the resurrection, who arrived the second day after this, when they replied to his announcement saying: "Yes, we know, for we have seen him. He appeared to us day before yesterday."

2053: "It is your faith that saves your souls. Salvation is the gift of God to all who believe they are his sons. But be not deceived; while salvation is the free gift of God and is bestowed upon all who accept it by faith, there follows the experience of bearing the fruits of the spirit life as it is lived in the flesh."

DAVID ZEBEDEE AND HIS MESSENGERS

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- THE URANTIA BOOK. Concordex, by Clyde Bedell. 1971. Santa Barbara, California

CONFERENCES ON RUNNING

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Culver City Recreation Department<br>Culver City, California 90230                               | <u>Syd Kronenthal</u> , Director-Lecturer<br>University of Southern California                       |
| Helms Athletic Library<br>) United Savings Building<br>9800 Sepulveda<br>Westchester, California | <u>Bill Schroeder</u> , Director of Foundation<br><br>Tel. 670-7550<br>Open 9-5 closes noon Saturday |
| MGM Research Library<br>Culver City, California 90230  | <u>Elliott Morgan</u> Outstanding collection<br><u>Bea Whitney</u> of rare, historical<br>books      |
- World-known marathon runner. NORMAN HIGGINS. Box 1491 New London, Connecticut  
06320

One of the greatest United States long distance runners. Former United States record holder of Marathon. Represented United States in many International Meets.

Was exceptionally helpful in giving information about how runners train, and how they make their long distance runs and how far they can run. Also gave much of the history of running from ancient times to present.

ART WORK

Fred Folger

Chick Montgomery

Alden Milmet

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- READ 1800 - Ordination of 70 at Magadan. Over 400, including David and his messenger corps, assembled on shore of the "lake of Galilee" to witness ordination. November 19, A.D. 29. (Saturday or Sabbath) Jesus 35 - David approximately 30.

Intro  
AP Sec. 1
  
- READ 1806 - Camp moved to Pella. (See map). David moved camp equipment on pack animals from his father's house near Bethsaida to a point one-half mile north of apostolic camp near Pella. 1500 could be served here. 20 men now in messenger corps. Rainy season, so meetings were held indoors. 20 or more of David's men used in camp.

2,3,4  
MAP
  
- READ 1821:L - Jesus said: "There is no sin in having honest possessions on earth provided your treasure is in heaven, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." How David financed tented city - from donations by liberal men and women. By end of January 3000 attended.

1822:1,  
2,3
  
- MAP 1833:1 - Jesus went to Philadelphia with more than 600 followers. David's messengers brought word of advancement of kingdom throughout Palestine, Alexandria, and Damascus. Gospel proclaimed with power. No miracles.

STUDY 2,3
  
- 1836: The Message from Bethany. A runner arrived with message from Mary and Martha saying: "Lord, the woman you love is very sick." Jesus reply.

6,7
  
- READ 1868:7 - David closed the visitor's camp at Pella, Wed. March 15, A.D. 30.

1869:1 Jesus 36th year. David reluctantly sold entire equipment to numerous buyers and later turned all of this money over to Judas Iscariot.

2,3
- MAP Jesus and Apostles visit Southern Perea - and on to Jerusalem. About 1,000 disciples followed from Pella, to the Bethany ford of the Jordan.

STUDY
  
- 1880:5,- Judas Iscariot turned money over to Simon, their host at Bethany, for safekeeping in anticipation of their entry into Jerusalem. Bethany is two miles from Jerusalem temple. Lazarus fled to Philadelphia.

6
  
- 1881:5 - David and some of his former messengers hurried to Jerusalem and spread word of Jesus' planned triumphal entry. Then multitudes to greet Jesus, just as they passed over brow of Olivet. (2½ mile ridge east of Jerusalem - on west foot is Garden of Gethsemane. Bethany on east slope.)
  
- READ 1920:3,- Jesus planned to spend this Wednesday in the hills alone. David brings three stalwart and well-armed guards to go with him. Jesus' famed reply. Note David is always prepared ahead of time. He foresees Jesus' plans.

4,5,6
  
- 1921:1
  
- 1923:4 - Ever the business man, David makes plans for Jesus' family to visit as he realizes that the chief priests and rulers were going to kill Jesus and that Jesus would make no effort to save himself. Camp on Mt. Olivet.

5,6
  
- 1927:5 - The last social hour. Silent messengers came and went all through the evening, conferring only with David. Jesus said just before midnight: "Go to your sleep, my brethren, and peace be upon you till we rise on the morrow, one more day to do the Father's will and experience the joy of knowing that we are his sons."