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Jesus' Acceptance in Galilee

John 4: 43-45

After the two days [in Samaria] He left for Galilee. **This was Christ's first major preaching tour.** (Now Yeshua Himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country). When He arrived in Galilee, the Galileans also welcomed Him.

The Samaritans believed in **Jesus**, not because of someone else's story, but because **they** themselves had heard **Him** speak in a way that **they** had never heard before **and because of His words many more became believers (4:41).** The Galileans believed in **Him**, not because someone had told them about **Him**, but because **they had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.** Neither the Samaritans, nor the Galileans could refute **the words** or the deeds of **the Messiah.**³⁷²

The ministry of **Jesus** in Judea followed **the Passover Festival** in April of 26 AD and lasted probably until about the following December. This would be consistent with the expression **Yeshua** used when speaking to **His** talmidim at Jacob's well: **Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest (John 4:35).** Since the **harvest** in those regions was from April to May. It seems that the apostles returned to their old occupations for about four months, and the great Galilean ministry, beginning sometime in the autumn of 27 AD, lasted about a year and a half or until the spring of 29 AD.

Prophecy pointed to **Galilee** as the place of dawn for a new era of hope. **The people living in darkness** would see **a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light** would dawn (see my commentary on **Isaiah, to see link click [Cj - He Will Honor Galilee of the Gentiles](#)**). **Isaiah** spoke of that prophecy eight centuries before the coming of **Christ**, while the Israelites were still encumbered by the yoke of Assyria.



It was fitting that the focus of **Jesus'** ministry should find its greatest expression in **Galilee**. It was the most beautiful, productive and most populated area of Palestine. The bright sunny Sea of **Galilee** with its sturdy fishermen, surrounded by a beautiful country, was a fitting place (if there could be any) to serve as a setting for **His** Good News. **Galilee of the Gentiles** was cradle of the universal gospel. The miracle-working **Rabbi** liked to mingle in the crowd. **He** loved mankind and here **He** found a dense population made up of heterogeneous elements of all types. **The Messiah** came on the horizon of **His chosen people (First Peter 2:9)**, as a brilliant sun of yearning love. As the master **Teacher**, **His** great wisdom illuminated **Galilee** as a great **light** in the midst of their **darkness**.³⁷³