–Save This Page as a PDF–

The Preparation of the Apostles by King Messiah

The second portion of **the Perean ministry** lasted about three and one-half months , from the festival of Hanukkah in December 29 AD to His last journey to Jerusalem in the spring of 30 AD. **Perea** (“the country beyond” in Greek) was the portion of the kingdom of Herod the Great occupying the eastern side of the Jordan River valley (or the Transjordan), from about one third the way down from the Sea of Galilee to about one third the way down the eastern shore of the Dead Sea; it did not extend too far inland.

Jesus now found it necessary to leave Yerushalayim and Judea for a time. The campaign in Judea had profoundly moved the people. But the hatred of **His** enemies had also grown more vicious, culminating in the renewed attempt to stone **Him** to death at Hanukkah. All the doors to **Christ’s** ministry were now closed in Judea. For some time Galilee had also rejected **His** ministry. There was only one place left for **Him** to minister for the remaining few months before **He** faced the cross – **Perea**, “the country beyond” the Jordan.



There **the Lord** withdrew with **His apostles**, choosing **Bethany** as the center of **His** evangelistic activities. There, **Jesus** had been baptized by **the Immerser**. It was a place of sacred memories – where **He** had met and won **His** first **talmidim**. **Messiah** had success there, away from the poisoned atmosphere of the City of David. Many poured in from the surrounding countryside to witness **His** ministry. **The good Shepherd** ministered to them: preaching, teaching and healing. The

report was the same everywhere. When they compared the ministry of **Yeshua** and **Yochanan**, as people will do, that **John** didn't perform any miracles, but everything **he** said about **the One** who would come after **him** was true. The testimony of **the Baptizer** had prepared the soil for this last fruitful campaign of **the Savior of sinners** and many believed in **Him**.

While **He** was in Perea, **Messiah** would carry on a public ministry, but it was largely designed to prepare **the Twelve** for the ministry that would be entrusted to them following **His** death and resurrection. Having already been rejected by the Great Sanhedrin (**to see link click Ek – It is only by Beelzebub, the Prince of Demons, that This Fellow Drives Out Demons**), there was no expectation that **He** could begin **His** reign. **Yeshua ben-David** continued **His** ministry, however, not in hopes of reversing **His** rejection, but rather, to teach **His apostles** concerning the ministry on **His** behalf. Thus did **the Prince of Peace** spend the time until **His** appointed hour came when **He** must go to Tziyon and fulfill the will of **the Father**.[1070]