

# Israel – A Believers Journey



*Hosted By Tim Agee and Bruce Zupa*

*May 27<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>*



## **Some Helpful Travel Tips**



**There is an ancient travel adage that conveys this truth:**

***“Thou shalt not find things as thou hast them at home...for after all, thou hast left home to find things different.”***

**So, the key to a HAPPY TOUR – expect to find things different!**

## Be a Responsible Tourist



- ☞ Be aware of the feelings of other people. Remember this especially with photography.
- ☞ Develop the habit of listening and observing. Soak in the information and all the sites you will see. (It's amazing what you will see looking out of the bus window)
- ☞ Realize that people in the country you visit often have different personalities and thought patterns from yours.
- ☞ Discover the enjoyment that comes from seeing another way of life.
- ☞ You will not know all the answers, so ask questions!
- ☞ Remember that you are just one of thousands of visiting tourist. Don't expect special privileges.
- ☞ Make no promises and please...no joking remarks to people.
- ☞ Reflect daily on your experiences.

## Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ✎ **DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR CHECK BAG!!!!**
- ✎ **KEEP YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!**
- ✎ **Luggage**
  - ✎ **One large suitcase each (weight limit 50 lbs.) NO EXCEPTIONS!**
  - ✎ **One carry on - plus purse, briefcase/handbag or camera bag.**
- ✎ **Carry-On items - Prescriptions you will need during the flight, liquids in 3 oz. bottles, toiletries (I suggest only items you think you need during the flight), change of socks, blouse/shirt and underwear. Any fragile items...cameras, phone, tablet, etc.(pack nail clippers, nail files and scissors in your check bag!)**
- ✎ **Bring two pairs of COMFORTABLE walking shoes. (Leather soles shoes would be a bad choice) A light jacket (or maybe just a long sleeve top) for the possibility of a cool night while out walking.**

## Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ☞ **If you plan on swimming in the Dead Sea...something to swim in that you could just leave in the garbage. (Old swim suit or T-shirt and shorts) You will need some cheap flip-flops also.**
- ☞ **After a day of sight-seeing you will most likely want to shower or freshen up before diner, I suggest taking one or two outfits to use every night for the diner hour. Still...very casual!**
- ☞ **Shorts can be worn after touring in the evening...NOT during sight-seeing. Ladies, capri type pants are good...NO (sleeveless) blouses that expose the shoulders!**
- ☞ **You will not need to exchange currency...U.S. currency is accepted everywhere in Israel. (Bring small bills)Likewise for major credit cards...NO DEBIT CARDS!**

## Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ☞ I suggest you remove unnecessary items from your purse/wallet. If possible, just one major credit card, no drivers license, no keys, etc. Do bring insurance cards! (REMEMBER TO NOTIFY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER ABOUT YOUR TRAVEL PLANS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND GET PROOF OF COVERAGE DOCUMENTATION)
- ☞ You will need a power adaptor (special type for Israel) to charge your phone, camera batteries,(at least two sets of rechargeable), etc. A power converter is only necessary if your device does NOT have a built in converter. (Like a hair dryer...hotels room will have a hair dryer available)
- ☞ Start your stack of stuff!
- ☞ MORE TO COME NEXT TIME!

# Israel 2022 – Trip Preparation



Lesson 2

February 22, 2022

# Future Class Dates



- ☞ March 8
  - ☞ March 22
  - ☞ April 5
  - ☞ April 12 (tentative)
  - ☞ April 26
  - ☞ May 10
- ☞ All classes will meet at 6:30pm
  - ☞ Location - Bellevue Church of Christ / Room A120
  - ☞ Will also be offered via Microsoft Teams for those who cannot meet in person.
  - ☞ Please let Tim or Bruce know in advance if you need us to setup a remote option.



# Online Resources



☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

☞ Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/israel2022/>

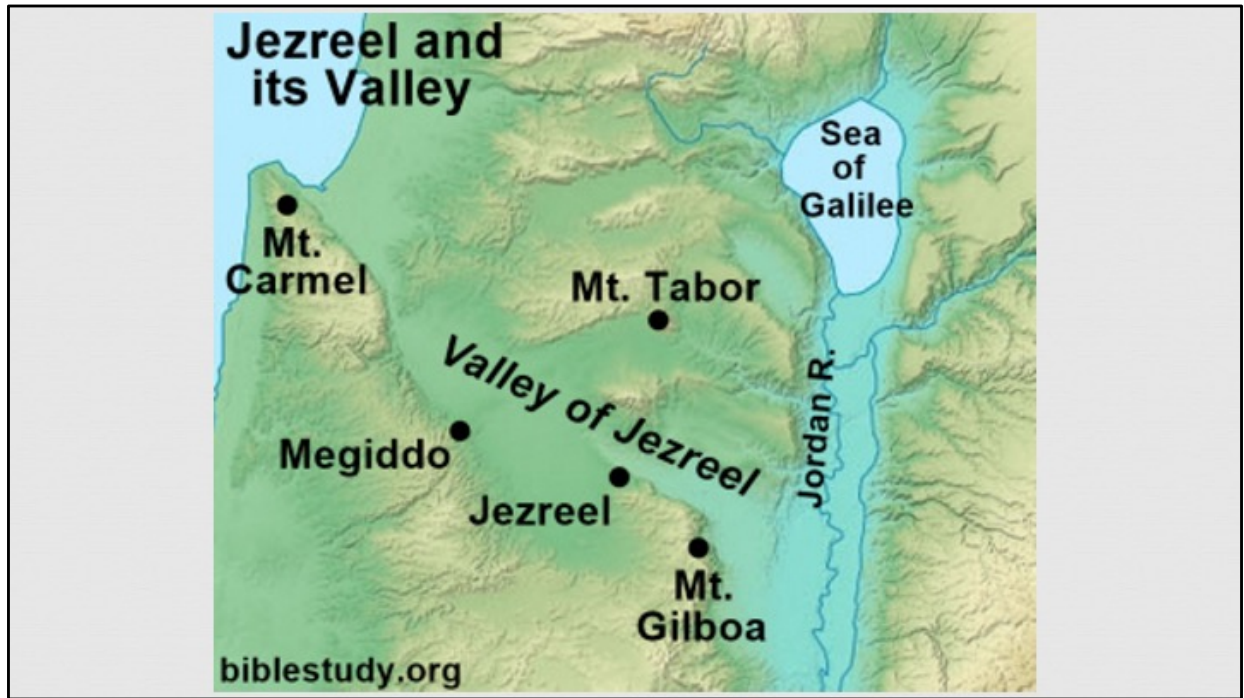
☞ Copies of the slides from this class



# Mount Tabor



Josh 19:12, 22, 34; Judges 4:6, 12, 14; 8:18;  
1 Chronicles 6:77; Psa 89:12; Jer 46:18; Hos 5:1  
*Matt 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28??*



# Mount Tabor



- ❧ Located at northeastern end of the Jezreel Valley.
- ❧ It is an isolated mountain that rises to 1,843 feet above sea level.
- ❧ Tabor is mentioned in the Old Testament 11 times. Three of these are in Joshua 19, where Joshua shows that the three tribal lands inherited by Zebulun (Josh 19:12), Issachar (Josh 19:22), and Naphtali (Josh 19:34) all border Mount Tabor.
- ❧ It also is the place where Deborah tells Barak of Yahweh's command to gather an army (Judges 4:6, 12), and from which Barak descends (with his 10,000 men) to do battle against Sisera and his army (Judges 4:14).
- ❧ Tabor is also mentioned in Judges 8:18 in a conversation between Gideon and two men he has captured in battle, where he asks, "What type were the men whom you killed at Tabor?"

## Mount Tabor (Cont.)

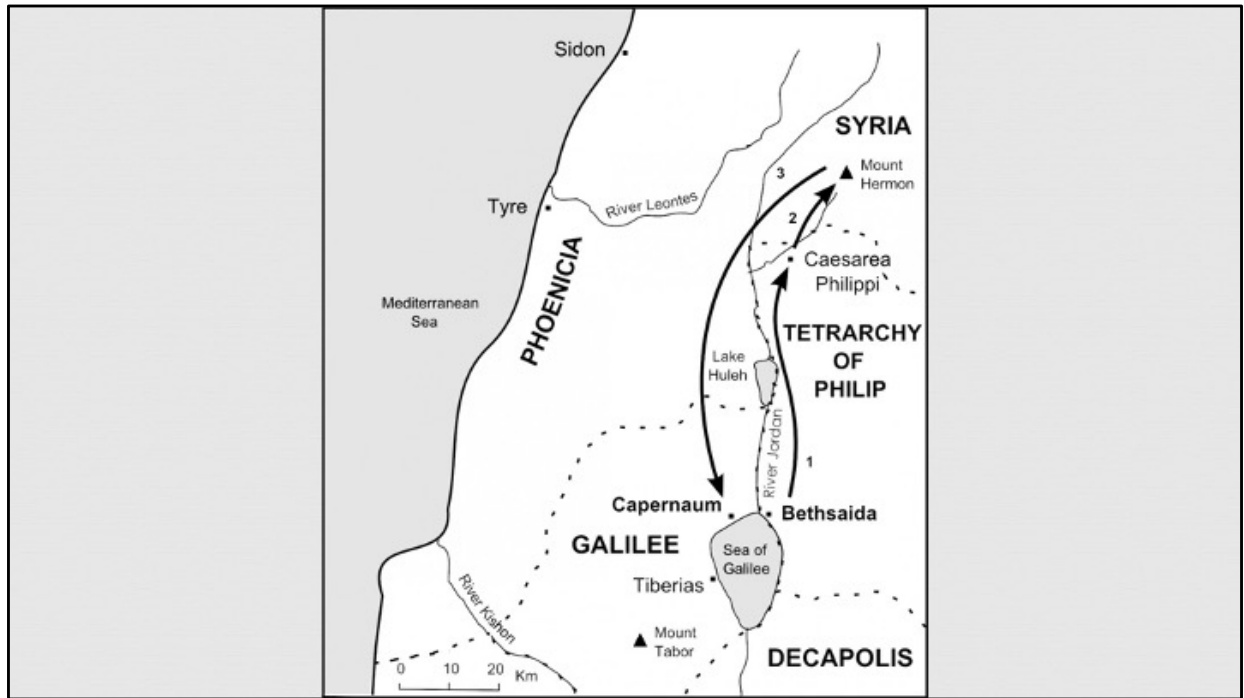


- ✧ In 1 Chronicles 6:77, Tabor is mentioned as being allotted to the Merarites for its pastureland.
- ✧ Even though Mount Tabor's elevation was not that high, the psalmist compares it to the nearby Mount Hermon (Psalm 89:12), and Jeremiah places it in parallel to Mount Carmel (Jeremiah 46:18).
- ✧ Hosea uses the phrase "net spread out on Tabor" (Hosea 5:1) to indicate God's judgment on the idolatrous practices of the priests.
- ✧ Mt. Tabor is never explicitly mentioned in the New Testament. However, since at least the fourth century AD, it has been suggested as the place of the transfiguration of Christ.
  - ✧ Matt 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28.
- ✧ Matt 17 simply says that they went to a "high mountain."
  - ✧ Many believe this could be Mt. Hermon in the Golan Heights.

## Mount Tabor (Cont.)



- ✧ **Matthew 17:1 (ESV)** - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
  
- ✧ Jesus and his disciples had been in Caesarea Philippi (Mt 16:13)
  - ✧ Distance from Caesarea Philippi to Mount Tabor is ~ 80 km
  - ✧ Distance from Caesarea Philippi to Mount Hermon is ~ 20 km







Mount Tabor - 1,843 ft above sea level



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor with Nazareth in the distance.



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor.



Mount Gilboa in the distance



There are feral cats all over Palestine



On top of Mount Tabor is the Church of the Transfiguration. The current church, part of a Franciscan monastery complex, was completed in 1924. The architect was Antonio Barluzzi. It was built on the ruins of an ancient (4th–6th-century) Byzantine church and a 12th-century church of the Crusader Kingdom period. It was built to represent the three tabernacles that Peter wanted to erect at the transfiguration (notice the three towers - Jesus is the center, Moses to the left, and Elijah to the Right).

The Franciscans are a group of related mendicant Christian religious orders, primarily within the Catholic Church. Founded in 1209 by Saint Francis of Assisi, these orders include the Order of Friars Minor, the Order of Saint Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis. They adhere to the teachings and spiritual disciplines of the founder and of his main associates and followers, such as Clare of Assisi, Anthony of Padua, and Elizabeth of Hungary. Several smaller Protestant Franciscan orders exist as well, notably in the Anglican and Lutheran traditions.

## Mount Tabor (Cont.)



### **Matthew 17:2-4 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."



Shrine to Jesus in the center of the Sanctuary. Moses is on the left and Elijah on the right. With Peter, James and John down below.





Shrine to Moses.....to the left of the main sanctuary



Shrine to Elijah.....to the right of the main sanctuary



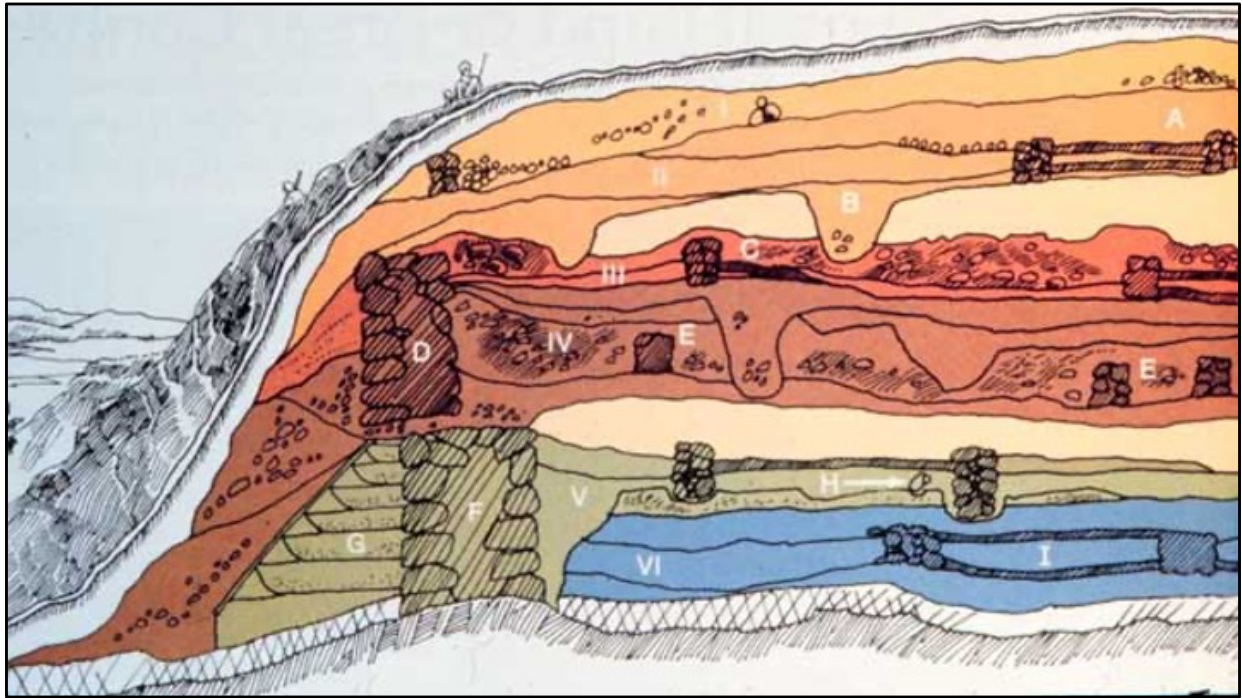
Cross of Jerusalem - 1 big cross and 4 smaller crosses. This is now the symbol of holy land. Some see it as representing the 5 wounds of Jesus or other see the large cross as Jerusalem and the small 4 are the four corners of the world.

# Tel Hazor



Joshua 11:7, 10; Judges 4:2; 17; 1 Kgs 9:15; 2 Kgs 15:29





Representative diagram of a Tel (Tell) showing levels of strata from years of destruction and rebuilding.

# Tel Hazor



- ☞ Tel Hazor is located in the Valley of Huleh - first occupied in ~ 2,800 BC.
- ☞ The earliest reference to Hazor dates to the late 19th or 18th century BC in the Egyptian Execration Texts. The next historical references, from the Mari archive (17th century BC), show that Hazor was already a city of regional prominence at the time.
- ☞ The Bible first introduces Hazor related to Israel's conquest of Canaan. In Joshua 11, Jabin, the king of Hazor, called upon other Canaanite kings to meet Joshua and the Israelite troops for battle near the waters of Merom (Joshua 11:7). Joshua 11:10 refers to Hazor as "The head of all those kingdoms." The Israelites defeated the Canaanites, killed Jabin, and burned the city to the ground.

## Tel Hazor (Cont.)



- ✧ In Judges 4, Hazor is under the leadership of Jabin king of Canaan (Judges 4:2; 17).
  - ✧ Not unusual for several kings to use a dynastic name like “Jabin”
- ✧ Hazor became an important Israelite city during Solomon’s reign, as Solomon built up garrison cities and strategic bases. Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer were the most important of these cities (1 Kings 9:15).
- ✧ The last historical reference to Hazor indicates that the city fell to Assyria in 732 B.C., along with other cities in the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 15:29).





View of the Valley of Huleh with the Northern Galilee mountains in the distance. Just past these mountains is the country of Lebanon. City of Hazor gained prominence from its strategic location and proximity to the main route to Mesopotamia. During the peak of the Canaanite period, it possibly had as many as 20,000 inhabitants.



Main gate to Hazor from the time of Solomon (10<sup>th</sup> Century BC).



A palace from Canaanite period (14th to 13th century BC)



A palace from Canaanite period (14th to 13th century BC)



A water system from the time of Ahab (9th century BC) similar to the one in Megiddo.



\*A citadel in the upper section of the site that is from the 11th century BC (time of the Judges).

\*A tower from the time of Ahab (9th century BC) that is above the citadel (upper right)



An oil press from 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

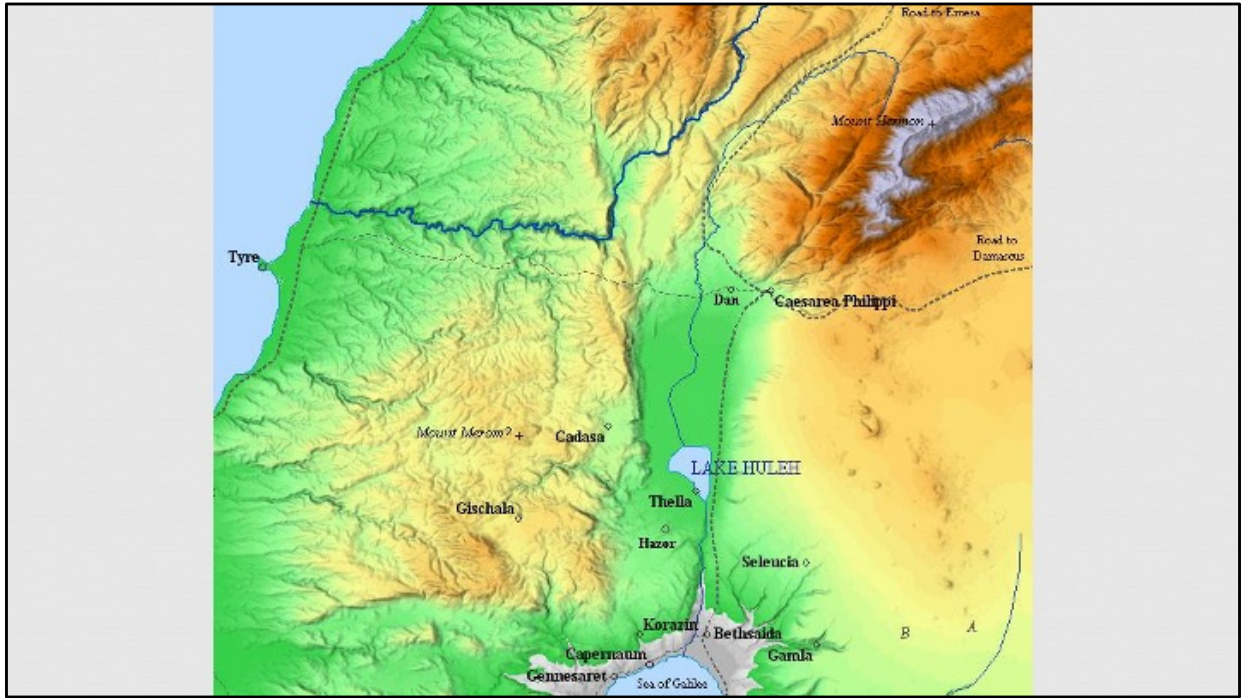
# Tel Dan



Gen 14:14; Josh 19:40- 48; Judg 18:27, 29;  
1 Kgs 12:26-33, 15:20, 20:34, 42; 2 Chr 16:4;

"From Dan to Beersheba" - Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 3:10,  
17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25; 1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5





# Tel Dan



- ☞ Dan is located at the foot of Mount Hermon
- ☞ Dan is also a very important archeological site, and this stop was noted for being the first place where the name of David was found in 1993 in an inscription that reads "King of Israel, King of the House of David"
- ☞ Dan is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 14. Abraham is pursuing Chedorlaomer king of Elam, who had abducted his nephew Lot, when they looted Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham caught up with Chedorlaomer at Dan (Genesis 14:14).
- ☞ According to Judges 18:29, Dan was called Laish (or Leshem) prior to Israel's conquest of Canaan, so the use of the place-name "Dan" in Genesis 14 likely reflects a later updating of the text to use the Israelite name instead of the Canaanite name for the site.

The inscription regarding David is now held in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

## Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ✎ The tribe of Dan, originally given territory on the southern coast, migrated there when they could not defeat Philistine coastal inhabitants (Joshua 19:40-48). A group of Danites went north to Laish and destroyed it (Judges 18:27). They renamed Laish "Dan" after their patriarch.
- ✎ Dan was also the location of a large religious complex, built by Jeroboam during the Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12:26-33). He built a large altar and temple complex at Dan (and at Bethel; see 1 Kings 12:29) to stop Israelites from going to Jerusalem to worship. He set up a golden calf in the shrine and proclaimed, "Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28).

## Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ⌘ During the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, Dan traded hands several times between the Israelites and the Arameans. Dan was briefly captured by Ben-Hadad I—king of the Arameans of Damascus in the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC—he was bribed by Judah to break his alliance with Israel (1 Kings 15:20; 2 Chr 16:4).
- ⌘ By the reign of Ahab (ca. 874–850), Dan was once again under Israelite control. Ahab defeated Ben-Hadad (possibly his son Ben-Hadad II) and Ben-Hadad offered to give back “the cities which my father took from your father” (1 Kings 20:34). This included Dan and was an offer Ahab agreed to. Ahab was condemned for accepting this concession instead of killing Ben-Hadad, as the Lord had ordered him to do (1 Kings 20:42).
- ⌘ Ahab likely built a huge wall around Dan, measuring 13 feet thick and 50 feet tall.

## Tel Dan (Cont.)



- ☞ Dan was recaptured by the Arameans under Hazael in the late ninth or early eighth century, but the Syrians would only control it for a short time. When Syria was threatened by Assyria on its eastern border during the early seventh century, the Israelites under Jeroboam II took the opportunity to recapture Dan.
- ☞ “From Dan to Beersheba” is a biblical phrase used nine times to refer to the settled areas of the Tribes of Israel between Dan in the North and Beersheba in the South (Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 3:10, 17:11, 24:2, 15; 1 Kings 4:25; 1 Chronicles 21:2; 2 Chronicles 30:5).

The phrase “From Dan to Beersheba” contributed to the position that was used by British politicians during negotiation of the British Mandate for Palestine following World War I.



At Tel Dan, you can easily see part of Mt. Hermon. Mt. Hermon is in the Golan Heights and consists of several mountains that reach a height of 9,232 ft above sea level. The snow from the top of Mt. Hermon supplies the 4 tributaries to the Jordan River.



The largest of these tributaries is Dan Springs, which was the first thing that you see on the walk to the city. This stream moves very fast and supplies 1/3 of the water to the Jordan River.



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Restored outer wall of Tel Dan

## Tel Dan (Cont.)



### ☞ 1 Kings 12:26-30 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." <sup>28</sup> So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." <sup>29</sup> And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. <sup>30</sup> Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.



The remains of Jeroboam's temple that is mentioned above from 1 Kgs 12. This was the actual site where Jeroboam placed his golden calf for the people to worship. Bema (High Place) is on the right and the altar on the left. Metal frame shows where altar would have been.



Wide angle view of Jeroboam's temple.



Sitting on the remains of the Bema (High Place)



“Abraham’s Gate.” This is a mud brick gate discovered in the 1980s that is remarkably intact. It is from the 18th century BC, which would have been the time of Abraham. It is possible that when Abraham pursued Chedorlaomer to Dan / Laish to rescue Lot that he entered the city through this gate. There has been no restoration on this site. It is exactly as it was discovered. Probably the oldest gate in the world.



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# Caesarea Philippi



Matt 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30



# Caesarea Philippi



- ✧ The city was originally built by Herod Philip, the second son of Herod the Great at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon.
- ✧ It was adjacent to a spring, grotto, and related shrines dedicated to the Greek god Pan. Pan had the face and upper torso of a human and the horns, beard, and lower body of goat. He was the god of forests.
- ✧ Caesarea Philippi is mentioned in both Matthew and Mark as the setting for a conversation in which Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" – to which Peter replies, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30). Luke records a similar conversation but does not mention Caesarea Philippi (Luke 9:18–22).
- ✧ Jesus' comment about the "rock" could possibly have been inspired by the giant rock mountain face at the temple of Pan.

## Caesarea Philippi (Cont.)



- ☞ Caesarea Philippi is the home to the recently uncovered remains of the palace of Herod Agrippa II.
- ☞ Agrippa II was the last Herod to also be called king.
- ☞ Herod Agrippa II tried Paul in Caesarea Maritima in Acts 25 and 26.
- ☞ In 61 AD, King Agrippa II renamed the administrative capital as **Neronias** in honor of Roman Emperor Nero.



Spring dedicated to the Greek god Pan.



Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



Artist rendition of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



Greek god Pan / god of Forests





Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



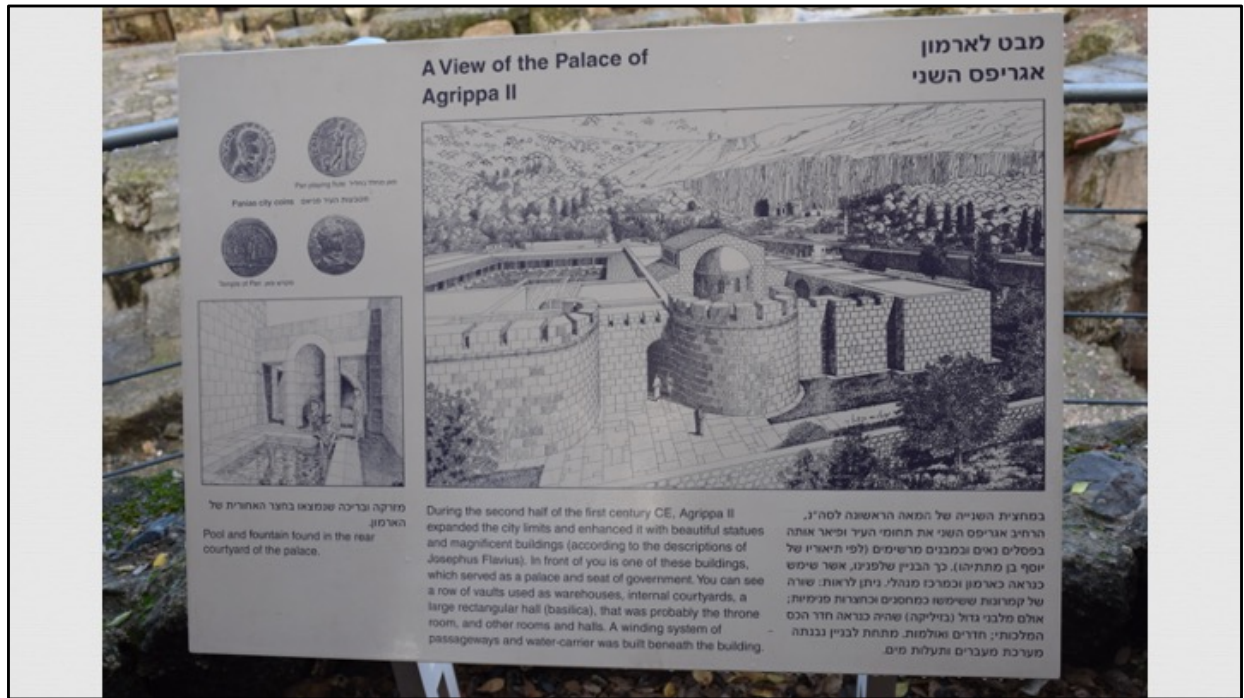
Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



Palace of Herod Agrippa II (Recently excavated)



Artist rendition of the Palace of Herod Agrippa II



Palace of Herod Agrippa II (Recently excavated)

# Mount of Beatitudes (Eremos)



Matthew 5-7





## Mount of Beatitudes (Eremos)



- ✧ On the northwestern shore of Galilee between Capernaum and Gennesaret.
- ✧ This is the traditional location of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.
- ✧ The traditional spot was identified by the Byzantines approximately ~350 years after the event.
- ✧ The site is a natural amphitheater, and the geography generally matches the account in the gospels.
- ✧ The specific spot doesn't matter only the content of the message.



Church of the Beatitudes - The modern church was built between 1936 and 1938 near the site of the fourth-century Byzantine ruins.



Church of the Beatitudes - The modern church was built between 1936 and 1938 near the site of the fourth-century Byzantine ruins.



Gate leading to the traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred.



Traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. See the Sea of Galilee in the distance.



Another view of the traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. See the Church of the Beatitudes at the top of the mountain.

# Capernaum



Matthew 4:12-17, 8:5-15, 9:1-10, 18-26, 11:21, 17:24-27

Mark 1:21-31, 2:1-12, 5:21-43

Luke 4:38-41, 5:17-20, Luke 7:1-10, 8:41-56

John 2:12, 6:59, 21:4-14





# Capernaum



- ✧ Capernaum was inhabited continuously from the 2nd century BC to the 11th century AD, when it was abandoned sometime before the Crusader conquest.
- ✧ This town was the home base of Jesus during His Galilean ministry, after he left Nazareth (Matthew 4:12-17) and was referred to as Jesus' "own city" in Matthew 9:1.
- ✧ The Gospels reference Capernaum 16 times, but it is not mentioned in the rest of the New Testament.
- ✧ The Gospels also speak of Jesus' mother and brothers having been in Capernaum (John 2:12), and Matthew 17:24-27 demonstrates that Jesus paid the temple-tax there for Himself and Peter.
- ✧ Capernaum is well known for being the town in which Peter lived and where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, and Luke 4:38-41).
- ✧ The calling of Matthew is also featured prominently in relation to Capernaum. The town housed Matthew and other tax collectors (Matt 9:9-10).

## Capernaum (Cont.)



- ✧ Jesus cursed Capernaum, along with Chorazin and Bethsaida, because even after He performed miracles there, the inhabitants of these towns did not believe He was the son of God (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13).
- ✧ Jesus performed the following miracles in Capernaum:
  - ✧ Healed Jairus' Daughter (Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:41-56)
  - ✧ Caught a miraculous number of fish (John 21:4-14)
  - ✧ Healed a demon possessed man (Mark 1:21-28)
  - ✧ Healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15)
  - ✧ Healed a paralytic (Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-20)
  - ✧ Healed the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)
  - ✧ Healed the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:21-43)





St. Peter's Church כנסיית בית פטר - (also called the Pilgrimage Church of St. Peter) in Capernaum is a modern Catholic pilgrimage church found in the archaeological site of Capernaum, northern Israel. The church is part of the Franciscan monastery in Capernaum. It is dedicated to St. Peter, which Catholics consider the first leader of the Church. Archaeological excavations carried out in this place discovered another layer of residential structures, on which the first half of a first century church was built. It is considered "the first church in the world" and believed it could be the place where the house of the Apostle Peter was. In the 5th century an octagonal church was built in its place. In 1990 a church of modern pilgrimage was built over the remains of the ancient temples.



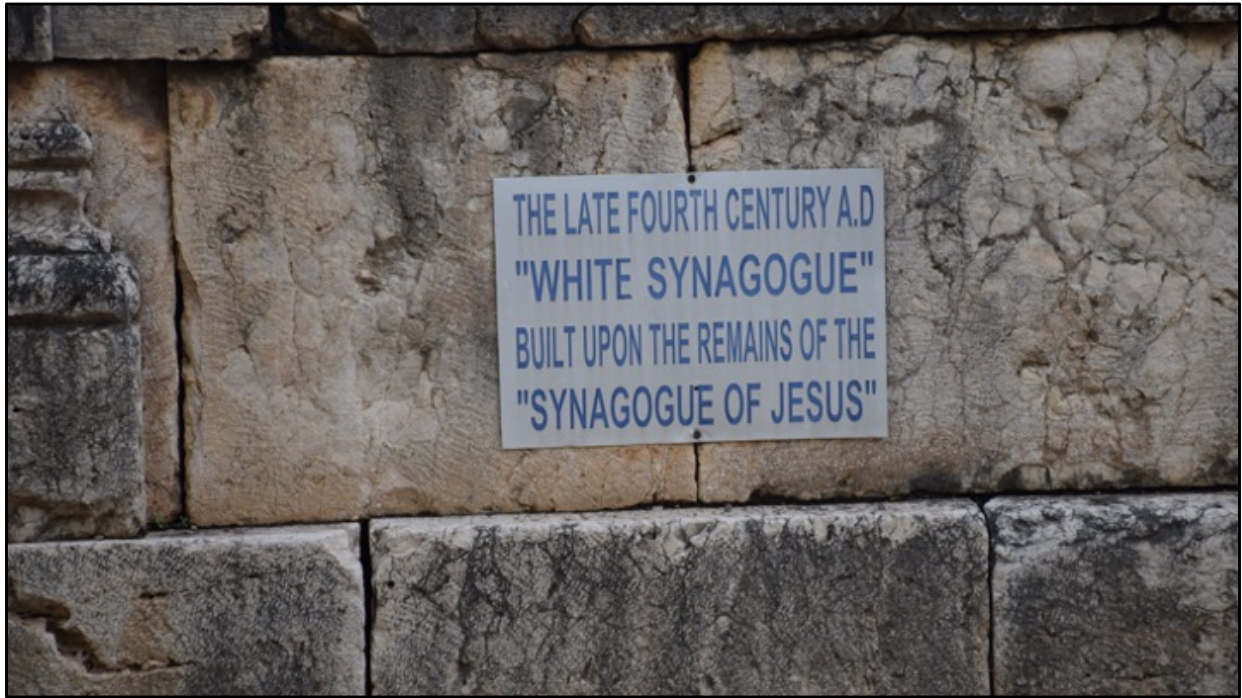
A house from the first century AD that is traditionally identified as the house of Peter or his mother-in-law. These remains are surrounded by a wall from the remains of an octagonal Byzantine church.



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)







A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)



An olive press with a millstone from the first century AD.

## Matthew 18:5-6



*“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great **millstone** fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”*



A black stone with a menorah that is likely from the first century AD synagogue. The menorah is a candlestick with seven branches that represent the six days of creation and the sabbath (*shavat* (שַׁבַּת))



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)



View of the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum

# Magdala



Mark 15:46-16:1; Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25





# Magdala



- ✧ Magdala is on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, north of Tiberias.
- ✧ The name Magdala means “tower.” This is possibly the birthplace and residence of Mary Magdalene (Mark 15:46-16:1; Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25).
- ✧ The discoveries at Magdala are quite recent:
  - ✧ First Century Synagogue was discovered in 2009
- ✧ Some manuscripts of Matthew 15:39 refer to Jesus coming into “the region of Magdala,” however this translation is called into question. With that it is unknown if scripture directly supports that Jesus was ever in Magdala. However, it is clearly in the vicinity of much of His ministry, so it is certainly possible that he came here.



First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue were uncovered in 2009 have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact.



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First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue were uncovered in 2009 have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact. Note the mosaic floor in the foreground and a reproduction of the stone box in the middle of the structure.



First Century AD Ritual Baths (Mikveh – מקווה) These were ritual baths cut out of rock and used for Jewish ritual cleansing. One of these was completely intact and was filled with water.



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First Century AD Port – Port to the Sea of Galilee for Magdala. There was a mosaic of a ship found at this location (removed from site), and the ship looked very similar to the ancient Galilee boat that has recently been found.



Today there is a Franciscan church that has been built on this site. The Franciscan's are commercializing the site to make money by building a hotel, restaurants, and likely destroying historical artifacts in the process.