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For information on future trips to Israel...  
Currently in the early planning stages for  
spring / summer 2024



# Sea of Galilee



Matthew 8:24-26, 14:22-33; Mark 4:35, 6:45-53





## Sea of Galilee



- ☞ The Sea of Galilee has a surface area of 64 square miles.
- ☞ Its maximum depth, measured in the northeast, is 157 feet.
- ☞ The lake is 13 miles from north to south and 7 miles from east to west.
- ☞ The surface elevation was long given as 686 feet below sea level, but for decades the annual water level generally has been 6.5 to 13 feet below the traditional level. Significant rains in 2021-2022 brought levels back up to the highest point in years.
  - ☞ The Sea of Galilee provides 40% of the fresh water to the surrounding area
- ☞ The Jordan River feeds into the Sea of Galilee from the north and flows out from the south. The sea takes water from the Jordan and then gives it to the Dead Sea.

## Sea of Galilee (Cont.)



- ☞ The Sea of Galilee is known by the following names in scripture:
  - ☞ Sea of Chinnereth (Numbers 34:11; Joshua 12:3; 13:27)
  - ☞ Sea of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1)
  - ☞ Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1; 21:1)
  - ☞ Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18)
- ☞ The Gospels refer to the Sea of Galilee 53 times (48 times as “sea” or “Sea of Galilee”; five times as “lake”).
- ☞ Two significant events that occurred on the on the Sea of Galilee:
  - ☞ Calming the storm (Matt 8:24-26; Mark 4:35).
  - ☞ Walking on the water (Matt 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-53; John 6:16-21).





View over the Sea of Galilee from our hotel room in Tiberias (December 2019)



View over the Sea of Galilee from our hotel room in Tiberias (May 2022)



Sea of Galilee from the boat dock on the north shore (December 2019)



Children swimming in the Sea of Galilee (May 2022)



View from the boat toward what was likely the land of the Gadarenes during the time of Jesus (December 2019)



View from the boat toward the city of Tiberias (December 2019)



View from the boat (December 2019)



View of Arbel Cliffs from Sea of Galilee (May 2022)





View of the Sea of Galilee from Arbel Cliff (May 2022)



Our family on the Sea of Galilee (May 2022)



Feral cat on promenade by Sea of Galilee (May 2022)



Feral cat on promenade by Sea of Galilee (May 2022)



Feral cat on promenade by Sea of Galilee (May 2022)

## Ancient Galilee Boat



- ❧ Ancient boat that was discovered at the Sea of Galilee in 1986.
- ❧ The boat is dated to the first century AD and was discovered during drought time by two men who found ancient nails sticking up through the mud.
- ❧ The extraction was completed by covering the entire boat in polyurethane foam and sailing it on the sea so that it could be extracted by a crane.
- ❧ The preservation process was extensive and took 10 years before it was ready to display.



Ancient Galilee Boat – Dated to the first century AD (May 2022)



Ancient Galilee Boat – Dated to the first century AD (May 2022)





Preserved using polyurethane foam as depicted in this model (May 2022)

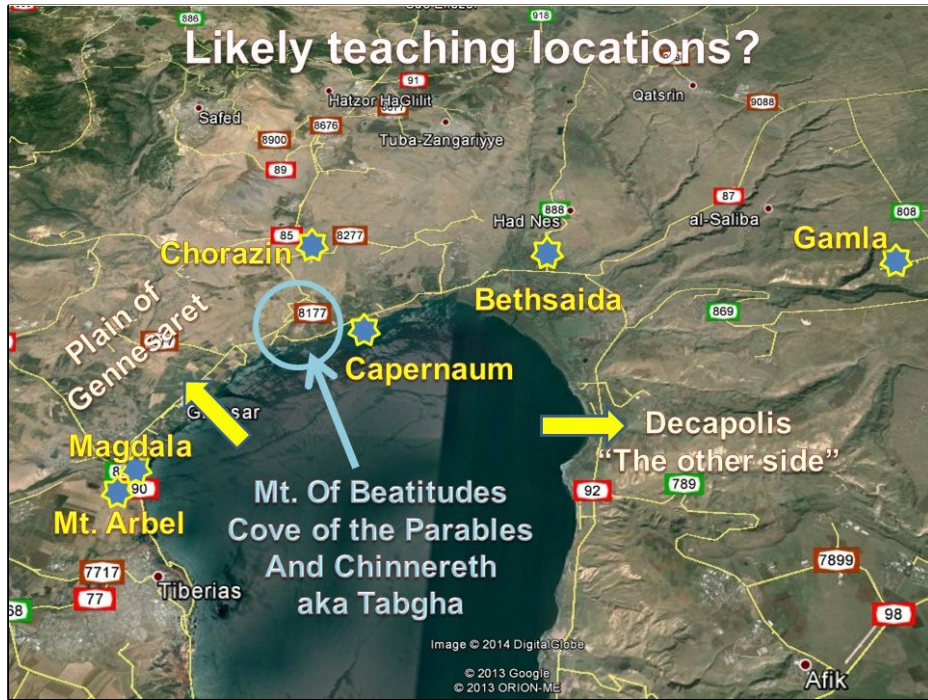


Ancient boat covered in foam and floating on the Sea of Galilee

# 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. (May 2022)



Church of the Beatitudes - The modern church was built between 1936 and 1938 near the site of the fourth-century Byzantine ruins. (December 2019)



Gate leading to the traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. (December 2019)





The traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. See the Church of the Beatitudes at the top of the mountain. (December 2019)



Feral cat at Mount of Beatitudes (May 2022)

# 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 the home base of Jesus during His Galilean ministry, after he left Nazareth (Matthew 4:12-17).
- ❧ Capernaum 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 (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 (Matt 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)



Signs when entering the ancient city (December 2019)



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. (May 2022)





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. (May 2022)

Bread of Life Discourse  
(John 6:22-59)



*...Jesus said these things in the  
synagogue, as he taught at  
Capernaum.*



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59) – May 2022



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59) / Note the darker stones from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD structure – May 2022



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59) / Note the darker stones from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD structure – May 2022



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59) – May 2022



Speaking to the group about the Bread of Life discourse in the synagogue at Capernaum (May 2022)



An olive press with a millstone from the first century AD. (May 2022)



## 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* (שְׁבִיַּת) – December 2019



Roman mile-markers from the first century AD – May 2019



View of the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum (May 2019)

# 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).
- ✧ 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 have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact. (December 2019)





First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact. (December 2019)



In the middle of the synagogue was found a stone box with four feet that contains imagery from the temple and was likely used for the scroll of the Torah. (December 2019)



First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue 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. (December 2019)



First Century AD Ritual Baths (Mikveh – מקווה) in the Jewish quarter of the ancient city. 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 when we were there in December 2019.



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. (December 2019)



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. (May 2022)



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. (May 2022)



Chapel inside of church building with floor made from loose stones found at the site. Painting depicts the woman who touched the garment of Jesus (Luke 8:43-48)