

## ~GALILEE, SEA OF (413)

### .. Size And Topography Of Area

### .. Climate

### .. Jesus Ministry In The Area

- A freshwater inland lake in North Palestine that has also been called the Sea of Chinnereth.
- And the boundary must go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east of Ain, and the border must go down and strike upon the eastern slope of the sea of **Chinnereth**. (**Numbers 34:11**)
- The Lake of **Gennesaret**
- On an occasion when the crowd was pressing close upon him and listening to the word of God, he was standing beside the lake of **Gennesaret**. (**Luke 5:1**)
- And the Sea of **Tiberias**
- After these things Jesus departed across the sea of **Galilee**, or **Tiberias**. (**John 6:1**)
- The **Greek** word translated sea may also mean lake.

### .. Size And Topography Of Area

- The **Sea of Galilee** lies an average of 210 meters below the level of the Mediterranean Sea and is a part of the Rift Valley of the Jordan. Its greatest water depth is about 48 meters (157 feet).
- From North to South, this body of water has an approximate length of 21 kilometers (13 miles), with a maximum width of about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles).
- Depending upon the season, the clear waters of the Sea of Galilee vary from green to blue in color, and the average water temperature ranges from 14° Centigrade (57° Fahrenheit) in February to 30° Centigrade (86° Fahrenheit) in August. This lake is fed primarily by the Jordan River.

- The bed of the Sea of Galilee resembles a huge basin. Rising from its shores on the East side are steep limestone mountains overlaid with lava, reaching an elevation of about 610 meters (2,000 feet). But on the West the mountains rise less abruptly.
- Hills and mountains practically surround the **Sea of Galilee**, except for the plains around the Jordan, that is, the points where the river enters the lake at the North end and where it renews its course at the Southwest.
- The area to the North is occupied by a mass of large basalt boulders. Not far South of the city of Tiberias on the West shore, there are hot sulfur springs that have long been famous for their medicinal properties. One of the seven springs there has a temperature of 58° Centigrade (136° Fahrenheit)

## •• Climate

- The warm climate around the Sea of Galilee is conducive to the growth of tropical plants, including the lotus thorn, palms, and indigo plants. Tortoises, turtles, crayfish, and sandhoppers are found along the shores of the lake.
- Bird life and fish are abundant. In the 19th century, naturalist **H. B. Tristram** observed; **The density of the shoals of fish in the Sea of Galilee can scarcely be conceived by those who have not witnessed them.**
- **Frequently these shoals cover an acre or more of the surface and the fish, as they slowly move along in masses, are so crowded, with their back fins just appearing on the level of the water, that the appearance at a little distance is that of a violent shower of rain pattering on the surface. [The Natural History of the Bible, 1889, p. 285]**
- Sudden storms, such as the one experienced by Jesus Christ and his disciples, are not uncommon.
- Now, look! A great agitation arose in the sea, so that the boat was being covered by the waves. He, however, was sleeping. (**Matthew 8:24**)
- By now the boat was many hundreds of yards away from land, being hard put to it by the waves, because the wind was against them. (**Matthew 14:24**)

- Because of the low elevation of the **Sea of Galilee**, the air temperature is much warmer there than in the surrounding plateaus and mountains. This results in atmospheric disturbances. Also, strong winds rush down the Jordan Valley from snowcapped Mount Hermon, not far to the North.
- In the **First Century C.E.**, the shores of this lake were well populated. But today, of the nine cities mentioned by Josephus as being on **the Sea of Galilee**, only Tiberias remains.

### •• **Jesus Ministry In The Area**

- This body of water figured prominently in Jesus earthly ministry. A number of times the Son of God spoke from a boat to great crowds assembled on its wide, pebbly shore.
- And he told his disciples to have a little boat continually at his service so that the crowd might not press upon him. (**Mark 3:9**)
- And he again started teaching beside the sea. And a very great crowd gathered near him, so that he went aboard a boat and sat out on the sea, but all the crowd beside the sea were on the shore. (**Mark 4:1**)
- On an occasion when the crowd was pressing close upon him and listening to the word of God, he was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret. (**Luke 5:1**)
- And he saw two boats docked at the lakeside, but the fishermen had got out of them and were washing off their nets. (**Luke 5:2**)
- Going aboard one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to pull away a bit from land. Then he sat down, and from the boat he began teaching the crowds. (**Luke 5:3**)
- On one of these occasions he caused some of his disciples to have a miraculous catch of fish and called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be fishers of men.
- Walking alongside the **Sea of Galilee** he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, letting down a fishing net into the sea, for they were fishers. (**Matthew 4:18**)

- And he said to them; Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men. (**Matthew 4:19**)
- At once abandoning the nets, they followed him. (**Matthew 4:20**)
- Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (**Matthew 4:21**)
- At once leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. (**Matthew 4:22**)
- When he ceased speaking, he said to Simon; Pull out to where it is deep, and you men let down your nets for a catch. (**Luke 5:4**)
- But Simon in reply said; Instructor, for a whole night we toiled and took nothing, but at your bidding I will lower the nets. (**Luke 5:5**)
- Well, when they did this, they enclosed a great multitude of fish. In fact, their nets began ripping apart. (**Luke 5:6**)
- So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and assist them, and they did come, and they filled both boats, so that these began to sink. (**Luke 5:7**)
- Seeing this, Simon Peter fell down at the knees of Jesus, saying; Depart from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord. (**Luke 5:8**)
- For at the catch of fish which they took up astonishment overwhelmed him and all those with him. (**Luke 5:9**)
- And likewise both James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were sharers with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon; Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. (**Luke 5:10**)
- So they brought the boats back to land, and abandoned everything and followed him. (**Luke 5:11**)
- In the vicinity of the Sea of **Galilee**, Jesus performed many powerful works. He healed the sick, expelled demons
- But Jesus with his disciples withdrew to the sea, and a great

**multitude from Galilee and from Judea followed him. (Mark 3:7)**

- **Even from Jerusalem and from Idumea and from across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, on hearing of how many things he was doing, came to him. (Mark 3:8)**
- **And he told his disciples to have a little boat continually at his service so that the crowd might not press upon him. (Mark 3:9)**
- **For he cured many, with the result that all those who had grievous diseases were falling upon him to touch him. (Mark 3:10)**
- **Even the unclean spirits, whenever they would behold him, would prostrate themselves before him and cry out, saying; You are the Son of God. (Mark 3:11)**
- **But many times he sternly charged them not to make him known. (Mark 3:12)**
- **Calmed the wind and the sea.**
- **And on that day, when evening had fallen, he said to them; Let us cross to the other shore. (Mark 4:35)**
- **So, after they had dismissed the crowd, they took him in the boat, just as he was, and there were other boats with him. (Mark 4:36)**
- **Now a great violent windstorm broke out, and the waves kept dashing into the boat, so that the boat was close to being swamped. (Mark 4:37)**
- **But he was in the stern, sleeping upon a pillow. So they woke him up and said to him; Teacher, do you not care that we are about to perish? (Mark 4:38)**
- **With that he roused himself and rebuked the wind and said to the sea; Hush! Be quiet! And the wind abated, and a great calm set in. (Mark 4:39)**
- **So he said to them; Why are you fainthearted? Do you not yet have any faith? (Mark 4:40)**

- But they felt an unusual fear, and they would say to one another; Who really is this, because even the wind and the sea obey him? (**Mark 4:41**)
- And walked on the water.
- When evening fell, his disciples went down to the sea. (**John 6:16**)
- And, boarding a boat, they set out across the sea for Capernaum. Well, by now it had grown dark and Jesus had not yet come to them. (**John 6:17**)
- Also, the sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. (**John 6:18**)
- However, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they beheld Jesus walking upon the sea and getting near the boat, and they became fearful. (**John 6:19**)
- But he said to them; It is I. Have no fear! (**John 6:20**)
- Therefore they were willing to take him into the boat, and directly the boat was at the land to which they were trying to go. (**John 6:21**)
- Once, he miraculously fed more than 5,000 people, and at another time he fed more than 4,000, each time with only a few loaves of bread and several fish.
- Now when he came forth he saw a great crowd, and he felt pity for them, and he cured their sick ones. (**Matthew 14:14**)
- But when evening fell his disciples came to him and said; The place is lonely and the hour is already far advanced, send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves things to eat. (**Matthew 14:15**)
- However, Jesus said to them; They do not have to leave. You give them something to eat. (**Matthew 14:16**)
- They said to him; We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes. (**Matthew 14:17**)

- He said; Bring them here to me. (**Matthew 14:18**)
- Next he commanded the crowds to recline on the grass and took the five loaves and two fishes, and, looking up to heaven, he said a blessing and, after breaking the loaves, he distributed them to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds. (**Matthew 14:19**)
- So all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the surplus of fragments, twelve baskets full. (**Matthew 14:20**)
- Yet those eating were about five thousand men, besides women and young children. (**Matthew 14:21**)
- Crossing country from there, Jesus next came near the sea of **Galilee**, and, after going up into the mountain, he was sitting there. (**Matthew 15:29**)
- At this Jesus said to them; How many loaves have you? They said; Seven, and a few little fishes. (**Matthew 15:34**)
- So, after instructing the crowd to recline upon the ground. (**Matthew 15:35**)
- He took the seven loaves and the fishes and, after offering thanks, he broke them and began distributing to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds. (**Matthew 15:36**)
- And all ate and were satisfied, and as a surplus of fragments they took up seven provision baskets full. (**Matthew 15:37**)
- Yet those eating were four thousand men, besides women and young children. (**Matthew 15:38**)
- Rightly Jesus condemned three cities in that area, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, for remaining unresponsive despite the many powerful works their inhabitants had witnessed.
- Then he started to reproach the cities in which most of his powerful works had taken place, because they did not repent. (**Matthew 11:20**)
- Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! Because if the powerful works had taken place in Tyre and Sidon that took place

in you, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. (**Matthew 11:21**)

- **Consequently I say to you, it will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon on Judgment Day than for you. (**Matthew 11:22**)**
- **And you, Capernaum, will you perhaps be exalted to heaven? Down to Hades you will come, because if the powerful works that took place in you had taken place in Sodom, it would have remained until this very day. (**Matthew 11:23**)**
- **Consequently I say to you people, it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom on Judgment Day than for you. (**Matthew 11:24**)**
- **After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to some of his disciples by the Sea of Galilee and caused them to have a second miraculous catch of fish. He then stressed the importance of feeding his sheep.**
- **After these things Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias, but he made the manifestation in this way. (**John 21:1**)**
- **However, just as it was getting to be morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not, of course, discern that it was Jesus. (**John 21:4**)**
- **Then Jesus said to them; Young children, you do not have anything to eat, do you? They answered; No! To him. (**John 21:5**)**
- **He said to them; Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. Then they cast it, but they were no longer able to draw it in because of the multitude of the fishes. (**John 21:6**)**
- **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus used to love said to Peter; It is the Lord! Hence Simon Peter, upon hearing that it was the Lord, girded about himself his top garment, for he was naked, and plunged into the sea. (**John 21:7**)**
- **But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not a long way from land, only about three hundred feet away,**



dragging the net of fishes. ([John 21:8](#))

- However, when they disembarked onto land they beheld lying there a charcoal fire and fish lying upon it and bread. ([John 21:9](#))
- Jesus said to them; Bring some of the fish you just now caught. ([John 21:10](#))
- Simon Peter, therefore, went on board and drew the net to land full of big fishes, one hundred and fifty-three of them. But although there were so many the net did not burst. ([John 21:11](#))
- Jesus said to them; Come, take your breakfast. Not one of the disciples had the courage to inquire of him; Who are you? Because they knew it was the Lord. ([John 21:12](#))
- Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. ([John 21:13](#))
- This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after his being raised up from the dead. ([John 21:14](#))
- When, now, they had breakfasted, Jesus said to Simon Peter; Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Feed my lambs. ([John 21:15](#))
- Again he said to him, a second time; Simon son of John, do you love me? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Shepherd my little sheep. ([John 21:16](#))
- He said to him the third time; Simon son of John, do you have affection for me? Peter became grieved that he said to him the third time; Do you have affection for me? So he said to him; Lord, you know all things; You are aware that I have affection for you. Jesus said to him; Feed my little sheep. ([John 21:17](#))
- Most truly I say to you, When you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk about where you wanted. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and another man will gird you and bear you where you do not wish. ([John 21:18](#))
- This he said to signify by what sort of death he would glorify God. So, when he had said this, he said to him; Continue

following me. (**John 21:19**)