

Sea of Galilee



- The word “Galilee” appears in the Bible a total of 73 times. Sometimes it refers to the region and at other times to the lake.
- The Sea of Galilee is located about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. It is a fresh water lake fed by the Jordan River in the northeastern part of Palestine. It is referred to as:
 - “Sea of Galilee” **John 6:1** (*Best known name for the sea*)
 - “Sea of Tiberias” **John 6:1**
 - “Lake of Genesaret” **Luke 5:1**
 - “Chennereth” in the Old Testament, which in the Hebrew means “Harp.” (Numbers 34:11). The name “Chennereth” dates back to 1500 B.C. (15th Century B.C.)
- This lake is 12j miles long, and from 4 to 7j broad. Its surface is 682 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. Its depth is from 80 to 200 feet. The Jordan enters it 10j miles below the southern extremity of the Huleh Lake, or about 26j miles from its source. In this distance of 26 j miles there is a fall in the river of 1,682 feet, or of more than 60 feet to the mile. It is 27 miles east of the Mediterranean, and about 60 miles northeast of Jerusalem. It is of an oval shape, and abounds in fish. On its borders were nine cities and a main highway with rich traffic to Damascus. Such cities as Gadara, Bethsadia, Chorazin, Capernaum, Magdala and Tiberias were located along its shores. It is believed that each of the nine cities had a population of at least 15,000 people.
- The lake is in a deep valley protected on the east and west by high mountains. It is a like place for sudden storms. The cool air masses from the mountain heights, rush down the steep slopes to the surface of the sea causing the waters to erupt with sudden violent force. Some ten of the thirty-three recorded miracles of Jesus took place around the Sea of Galilee.

- It was on the shore of the sea that Jesus presented His parables on the kingdom. **Matthew 13**
- Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to be fishers of men. **Matthew 4:18-22**
- Levi (Matthew) was collecting taxes beside the sea when Jesus called him to be an apostle. **Mark 2:13-14**
- Stilling of the storm on the Sea of Galilee. **Matthew 8:23-27**
- Jesus stepped into Simon's boat and preached to the people standing on the shore (Luke 5:1-11). Caught so many fish that the nets broke.
- Feeding of the 5,000. **Matthew 14:15-21**
- Feeding of the 4,000. **Matthew 15:32-39**
- Jesus walked on the water. **Matthew 14:22**
- The apostles were selected nearby. **Mark 3:13-19.**

- Jesus appeared here after the resurrection. **John 21:1-25**
- Over forty different kinds of fish are found in the Sea of Galilee. Two main fish caught from the sea are:
 - Musht (Peter's fish).
 - Little 2 inch, sardine like fish.
- Mary Magdalene was from Magdala, one of the cities by the sea of Galilee. Magdala was three miles north of Tiberias.

- Note: _____
 1. Cities change, but lakes and mountains remain much the same through the centuries. No doubt, the Sea of Galilee is much today like it was during the time Jesus was upon the earth.
 2. Concerning Galilee, Josephus wrote: "The land is everywhere so rich in soil and pasturage and produces such a variety of trees that even the most indolent are tempted by these facilities to devote themselves to agriculture."

