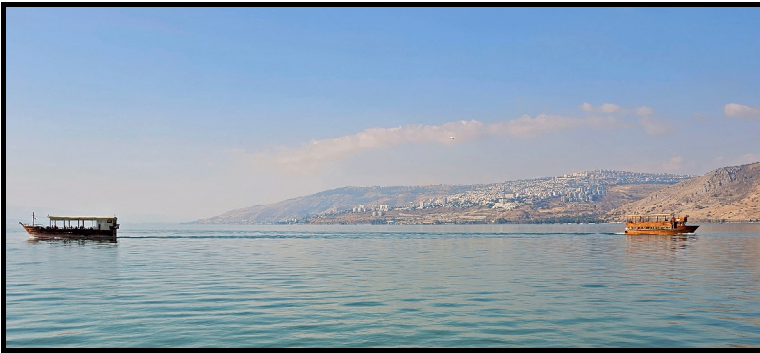


## TIBERIAS AND GENNESARET

### Introduction

- Much of this glimpse of the Holy Land has to do with fishing, physically and spiritually. The focus will be on two towns on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias and Gennesaret.
- There are seven springs at the northern end of the lake that flow into the Sea of Galilee and provide the best location for fishing. Most fishing was done 200 feet from shore. Nets were made of wool with stone sinkers.
- There are 27 varieties of fish in the sea of Galilee. Catfish were unclean because they have no scales (Leviticus 11:9-12). Talapia came to be called St. Peter's fish. A speciality for people of Jesus' day was fish caught in the Sea of Galilee and salted so it could be sold throughout the Roman Empire.

### Tiberias



A view of Tiberias from the Sea of Galilee



A tourist boat on the Sea of Tiberias  
(Galilee)



The type of net used in the 1<sup>st</sup> C.

- Herod Antipas founded Tiberias between 18-22 A.D. The town was named after Tiberius, the reigning emperor and successor of Augustus.
- It became famous for its spa with hot springs located south of the city walls. Herod Antipas moved his throne to Tiberias because of the hot springs.
- After the rebellion in 70 AD, Tiberias remained intact and became the main center of Jewish scholarship. The completion of the Mishnah took place in 200 A.D. and the Talmud took place later in Tiberias. Now, it is one of the most religious cities in Israel, a center of rabbinical study.



The remains to the entrance to  
Tiberias' thermal baths.

### Biblical references to Tiberias

- ▶ The Sea of Galilee is called the Sea of Tiberias on the occasion of the feeding of the 5,000, John 6:1, *After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.*
- ▶ Jesus revealed Himself (His third appearance after His resurrection) to the disciples, John 21:1a, *After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias ...*

### Jesus' ministry around Tiberias

- ▶ Jesus taught the fishermen how to catch fish, John 21:5-6, *Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.*
- ▶ Jesus commanded Peter to follow Him, John 21:17, *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.*

## Gennesaret

- The Hebrew name of Gennesaret is Ginosar.
- It is a small town on a small plain located on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee.

### *Biblical references to Gennesaret*

- ▶ It was another name for the Sea of Galilee, Luke 5:1, *On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,*
- ▶ It was mentioned twice in the New Testament as the place where Jesus landed when He crossed the lake after feeding the 5,000, *Matthew 14:34* and *Mark 6:53*, *And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.*

### *Jesus' ministry at Gennesaret*

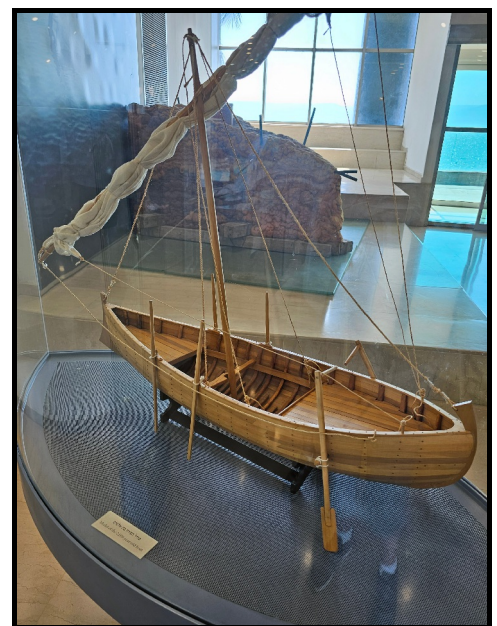
- ▶ Jesus healed the sick at Gennesaret, *Matthew 14:34-36* (also *Mark 6:53-56*), *And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.*
- ▶ Jesus taught people from Simon's boat, *Luke 5:2-3*, *and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*
- ▶ Jesus called the first disciples at Gennesaret, *Luke 5:4-11*, *And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

### *The Jesus Boat*

- ▶ It is a 1<sup>st</sup> century boat uncovered in 1986 at Gennesaret by two fishermen brothers who lived nearby. It first appeared during a drought, when the waters of the Sea of Galilee receded.
- ▶ It was made of 12 kinds of wood, mostly cedar of Lebanon. It is 27 feet long, 7.5 feet wide and with a maximum preserved height of 4.3 feet.
- ▶ The boat has been dated to 40 BC (plus or minus 80 years) and 50 BC to 50 AD based on the pottery, cooking pot and nails found in the boat.
- ▶ It met a violent end, possibly near the time of the insurrection which caused the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- ▶ It took great effort to extract the boat from the mud without damaging it. The process took 12 days which included covering it in fiberglass and insulating foam. It was submerged in a wax bath for 12 years which strengthened it enough to be displayed in its own museum, Yigal Alon Center Ginosar.



**The actual Jesus Boat in the Yigal Alon Center**



**A replica of the Jesus Boat**



**A view from the bow of the Jesus Boat**



**Actual items found in the unearthed boat**



**Jesus can make us fishers of men and women.**



**What a joy to be where Jesus ministered!**