

## MAGDALA

### A. Notes on the Sea of Galilee

- The majority of Jesus' ministry took place on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee, covering 6 miles of coastline.
- The freshwater "sea" is 150 feet deep, 13 miles long and 8 miles wide.
- The Jordan River is 150 miles long and flows into and out of the Sea of Galilee.
- 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.
- There were seven springs at the northern end of the lake that flowed into the Sea of Galilee and provided the best location for fishing.
- The three cities cursed by Jesus on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee were destroyed and never rebuilt.



The Sea of Galilee from Mt. Arbel



A tour boat on the Sea of Galilee

### B. Jesus' ministry at Magdala

- Migdal, near Magdala, is the probable location where Peter and the other disciples took their catch. It was found that fish ponds were built on the shoreline to place their catch until they were ready to be sold or salted. There was a fish pond in the lobby of our hotel which was moved there from its original location.



Fish Pond in Magdala Hotel



Magdala Synagogue Tile Floor

- A first century synagogue was discovered when they started construction on the hotel. Pieces of the mosaic floor are intact due to their being covered for centuries by mud.
- Scholars are certain that Jesus spoke in this synagogue.
- A stone pedestal 18 inches high was unearthed which was the centerpiece of the synagogue. The pedestal held the scroll as it was opened and read. There were carvings on the pedestal of a menorah, wheels and fire and on the top was a rosette. These were reminders of the Temple which housed the Ark of the Covenant. A replica is on the site with the original in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.



**Magdala Stone in the excavated synagogue**

- Mary Magdalene's (Mary of Magdala) first encounter with Jesus took place at this site, Luke 8:1-3, *Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.*
- Magdala was never rebuilt after being destroyed by the Romans in response to the rebellion of 70 A.D.