

Jessica West

Dr. Emanuel

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The History and The Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee, also known as Lake Kinneret or Lake Tiberias, in Northern Israel and is the largest freshwater lake in the country. It is currently a popular tourist destination and a significant site in Biblical history. It is mentioned in the New Testament as the location where Jesus Christ walked on water and calmed the storm. It is known as the location where Jesus turned Peter and Andrew into “fishers of men.” The Sea of Galilee is one of the major sources of water in Israel and has been an important location throughout history. The region around the Sea of Galilee was inhabited by the Canaanites and Phoenicians who were known for their trade and cultural interactions. The ancient city of Tiberias, located on the Western shore of the lake, was founded by Herod Antipas in 20 CE as his new capital, which became the center of Jewish learning and scholarship. During the Roman period, The Sea of Galilee was an important commercial center that included trade routes connecting the Mediterranean coast with the East. Archeologists have also uncovered a variety of fascinating remains in and around the Sea of Galilee.

The Sea of Galilee holds a significant place in history as it is the place where Jesus Christ delivered many of his sermons and performed miracles. This is the central place where his ministry began. Jesus also recruited the first four disciples, Simon, Andrew, James, and John. These men were fishermen on the lake. Jesus also used this location to preach from the boat to

crowds on the shore. One of the most notable miracles Jesus performed on the Sea of Galilee was calming the storm. During a boat ride with his disciples, a storm began to brew, and the disciples panicked and feared for their lives. Jesus rebuked the winds and the waves bringing calm and peace to the waters. This miracle demonstrated Jesus' authority over nature and his ability to protect and comfort his disciples as well rebuke fear. Another popular event that occurred on the Sea of Galilee is when Jesus walked on water. In the middle of the night, Jesus appeared to his disciple's walking on water. This caused an astounding shock from his disciples. This miracle was a testament to Jesus' divine nature, and it solidified his position as the Son of God in the eyes of his followers. This location also served as a miraculous catch of fish. After a night of unsuccessful fishing Jesus instructed the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat. To their amazement, they caught tons of fish and their nets were almost breaking because of the weight. This act on behalf of Jesus served as a symbol of his authority to provide in abundance to those who follow and trust in him.

Apart from the Bible, other literary sources also mention the Sea of Galilee. One of these sources is the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who lived in the first century A.D. In his book "The Jewish War," he mentions the Sea of Galilee as a lake teeming with fish and surrounded by beautiful scenery. He also mentions the lake was an essential source of livelihood for the local populations, who were mostly fisherman. The Sea of Galilee is also mentioned in the writings of Pliny the Elder, a Roman historian who lived in the first century A.D. He describes the Sea of Galilee as a lake that abounds with fish and is surrounded by fertile lands. He also mentions that the region was known for quality balsam, a highly prized commodity in ancient times.

The Sea of Galilee has also played a vital role in enhancing Israel's economic growth by supporting various industries over the years. However, the primary industry has always depended

on fishing. The local region mainly revolved around agriculture, and textile manufacturing. Fishing has been a significant industry in the region for thousands of years. The lakes abundant freshwater made it an ideal spot for fishing, and the local inhabitants were experts in the field. These fishermen used various techniques such as casting nets, lines and hooks, and traps to catch freshwater fish. These fish included tilapia, mullet, and catfish. The fish were a staple in diet and sold in the markets across the region.

However, as time passed the fishing industry evolved and fishermen started using modern fishing techniques like trawlers and deep-sea fishing. Apart from supporting local businesses, the fishing industry has also played a key role in providing employment opportunities to locals. This included processing, packaging, and distribution. These jobs created a ripple effect that helped other industries to grow, such as the transportation and packaging industries. As a result, the fishing industry was able to create a sustainable ecosystem of related businesses that benefited the entire region. Apart from the economic benefits, the fishing industry also helped to create a unique and vibrant culture in the Sea of Galilee region.

Another industry that relied on the Sea of Galilee was agriculture. The rich and fertile soil surrounding the lake was used to grow crops such as olives, figs, and grapes. The grapes were mostly used in the production of wine, which was a significant commodity in the region. The agricultural industry also employed a considerable number of people in the region making it an essential source of income. Textile manufacturing was another industry that depended on the Sea of Galilee. The region was home to many skilled weavers who manufactured textiles such as wool, linen, and cotton. The weaving industry thrived in this region because of the availability of raw materials, and it became a vital source of income for many families. As well the lake being a

vital source of water for the region, providing irrigation for farms and serving as a crucial water reserve.

Over the years one of the most exciting archeological remains from the Sea of Galilee is an ancient fishing boat that was discovered in 1986. This boat is estimated to be around 2,000 years old and measures approximately 27feet in length. It is believed to have been used by local fisherman during the time of Jesus, and its discovery has shed new light on the fishing activities and daily life of the people who lived in the area during this time period. Another significant discovery from the Sea of Galilee is a series of ancient synagogues. These synagogues date back to the Second Temple period and offer very important insight on what took place during the religious practices of the Jewish communities. Among the most notable synagogues is the one situated at the site of Capernaum, which is believed to be the town where Jesus lived during his ministry. Archeologists have also uncovered several ancient coins and other artifacts from the Sea of Galilee.

Many of the items found date back to the Roman period and provide valuable information about the economic and political climate of the region during that time. One of the most interesting finds is known as a rare silver coin that was minted in the year 134 CE, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. In addition to these discoveries, archeologists have also uncovered a variety of human remains in and around the Sea of Galilee. These include bones, skulls, as well whole skeletons that offer clues about the population that resided during these ancient times. There have been DNA analysis which have contributed to researchers understanding the genetic make-up of the people who inhabited the region.

Early literary sources speak highly of the Sea of Galilee, describing it as a beautiful and fertile location that was highly prized in ancient times. One of the earliest references to the Sea

of Galilee is found in the Bible's Old Testament. It is mentioned in the book of Joshua, where the Israelites are described as crossing the Jordan river to reach the Sea of Galilee. The region is described as fertile, with lush greenery and an abundance of fish. This gives us an idea of the importance and beauty the Sea of Galilee possessed, even in ancient times. Another important literary source that mentions the Sea of Galilee is in the New Testament. The Sea of Galilee is mentioned numerous times in the gospels, where it is described as the location of many of Jesus Christ miracles.

In conclusion, the Sea of Galilee is a unique and historically significant place that has contributed to Israel's economy over the years. However, this economic growth would have not been possible without the fishing industry which has been the backbone of the Sea of Galilee. It also was an essential resource for the people of the region such as agriculture, textile manufacturing that depended heavily on the lake. The Sea of Galilee has proven to be a rich source of archeological remains that offer important insights into the history and culture of the people who lived in the area thousands of years ago. From the discovery of an ancient fishing boat to the unearthing of rare coins and synagogues. The remains found around the Sea of Galilee provide valuable clues about the past and continue to captivate and intrigue researchers today. It also holds a profound significance in the New Testament. Most importantly it served as a hub for Jesus' ministry, where he performed miracles, recruited his first disciples, and taught the masses. The miracles that Jesus performed on the Sea of Galilee which continues to inspire and spread the gospel until this day. Jesus demonstrated the power and compassion as the Son of God.

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