

SEA OF GALILEE

(S)



About 10 miles south of Lake Huleh is the Sea of Galilee. On your map this lake looks as if it is shaped like a pear. It is widest and deepest at the north end. It is located opposite the place on the seacoast where the land points out into the sea.

WHAT DOES THE SEA OF GALILEE LOOK LIKE?

The water of the sea looks bright blue or dark green. This water is clear and sparkling. All around the edges of the sea the hills seem to crowd close. On the east side the hills are steep. These hills are divided into fields of growing things. After the first rains these hills are covered with flowers. If you look to the north you can see Mount Hermon. Because this mountain is far away, it looks blue. There is snow on its peak.

WHAT WAS THE SEA OF GALILEE LIKE WHEN JESUS WAS HERE?

In the days of Jesus there were many trees around the Sea of Galilee. This sea was a very busy place. There were many boats on the water. Some of these boats carried fishermen. These men were not just fishing for food for their families. Some of their fish would be sold. Fishing was a big business in the time of Jesus. Some of the ships on the sea were probably carrying loads of wheat across the sea from the east to the west. From here the wheat would be hauled to the coast. It was sent to people in far away places. Some of the boats on the sea had oars. Other boats had one sail. Along the shore of the sea on the west and north sides there was a chain of 9 busy little towns and villages. Beside some of

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these towns there was room for fields of walnuts, figs, olives, and grapes. Along the shore were nets drying. Sometimes men would be mending their fishing nets, A few men and boys were even fishing from the shore.

HOW HAS THE SEA OF GALILEE CHANGED?

If you would visit the Sea of Galilee now, it would not be so busy. It would seem quiet and restful. Almost all the trees are gone. And we have to imagine where most of the towns were along the shore.

WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED?

The sudden storms on the Sea of Galilee have not changed since the days of Jesus. Anyone on the Sea has to be on the lookout. A great wind may rush down suddenly from the mountains. The water of the sea would be whipped into great waves. The boats would toss about as if they were toys.

WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED?

You remember that the Sea of Galilee is 700 feet lower than the level of the Mediterranean Sea. In the dry months it is very hot, especially in the middle of the day. Flies and mosquitoes are plentiful. They carry disease to the people. Jesus found many poor and sick people around this Sea. Can you remember some of the things that happened here along the shores of the Sea of Galilee?

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