

Jesus and the Land of Israel

- Who Is Jesus? -

Jesus is the central figure of the Bible's four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The 39 books of the Bible's Old Testament point to Him and His work and the other 23 books of the Bible's New Testament explain Him and His work. The apostle John, the author of the Gospel of John introduces Jesus to us as "The Word of God, creator of heaven and earth who enlightens men with truth that they might have life and become children of God." He states it this way:

In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light (Jesus) shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John (the Baptist). He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)

- Jesus' Birth -

Jesus' birth was miraculous. It was the result of a union between the Holy Spirit and a woman named Mary (*Miriam in Hebrew*) who was still a virgin when she conceived Him. Mary had no sexual relations with her husband Joseph until after Jesus was born! Jesus' miraculous birth establishes the fact that He is the Son of God and can be referred to as the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22 & 45 and Romans 5:12-21) because He was created by the will of God not the will of man.

- When Was Jesus Born? -

Jesus was conceived in late December during the Jewish feast of Hanukkah and His live birth occurred in September of **our year** 4 BC.

The confusion surrounding His birth date is addressed in a booklet entitled "Hanukkah – The Feast of Dedication and The Feast of Light" by the same author. For example, one of the issues involved is "when does birth occur". In many eastern societies such as Israel, a child's birth is said to occur at conception while in most western societies a child's birth is said to occur at live birth. We are still arguing this in the United States under the issue of abortion.

In western societies, Jesus' birth is celebrated on December 25th, one of eight dates proposed by church leaders in the third and fourth centuries. It was made popular by the Roman Pope Liberius in 354 AD and became the rule in the West when the first "Christ mass" was officiated by Sixtus III, another Roman Pope.

The calendar we use today in the United States is not the one in use at the time of Jesus' birth. One feature of our calendar is the **supposed** division of history at the birth of Jesus. We use the term BC meaning "before Christ" to denote events occurring before His birth. The term AD is derived from Latin phrase "anno domini" which means "in the year of our Lord." and denotes events occurring after Jesus' birth. The use of BC and AD began in 525 AD, when Roman Pope John 1 commissioned the scholar Dionysius Exiguus to establish a feast calendar for the Church. Unfortunately because of insufficient historical data at the time he arrived at a date at least a few years later than the actual event. This is why Jesus' live birth is now shown as 4 BC.

- How Did Jesus Get His Name And What Is It? -

According to the gospel of Matthew one of Jesus' disciples, an angel of the Lord gave Jesus His name. The account goes as follows: *"Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Yahushua, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet¹: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."*

Jesus' name in Hebrew is Yahushua and it means, "I AM Salvation". The name is derived from combining two words: 1) "Yahuwah" which is God, the Father's name and means, "I AM" and 2) "shuwah" meaning, "salvation or deliverance."

In Exodus 3:13-14 we see that God revealed His name to Moses. *Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'Yahuwah (I AM) has sent me to you.' "*

However, Jewish leaders purposely hid the name of God from the people in order that no one would violate the third commandment ... *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."* Instead of pronouncing God's name ... Jewish people say "Ha Shem," which means "The Name" and they refer to God as "Adonai", which means, "the Lord." When they write God's name, they use the following four letters of their alphabet, YHVH pronounced Yod Hey Vaw Hey. Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet has a picture and word associated with it so when you see YHVH it should read: Yod (hand) Hey (behold) Vaw (nail) Hey (behold). Or it might be translated as "I open My

¹ Isaiah 7:14

hand, look, the nail scar, look.” After Jesus rose from the dead He appeared to His disciples and used this imagery by showing them the nail prints in His hands.

- Why Do We Call Yahushua ... Jesus? -

Why we call Yahushua ... Jesus has to do with our language and pronunciation of His name. In fact, other common pronunciations of Yahushua exist and they are Yashua, Yeshua, and Joshua. They are all the same name. For example my name in English is pronounced, Michael, in Spanish, Miguel, in French, Michel and in Hebrew, Mi cha el.

The first letter in the name Yahushua ("Jesus") is the yod. Yod represents the "Y" sound in Hebrew. Many names in the Bible that begin with yod are mispronounced by English speakers because the yod in these names was transliterated in English Bibles with the letter "J" rather than "Y". This came about because in early English the letter "J" was pronounced the way we pronounce "Y" today. All proper names in the Old Testament were transliterated into English according to their Hebrew pronunciation, but when English pronunciation shifted to what we know today which occurred about 1630 AD, these transliterations were not altered. Thus, such Hebrew place names as Ye-ru-sha-LA-yim, Ye-ri-HO, and Yar-DEN have become known to us as Jerusalem, Jericho, and Jordan; and Hebrew personal names such as Yo-NA, Yi-SHAI, and Yaho-SHU-a have become known to us as Jonah, Jesse, and Joshua.

- Was Jesus a King? -

From the lineage of Jesus we can see that he was qualified to be king since He was a descendent of King David.

Jesus' genealogy in the gospel of Matthew (1:1-17) follows Joseph's lineage from King David through his son, Solomon. Since Hebrew lineage follows the father's side it is appropriate to list Joseph's lineage since he adopted Jesus. Under Hebraic law adoption has the same rights attached to it as a natural born child.

Jesus' genealogy in the gospel of Luke (3:23-38) follows Mary's lineage from King David through his son, Nathan. The lineage goes all the way back to Adam establishing the fact that Jesus was the Son of Man.

- The Magi -

According to Matthew 2:2 the Magi came to Jerusalem looking for the one who was born the King of the Jews and inquired of King Herod where they might find him. The chief priests and scribes indicated that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David and cited Micah 5:2 as their source. *“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”*²

² This prophecy by Micah occurred in 712 BC.

The visit of the Magi occurred sometime after Jesus' birth because when they found Him He was in a house with His mother not in the cave where she gave birth to Him. And after they returned to their homeland King Herod had all the infants under the age of two years put to death in that area.

Eight days after His birth, Jesus was circumcised and Mary made the appropriate offering ... two turtledoves. This offering indicates that Joseph and Mary were poor at the time of Jesus' birth. However, the Magi brought precious and costly gifts to Jesus befitting a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts undoubtedly changed the family's financial fortunes.

Who the Magi were is not known for sure but two theories are quite prevalent.

1. They were wise men from the large Jewish population that remained in Babylon who had received the wisdom of Daniel, which had been handed down concerning the time of Messiah's birth. *"So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks."* (Daniel 9:25)
2. They were kings and leaders from the dispersed ten tribes of the Kingdom of Israel who had become known as the Scythians, Medes and Parthians. They would have been aware of the prophecy given by Jacob (Israel) to his son Judah. *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."* (Genesis 49:10)

Whatever the case, the Magi were important people because they were granted an audience with King Herod. And there were more than three of them. Matthew 2:3 states that all of Jerusalem was astir over them. These men evidently traveled in a large caravan traveling many miles to get there. In order to do that they needed provisions for both men and animals, handlers for the animals and supplies, cooks, and armed guards to protect their precious cargoes from thieves and highwaymen. This was not a small inexpensive expedition.

The gifts they brought Jesus weren't just a few gold coins and a bottle of perfume either. Who would incur the expense and time to travel 1000 miles following a star in order to give the King of Kings a few shekels? No one!

The star that the Magi followed may have been an actual star in the heavens that declared a message to them that we are currently unaware of. A DVD entitled, The Star of Bethlehem produced in 2009 by Rick Larson gives good insight on the subject.

Since the word star in Scripture indicates a heavenly messenger, the Magi may have actually been following an angelic being. In Revelation 1:16 we see that Jesus is holding seven stars in His right hand and in verse 20 He says that they are the angels (heavenly messengers) of the seven churches.

- Bar Mitzvah ³ -

According to Luke 11:41-52, when Jesus was twelve years of age He and His family traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover. After the festival was over His family began their return journey to Nazareth but Jesus was not with them. After a day's journey they discovered He was missing and returned to Jerusalem to find Him. It took three days of searching before they found Him. He was sitting in the temple in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Mary was worried and rebuked Jesus for his actions. *"Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You."* And He said to them, *"Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"* But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

Jesus understood that it was His time for bar mitzvah and took the role of spiritual adulthood seriously realizing that He was now under the spiritual authority of His Father in heaven ... no longer His natural parents. Therefore, He immediately began to participate in the religious activities of the temple. Jesus' reply to His mother's rebuke indicates that He was surprised by their lack of understanding at what He was doing. But as a "son of the commandment" he obeyed the 5th commandment, which is "Honor your Father and Mother" by returning with them to Nazareth.

- Close Connections -

Upon reading the gospel accounts of Jesus we discover that he had close connections with many of the people we read about. Let's take a closer look at some of them.

Jesus (*"Yahushua - Yahshua - Yehshua - Joshua"* in Hebrew) had brothers and sisters, two of them are known to us. James (*"Jacob"* in Hebrew) and Judas (also called Jude) each authored a New Testament epistle bearing their names. James also presided over the Church in Jerusalem for many years until he was martyred for his faith in 62 AD.

According to tradition the Virgin Mary's parents were Joachim (Eli?) and Anne. Their home in Jerusalem was directly across the street from the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a lame man.

Elizabeth was either the Virgin Mary's (*"Mariam"* in Hebrew) aunt or cousin depending on the scriptural translation. That makes her son, John (*"Jehohanan"* in Hebrew) the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias lived in Ein Karen about five miles west of Jerusalem in Jesus' time. It was probably this Zacharias that Jesus referred to in Luke 11:51: *"from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the*

³ The words "bar mitzvah" mean, "son of the Commandment". By the age of thirteen every Jewish boy becomes bar mitzvah. It is the age at which tradition says that a child can differentiate between right and wrong and hence can be held accountable for his actions. When a boy is bar mitzvah he becomes a spiritual adult and a member of the religious community able to participate in all ceremonies. Usually there is a ceremony marking this event. Many Christian churches observe a similar event about age thirteen in a child's life at the completion of a course of study of their faith marked by a ceremony ... it is called confirmation.

House of God.” If Zacharias was murdered by the wicked leadership in Jerusalem it might explain why his son, John appeared from the wilderness dressed the way he did. There is good evidence that John was taken to the desert as a child and raised by the Essenes, a sect within Judaism.

The Virgin Mary’s sister was Salome. She had two sons who were Jesus’ disciples and cousins, James (“Jacob”) and John (“Jehohanan”) the sons of Zebedee, whom Jesus called “Boanerges” or “sons of thunder.”

Joseph of Arimathea was the Virgin Mary's uncle (younger brother of her father according to the Talmud). He lived in the town of Arimathea, called Arimathaim in the Septuagint and Amarthia by the Historian Josephus. This is present day Ramallah, which is eight miles north of Jerusalem. He was a wealthy merchant having a fleet of ships that delivered tin from the mines in Cornwall, England to Phoenicia. Joseph was also a member of the Sanhedrim, one the seventy ruling elders of Israel. This fact and that Joseph was a family member gave him the right to claim Jesus’ body after the crucifixion instead of having it thrown into a pit as others were.

Joseph’s brother was Cleopas. Cleopas was one of the two⁴ disciples who were on the road to Emmaus after Jesus’ crucifixion. Even though Cleopas was Jesus’ uncle he did not recognize his nephew until he broke bread with Him. Cleopas’ wife was Mary (“*Mariam*”). She is also known as “the other Mary” at Jesus crucifixion and at the open tomb. It is believed that they had three sons who were Jesus’ disciples. This would make them Jesus’ cousins. The three are James (“*Jacob*”) (also known as James the less or James son of Alphaeus (“*Cleopas*”), Thaddaeus (also known as Judas the son of James or Judas not Iscariot) and Simon (also known as the Zealot).

James and John, Jesus’ cousins were partners in a fishing business with two other brothers, Andrew and Simon whom Jesus called “Peter” (“*Petros*” or “*Rock*”). All of these fishermen originally came from Bethsaida (*House of Fishing*) a large town about three miles east of Capernaum.

Bartolomew, also known as Nathanael, was a close friend of Philip’s.

Matthew, also known as Levi, was the chief tax collector in Capernaum. He undoubtedly collected the taxes from the fishermen, including James, John, Peter and Andrew, when they brought in their catches to be sold at market. He may also have been the royal official from Capernaum, whose son Jesus healed.

All of Jesus’ disciples were from Galilee (probably within a three mile radius of Capernaum) except Judas Iscariot. Judas’ last name means, “man from Kerioth.” There are only two known Kerioths, one in Judea and one in Edom. This would make Judas either a Jew from southern Israel or an Idumaen, like King Herod.

⁴ The other was a man named, Simon.

- The Land of Israel -

The land of Israel on an average is about 150 miles long and 50 miles wide and approximately the size of the State of New Jersey. (For size comparison, see the map of the nation of Israel superimposed over the state of Colorado on the following page)

Originally the land of Israel was called Canaan. After the Jewish people were dispersed from their homeland by the Romans in 135 AD, Israel was renamed Palestine. The root word for Palestine came from a pagan tribe who had inhabited the land at the time of King David, the Philistines.

- The Land of Milk and Honey -

Israel is referred to as the “land of milk and honey” twenty-three times in Scripture. However, most Christians gloss over this statement thinking that it just refers to some “wonderful” place. But it has a much different meaning and spiritual implications that go with it. The phrase, “milk and honey” speaks of two lifestyles: 1) milk refers to shepherds with sheep and goats who provide milk and 2) honey refers to a farmer who grows fruit trees.

A map entitled, “The Land Of Milk And Honey” follows on the next page. On the map there are two intersecting lines: a vertical one that runs from 1 to 7 o’clock and a horizontal one that runs from 3 to 9 o’clock. All the land east of the vertical line is “milk” or “desert” country being influenced by the drier climate of the Arabian Desert. The land to the west of the vertical line is “honey” or “rainy” country being influenced by the humid climate of the Mediterranean Sea. The quadrant marked “1” is the wettest area, “2” is the second wettest, “3” is the second driest and “4” the driest.

Life on the “milk” side of the country is 1) unpredictable, 2) silent and lonely and 3) exhausting. Yet it is the desert where we see God speaking to his people. Abraham leaves the well-watered land he grew up in and moves to the desert side of Israel, Moses leaves Pharaoh’s court for the desert, the Israelites wander in the desert for forty years, Elijah flees from Jezebel by going to the desert and the Apostle Paul immediately after his conversion to Christianity goes to the desert for three years to hear from God.

Life on the “honey” side of the country is sweet ... it is 1) predictable, 2) noisy and busy, and 3) easy. God’s people like it where the living is easy and so do pagans. In Israel along the seacoast, trade routes and fertile lands is where idolatry flourished. For example: Abraham once lived in Fertile Crescent, Ur of the Chaldees where the moon god was worshipped, Moses was born in Egypt where false gods ruled and Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

The land of milk and honey tells a story to all who listen.

- Early History of Jesus' Ministry -

27 AD, Late September/Early October - When Jesus became thirty years of age He was baptized by John in the Jordan River near Jericho.

The reasons Jesus waited until He turned age 30 were:

1. In Israel, a male was counted in adulthood at age 20 but full maturity did not occur until age 30. Thus at age 30, Jesus was considered an elder and able to declare God's word with authority (Jesus is the Prophet)
2. Pertaining to entering work in the temple, such as serving as a priest, a male had to be between the ages of 30 and 50. (Jesus is our High Priest.)
3. King David was thirty years old when he became king. (Jesus is the King of Kings.)

Although sinless, Jesus was baptized in water for the repentance of sins:

1. To fulfill prophecy.
2. To establish a pattern of righteousness.
3. Priests were washed daily in the bronze laver before doing any work in the temple. (Jesus is our High Priest.)

27 AD, Late September/Early October - Jesus went into the wilderness (desert) west of Jericho for forty days to be tempted by Satan.

1. He was communing with His Father in heaven about His call to service.
2. After overcoming the temptations of Satan it is interesting to note that the very first thing He began to do was to make disciples.

27 AD, November - Jesus returned to John the Baptist who proclaimed him to be the "Lamb of God". Several of Jesus disciples were associated with this event: Andrew, Peter, Philip, Bartholomew, and John since he is the one who records the event. Jesus commanded Philip to, "*Follow Me.*"

27 AD, November - Three days later they all attend the wedding feast in Cana, where Jesus turns the water to wine. Kafr Kanna is about 10 miles NE of Nazareth. Gath Hepfer, the hometown of the prophet Jonah lies about midway between Nazareth and Cana.

28 AD, Late March/Early April - Jesus and His disciples attend the Feast of Unleavened Bread together. Jesus drives the moneychangers out of the temple the first time.

28 AD, Late March/Early April - Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the necessity of being born again.

28 AD, April/May - Jesus had His disciples baptizing in Judea.

Why did Jesus have His disciples baptize in water? (John 3:22)

1. It validated John the Baptist's, baptism of repentance as the way of righteousness.
2. It was consistent with the message He would be preaching, "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.*" We would say it in today's English this way, "The kingdom of God is here now, change your mind and believe the good news."

Jesus did not baptize anyone in water, only His disciples did.

1. John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would baptize **only** with the Holy Spirit and fire.

28 AD, Late May/ Early June - Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well on His way home from the Feast of the Seven Sevens (Weeks or Pentecost).

28 AD, June/September - The second miracle in Cana occurs. A royal official from Capernaum asks Jesus to heal his son who is dying. This may have been the tax collector Matthew, Jesus disciple or the Roman centurion stationed there.

28 AD, September 17 or 3788, Tishri 10 Jesus announces his ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth and proclaims the year of Jubilee. *"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD. Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* (Luke 4:16-30)

1. Although the message Jesus declared is in the book of Isaiah, it is clearly linked to Ezekiel chapter 34 ... which speaks about sheep and shepherds. Verse 11 says, *For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out."* The allusion is that Jesus is saying that He is the Messiah.
2. The favorable Year of the Lord is the year of Jubilee, which occurs every fifty years. According to Jewish tradition only the High Priest, in Jerusalem, on the Day of Atonement could announce its arrival.
3. When Jesus spoke these words, no one in Israel knew when the year of Jubilee was, since its occurrence had been lost in antiquity. There is no record of Israel following the Year of Jubilee's requirements since the time of Moses when Joshua (Yahushua or Jesus) entered the land.
4. This explains why the people of Jesus' synagogue in Nazareth tried to throw Him off a cliff after He said it.
5. Jesus had just declared himself a prophet, High Priest and Messiah by his statements.

28 AD, October Jesus leaves his hometown of Nazareth (population 120 to 150) and moves to Capernaum. (Population 1,000 –1,500)

1. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-2. *“But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.”*
2. The prophecy refers to the location of the Messiah appearance. (Reference the map on the following page for the interpretation.)
 - *He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious.* The glory refers to the presence of Christ in these two areas of Israel. Jesus was raised in the land of the tribe of Zebulun and conducted most of His ministry in the land of the tribe of Naphtali. (The boundaries of these two lands are outlined in orange color)
 - *By the way of the sea* simply refers to the major trade route on which Jesus lived running through Israel, the Via Maris. Via Maris is a Latin phrase meaning “the Way of the Sea”. (The Via Maris trade route is highlighted in a pink color)
 - *On the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.* Notice that the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee at Bethsaida. The Jordan River served as the boundary between the Israelites, who lived in the western side and the Gentiles, who lived on the eastern side.
 - *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.* Jesus cast a legion of demons out of a man who in turn entered into a herd of pigs that ran off a cliff into the Sea of Galilee. The man was a Gentile who lived in a graveyard on the eastern side of the Jordan River in the Decapolis region.
 - The area in which the future battle of Armageddon will take place is outlined in green color.

28 AD, October to 29, AD May - the following events occur in the life of Jesus:

1. He commands Peter, Andrew, James and John to ***“Follow Me”*** after they catch an abundance of fish.
2. He casts out a spirit on the Sabbath in a synagogue.
3. He heals Peter’s mother-in-law.
4. He heals a leper.
5. He heals a lame man who is lowered through the roof (brush arbor) by his friends to be healed.
6. He commands Matthew to ***“Follow Me.”***

29 AD, June Jesus heals a lame man at the pool called Bethesda.

29 AD, July Jesus chooses His twelve apostles and the delivers His Sermon on the Mount.

- The Evangelical Triangle -

On the first page following this page is a map that provides more detail of the area in which Jesus ministered along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The triangle-shaped area outlined in green is where Jesus spent most of His time doing ministry. It is called the “Evangelical Triangle”. The city of Capernaum, which lies about midway along the base line of the triangle, is three miles from Kinneret, Bethsaida and Korazin.

On the second page following this page I overlaid “Evangelical Triangle” on a map of Commerce City, Colorado to give you an idea of the size of area that Jesus was ministering in.

- Tabgha -

Jesus' favorite area was Tabgha, which in the Greek language is called Heptapegon – “The Seven Springs”. The site was so named because there are seven warm water springs that feed into the Sea of Galilee at this point drawing an abundance of fish to the area. The Tabgha area includes the Mount of Beatitudes and the site of Peter's fishing business. It is about the size of twenty-football field joined together. On the following page a close up map of the area is included.

Galilean Fishing Boat

This illustration shows the type of boat that Jesus and his disciples probably used, based on the remains of an approximately 2,000-year-old fishing boat found on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It could hold 15 men, and was 26.5 feet long, 7.5 feet wide, and 4.5 feet high (8.1 x 2.3 x 1.4 m).



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Biblical Maps