

I NEED A

MIRACLE

Miracles that we will never experience

- Creation of the universe
- Conception of the Savior by the Holy Spirit
- Birth of the Savior by a virgin
- Resurrection of the Savior
- Transfiguration of Jesus
- Ascension of Jesus

Jesus Feeds the Crowd

Matthew 14

Mark 6

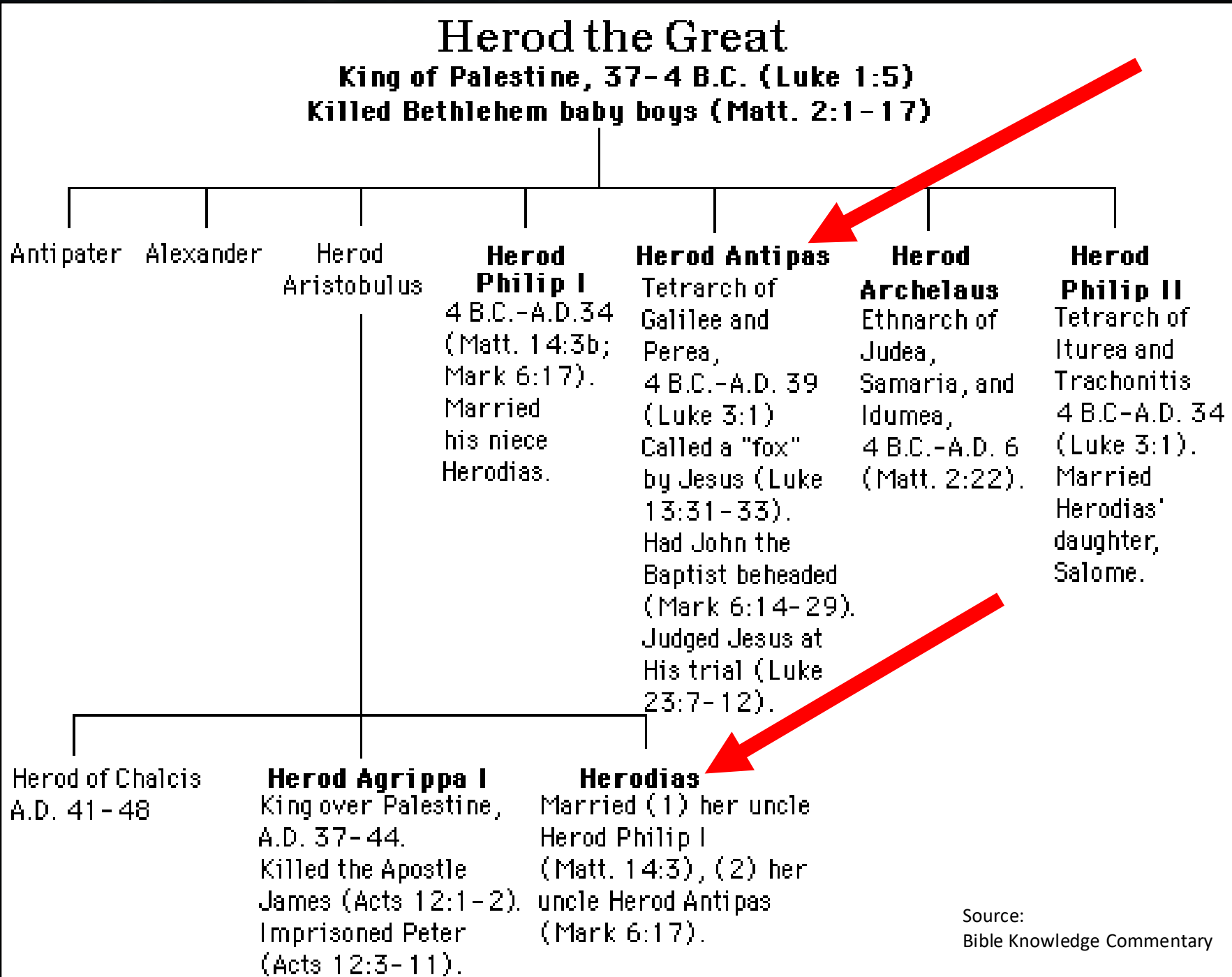
Luke 9

John 6

At that time Herod the tetrarch [regional governor] heard the news about Jesus, and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison [in the fortress of Machaerus] because of Herodias [daughter of Aristobulus], the wife of his brother Philip. For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. Matthew 14:1-5

- John’s outspoken condemnation based on the Torah (Leviticus 18:16, 20:21) would have been damaging to Herod’s reputation among his Jewish subjects. John was therefore not only an embarrassment to Herod but also (as Josephus’ history confirms) a threat to his political security. – New Bible Commentary

Herodias was the daughter of Aristobulus, who was one of the fifteen sons of Herod the Great, although not mentioned in the New Testament. She was married to her uncle Herod Philip (not the Philip of Luke 3:1), who fathered her daughter Salomé (v. 6; the name is not given in the New Testament but is known from Josephus). Herodias left Philip to be mistress to his half-brother Herod Antipas (v. 4).



But when Herod's [Antipas] birthday came, the daughter of Herodias [Salome] danced before them and pleased Herod, so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Having been prompted by her mother [Herodias], she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." Although he was grieved, the king [Herod Antipas] commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. He sent and had John [the Baptizer] beheaded in the prison. And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. Matthew 14:6-11

Herod Antipas killed John the Baptist

His disciples [John the Baptizer's] came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus. Matthew 14:12

- From this time on, the ministry of Jesus was directed primarily toward His disciples. His goal seemed to be to instruct them in light of the fact that He would be leaving them. He said almost nothing more to the nation to convince them He is the Messiah. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Josephus reports in Antiquities of the Jews 18:5:1, that Herod Antipas was defeated in a war with Aretas, king of Arabia Petrea, and adds:

“Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod’s army came from God and that very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, that was called the Baptist; for Herod slew him, who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism; for that the washing [with water] would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away [or the remission] of some sins [only], but for the purification of the body: supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness. Now when [many] others came to crowd about him, for they were greatly moved [or pleased] by hearing his words, Herod, who feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his power and inclination to raise a rebellion, [for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise,] thought it best, by putting him to death, to prevent any mischief he might cause, and not bring himself into difficulties, by sparing a man who might make him repent of it when it should be too late. Accordingly he was sent a prisoner, out of Herod’s suspicious temper, to Macherus, the castle I before mentioned, and was there put to death. Now the Jews had an opinion that the destruction of this army was sent as a punishment upon Herod, and a mark of God’s displeasure against him.” (Antiquities 18:5:2, William Whiston translation, 1682) - Jewish New Testament Commentary

Herod Antipas killed John the Baptist

Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and **felt compassion for them and healed their sick** [miracle #1]. Matthew 14:13-14

- The verb “to have compassion” (*splanchnizomai*) is used five times in Matthew (9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34), four times in Mark (1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22), and three times in Luke (7:13; 10:33; 15:20). Suggesting strong emotion, it means “to feel deep sympathy.” The related noun *splanchna* (“sympathy, affection, or inward feelings”) is used once by Luke (1:78), eight times by Paul, and once by John (1 John 3:17).

Sea of Galilee

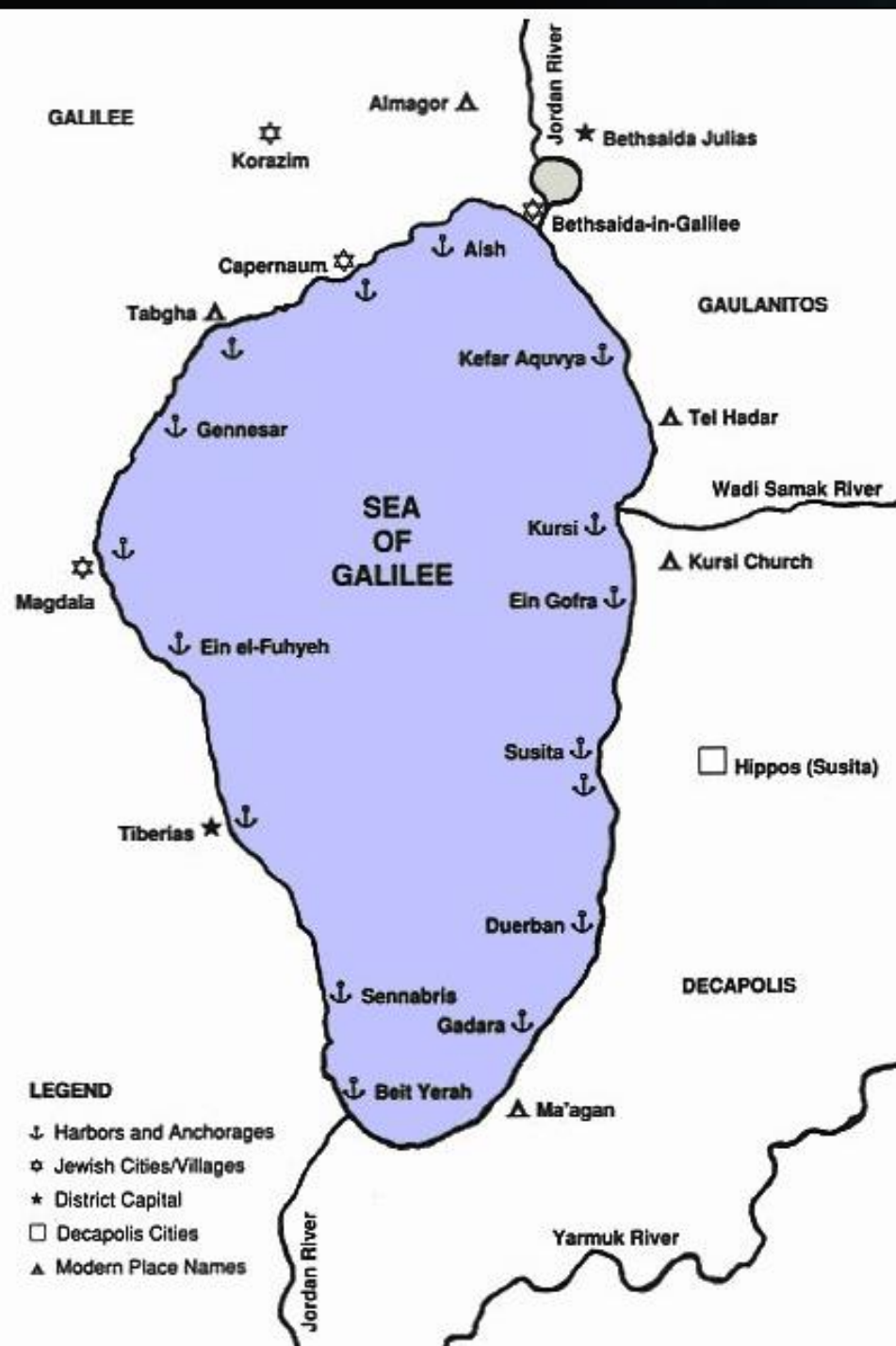
The lowest freshwater lake on earth at approx. 700 feet below sea level.

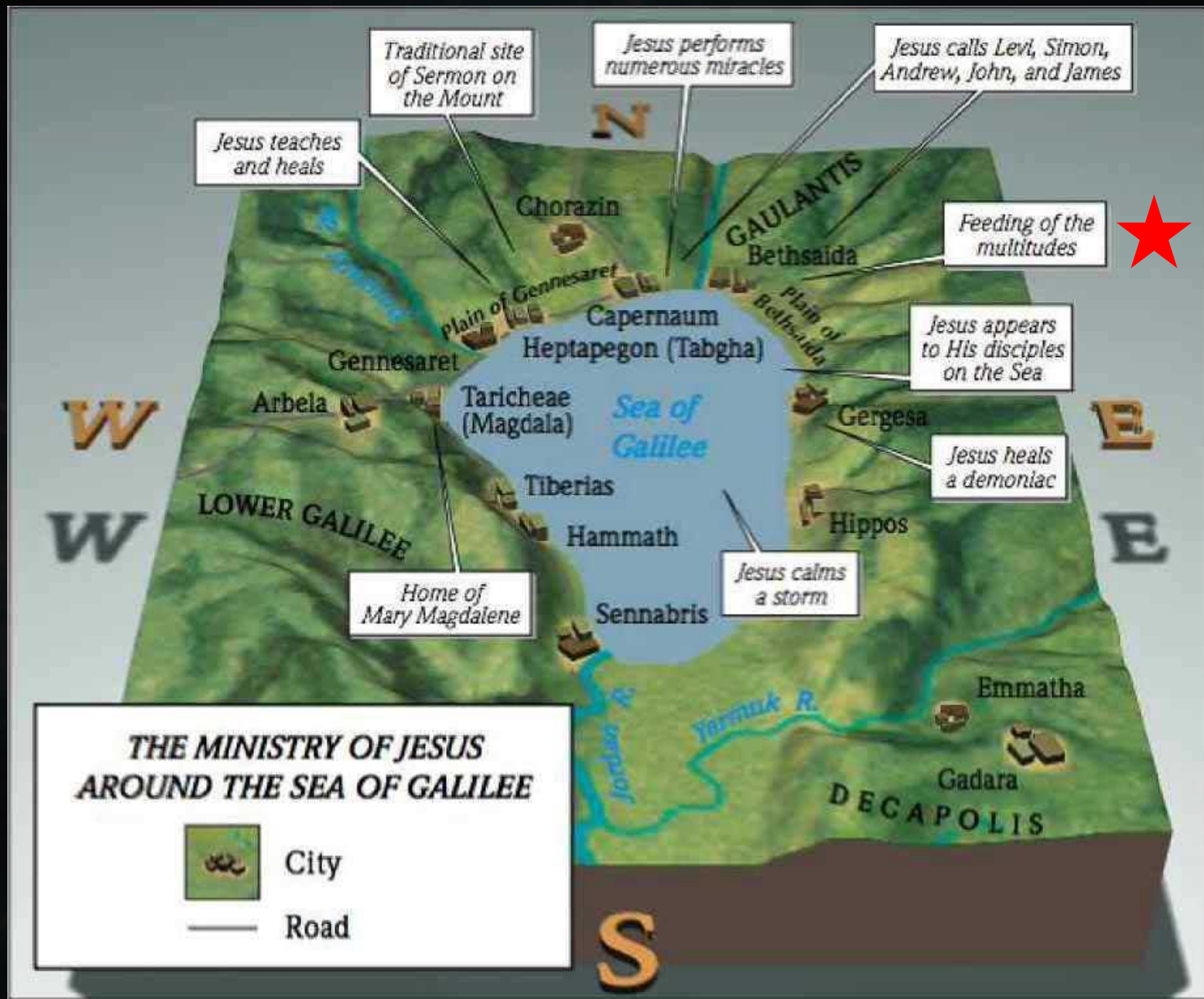
8 miles wide, 13 miles long, 140 feet deep

Also known in the Bible as: Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, Lake of Tiberias

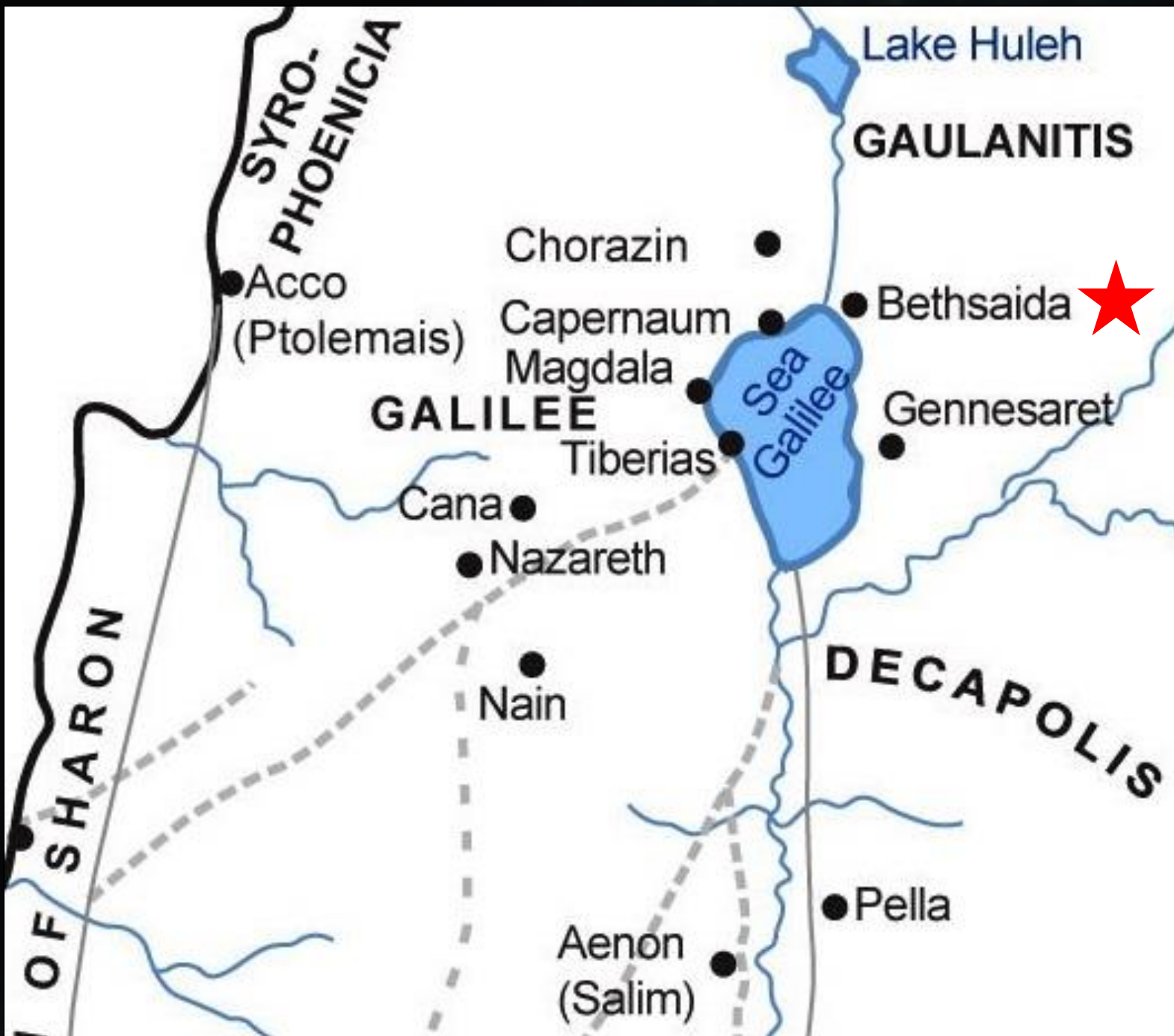
Its main source is the Jordan River which flows through it from north to south.

The majority (80%) of Jesus' earthly ministry took place near here.





After these things [death of John the Baptizer]
Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of
Galilee (or Tiberias). A large crowd followed Him,
because they saw the **signs** [*semeion* σημεῖον...
miracles] which He was performing on those who
were sick. Then Jesus went up on the mountain
[Golan Heights], and there He sat down with His
disciples. John 6:1-3



Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called **Bethsaida**.

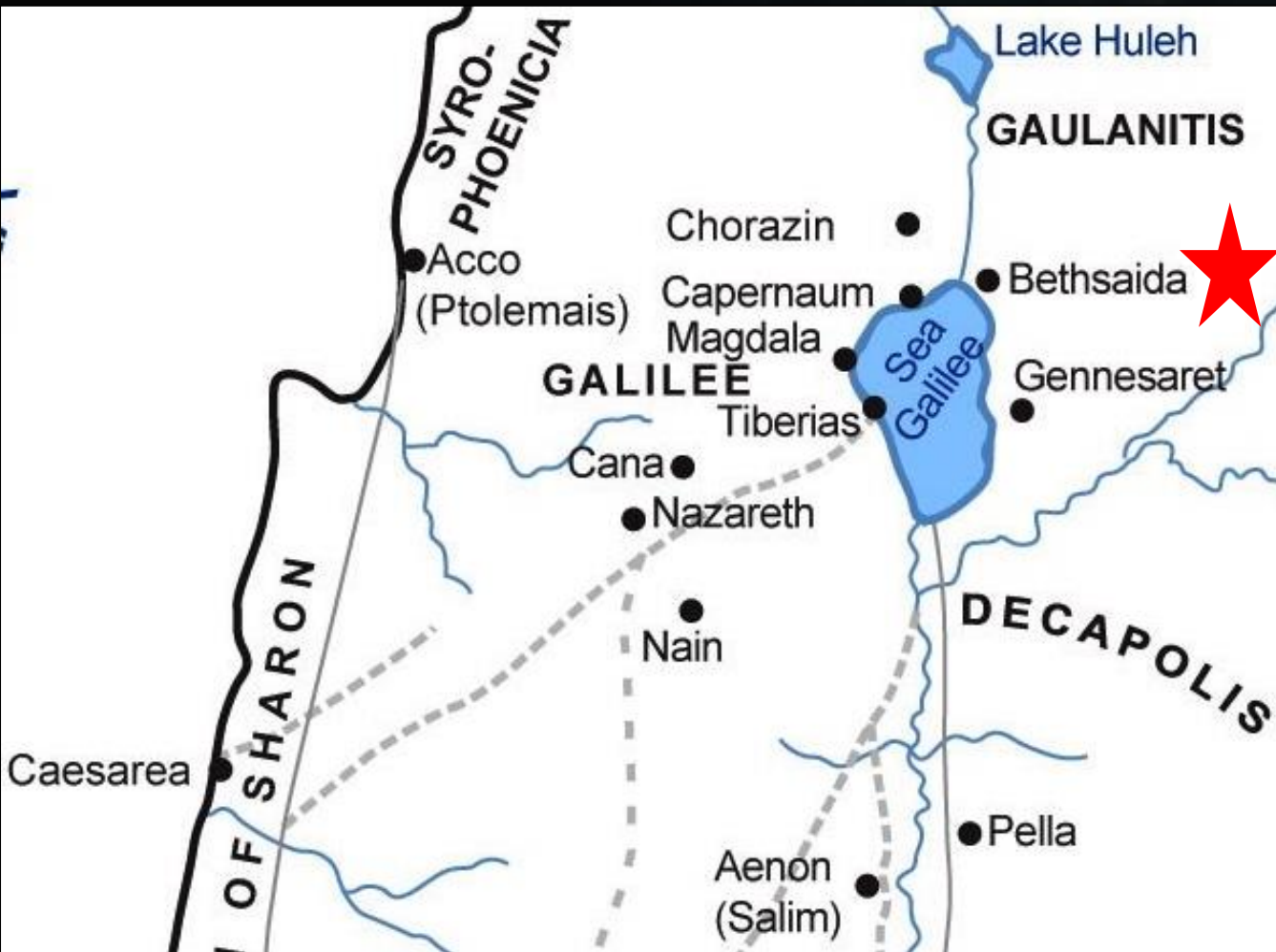
Luke 9:10b

Bethsaida was outside the territory of Herod Antipas.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

Now the Passover [Pesach in March/April], the feast of the Jews, was near. John 6:4

- Noting that the Passover feast was near was both theological and chronological. The Jewish people listening to Jesus were thinking in terms of blood, flesh, lambs, and unleavened bread. They longed for a new Moses who would deliver them from Roman bondage.
- Since this was the second Passover John mentioned (John 2:13, 23), and since he mentioned at least one other Passover, Jesus' ministry extended for about three years. The events in John chapter 6, then, took place about one year before Jesus was crucified. – Bible Knowledge Commentary
- Perhaps people had begun to reduce bread supplies in anticipation of Passover. If so, it adds to the drama of the story. – Jewish New Testament Commentary



Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”
John 6:5

- Philip was from Bethsaida (see John 1:44) which was the closest town, and he would know the local resources. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

This He was saying to test him, **for He Himself knew what He was intending to do**. Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii [over half a year’s wages] worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.” John 6:6-7

- The answer to Jesus’ question was that it was impossible, humanly speaking, for thousands of people to get bread late in the day from the little neighboring villages. John wrote that Jesus was asking this to test Philip. God tests people to refine their faith, never to tempt them to do evil (see Genesis 22:1–18; James 1:2, 13–15; 1 Peter 1:7).

When it was evening [3 pm], the disciples came to Him and said, “This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!” They said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Matthew 14:16-18

- Jewish readers would note the parallel to three other feeding miracles in the Old Testament... the provision of manna in the desert (Exodus 16), Elijah being fed by ravens (1 Kings 17) and Elisha’s similar multiplication of loaves (2 Kings 4:42–44). – New Bible Commentary

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish [dried sardines], but what are these for so many people?" John 6:8-9

- Instead of concentrating on what you do not have, remember what you do have and give it to Jesus. That is what Andrew did. He trusted and brought to Jesus what he could find. It wasn't much, but it was something. Jesus took what they had and miraculously multiplied it.
- We never think about the people who gave up their food. They were the only ones who planned ahead, but they trusted Jesus enough to give up their food even though they were the only ones who were self-sufficient. They didn't give out of their abundance. They gave out of their relative wealth.
- What do you have that Jesus can multiply? What can you offer? How can you participate in kingdom work? - Stephen Sheane



Why 5 loaves and 2 fish?

- From the Jewish perspective of Jesus, five loaves might represent five books of Torah. Rabbinic symbolism often represents Torah with bread. In view of this symbolism, the feeding of the five thousand represents the teaching of the Master—the *Torah* (teaching) of the prophet like Moses—going out to the masses.
- The fish icon became a natural icon of the early believers: the Master's earliest disciples were fishermen; He made them into "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). - www.ffoz.org
- Ichthus is the Greek word for "fish" (ἰχθύς). In Christianity, it is an ancient acronym used by early believers to represent the confession: "*Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior*". The simple outline of a fish is frequently called the "Jesus fish" and remains a prominent symbol of faith today. - Wikipedia



Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. John 6:10

- There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children. Matthew 14:21 [so total was 10,000-20,000 people]
- And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.
Mark 6:39-40
- David wrote, “He makes me lie down in green pastures...”
Psalm 23:2a

Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes at Tabgha in Galilee



The modern Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes at Tabgha stands on the site of a 4th-century church. Beneath the altar is the rock on which it is believed Jesus placed the loaves and fish when He blessed them.



And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and **He kept giving them** to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. Mark 6:41

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.

Baruch attah, Adonai Eloheynu, Melekh-ha·olam, haMotzi lechem min ha·aretz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ

- People kept eating, disciples kept sharing and Jesus kept giving

Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He **took** the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven [in prayer], He **blessed** the food, and **breaking** the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples **gave** them to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied [miracle #2]. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. Matthew 14:19-20

- Jesus was the multiplier of the food, not the distributor. While Jesus was the supplier, He did not actually give anything to the people. His disciples had to do this. The same is true in ministry today. While Jesus is the giver of life, the church exists to take that message out to those who need to hear it. He has entrusted us with the task of distributing the message. - Stephen Sheane

When they were filled, He [Jesus] said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.” John 6:12

- According to *halakhah* [Jewish religious law], destruction of food is prohibited. (Shabbat 50b, 147b)
- This is the background for Yeshua’s command to gather the leftover pieces, so that nothing gets wasted.
- After Jesus gives away His grace and power to those in need, there is always more available.

So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten [more than when Jesus started]. Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

John 6:13-14

- The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus described by all four gospels (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, and John 6). It signaled the end of Jesus' Galilean ministry that lasted about two years.

Two different events... Don't get confused

- In the Gospels, Jesus miraculously feeds large multitudes on two distinct occasions.
- The feeding of the 5,000 men occurs in a Jewish region with 5 loaves and 2 fish, yielding 12 leftover baskets, while the feeding of the 4,000 men takes place in a Gentile region using 7 loaves and a few fish, resulting in 7 leftover baskets.
- The feeding of the 5,000 is described in all four Gospels, while the feeding of the 4,000 is described only in Matthew 15 and Mark 8.

Jesus is the Bread of Life

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” John 6:35

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

Matthew 26:26-28

Immediately He [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. Matthew 14:22



So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:15

- Seeing this miraculous sign (*semeion* σημεῖον), the people recalled Moses' prediction that a Prophet like him would arise (Deuteronomy 18:15). Moses had fed the people. Moses had led them out of bondage. Jesus had fed the people. Jesus could lead the people out of the hated Roman bondage. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Could He have the kingdom without the Cross?

No. Jesus' kingdom would be given to Him by the Father.

“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14

A Story About “Not Enough”

- Not Enough **Time** – “the hour is already late” (Matthew 14:15)
- Not Enough **Money** – “two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient” (John 6:7)
- Not Enough **Food** – “five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?” (John 6:9)

A Story About “Not Enough”

We've got to learn to be thankful, even when we think it's not enough! Sometimes, what we think is not enough, is actually more than enough! What the disciples had was not enough in their hands! But when they placed it in the hands of Jesus; it was more than enough! The disciples resented not enough; but Jesus was thankful for not enough! The disciples despised not enough, but Jesus embraced not enough! The disciples saw not enough as a problem, but Jesus saw not enough as an opportunity! Often the difference between frustration and fulfillment, between success and failure, between poverty and provision, is in how you respond to your not enough situations! Notice they started out with not enough, but they ended up with more than enough! If you are dealing with not enough today; don't despise your not enough! Just be thankful for your not enough and put it in the hands of Jesus! Because, what is not enough in your hands is more than enough in the hands of Jesus! - Harold Miller

Life Is A Story About “Not Enough”

Apostle Paul wrote...

And He has said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you,** for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

What About Us? What About Now?

- The small boy supplied the food.
- Jesus performed the miracle of multiplication.
- Without the trust the disciples had in Jesus, and their hands-on service of the food distribution, thousands of people would have gone hungry.
- What can we share with others as we trust Jesus?
- Where can we volunteer our time to serve Jesus?

Praying for Miracles at First Melissa

- Salvations of family members and friends
- Healing of marriages and broken relationships
- Healing of illness and sickness
- Creating and deepening connections among the Body of Christ
- Raising up the next generation of faithful followers of Jesus
- Church construction loan paid off
- Expansion of our church property
- Upgrades to our existing church facilities and campus
- Construction of new church facilities
- Expansion of ministry opportunities

Steps in a “Not Enough” Miracle

- Remember that Jesus has compassion for the hurting and hungry
- Recognize that Jesus uses His disciples to bless other people
- Understand that Jesus is powerful enough for any expectation
- Trust that nothing we face on earth is too big for God
- Remember that Yeshua is our King and Messiah who loved us enough to go all the way to the Cross