

I NEED A

MIRACLE



Who needs a miracle?

If you need a miracle...

**Have you ever faced one struggle only to
encounter another kind of struggle?**

**Have you felt like you were dodging one
kind of obstacle only to realize that a
different kind was next in front of you?**

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter **various** trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3

- ποικίλος *poikilos*
- Various, multifaceted, diversified

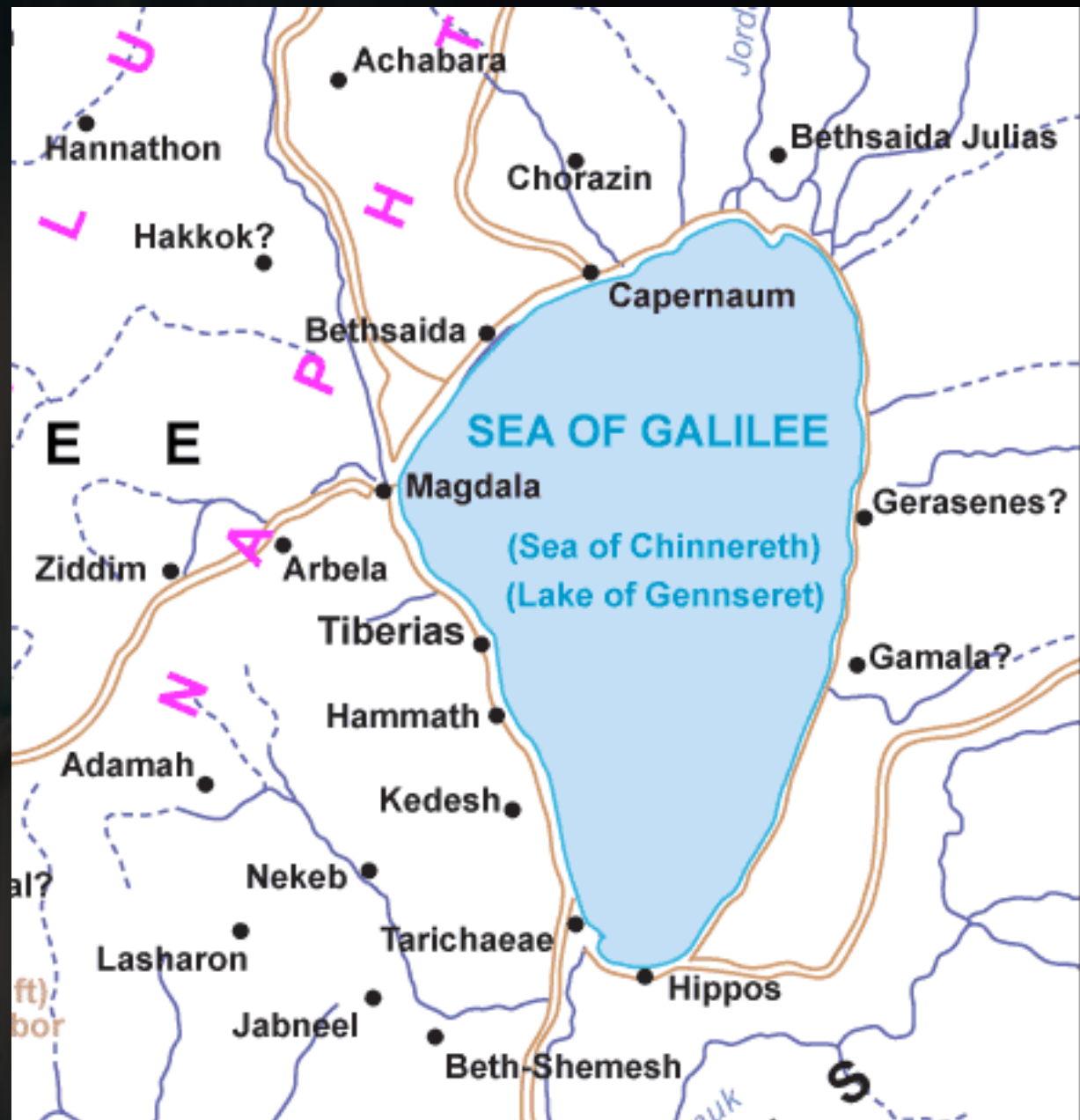
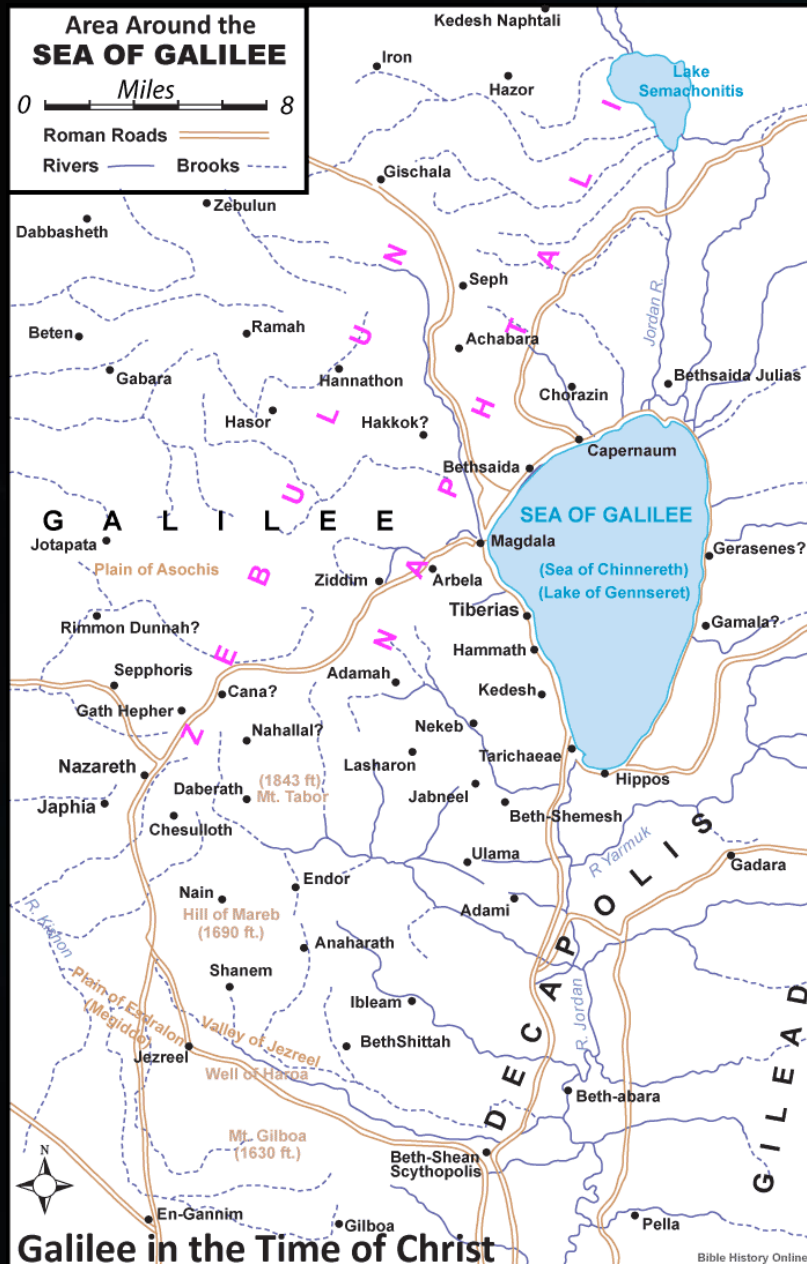
**We need a Savior who CAN
and WILL carry us through
various/diversified
struggles**



Matthew 8

Mark 4-5

Luke 8



When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

Matthew 8:1-2

- Make me clean, not only free of the repulsive skin disease called “leprosy” in many translations; but also ritually clean (Hebrew *tahor*), so that I will not have to be separated from the community. – Jewish New Testament Commentary

Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest [cohen] and present the offering that Moses commanded [see Leviticus 14], as a **testimony** to them.” Matthew 8:3-4

- In the early part of His ministry Yeshua did not publicize the fact that He was the Messiah, because the people expected a Messiah who would liberate Israel from Rome and rule in glory, not one who would die a criminal's death. Had he been publicly identified as the Messiah, the people would have tried to make Him king then and there, as they did soon after (John 6:15). Had the attempt succeeded, with Yeshua ruling in glory, He would not have fulfilled Isaiah 53's prophecy of a Messiah who must suffer and die. Only at His Second Coming will Yeshua fulfill the prophecies concerning the Messianic Age of world peace. – Jewish New Testament Commentary

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “This shall be the law of the leper [תּוֹרַת הַמְּצָרָע] in the day of his cleansing. Now he [*metzora*] shall be brought to the priest, and the priest shall go out to the outside of the camp. Thus the priest shall look, and if the infection of leprosy [*tzaraat* צָרַעַת] has been healed in the leper, then the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed.” Leviticus 14:1-4

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion [a Roman military officer in command of a hundred men] came to Him, imploring Him, Matthew 8:5

Sea of Galilee

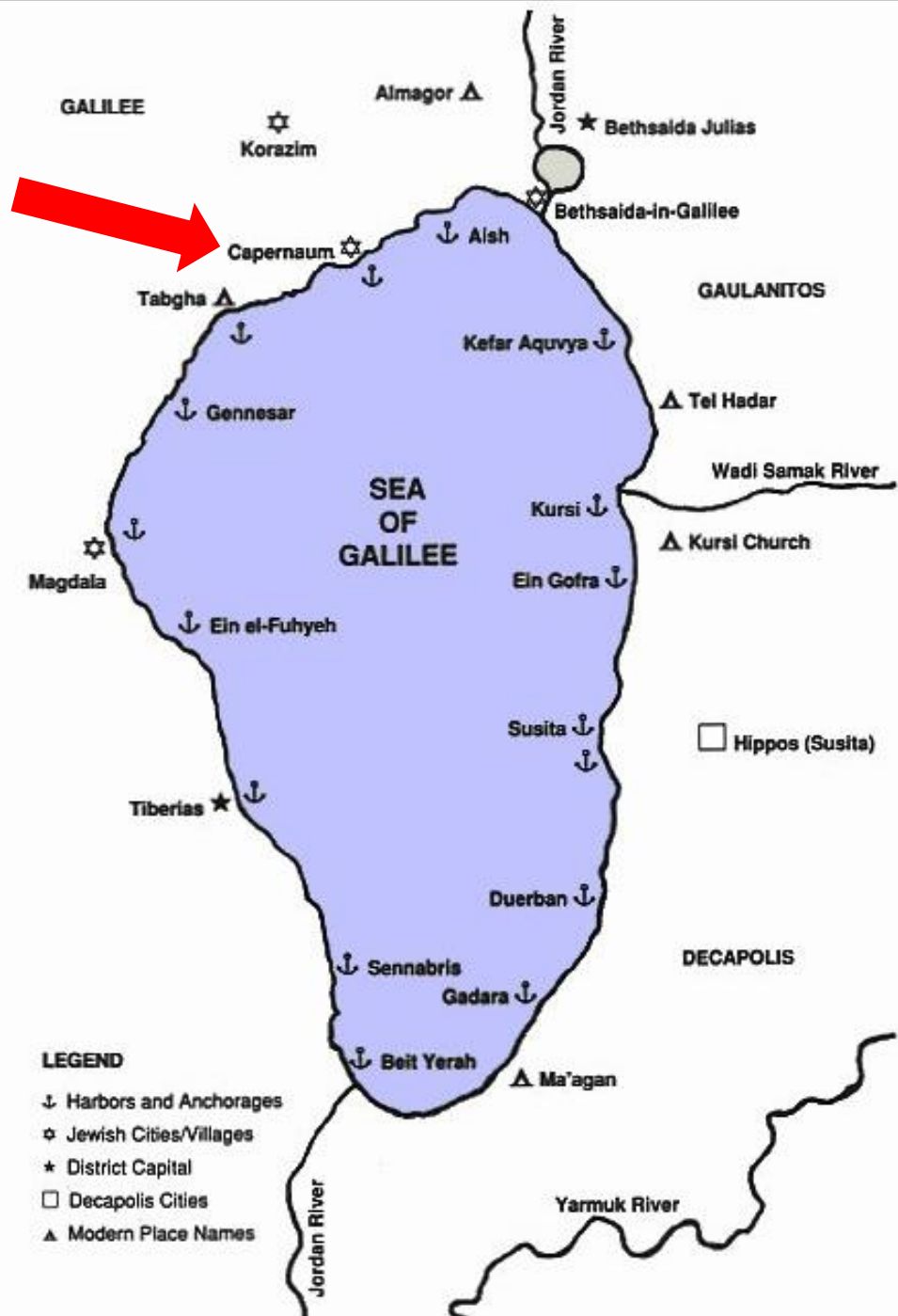
The lowest freshwater lake on earth at approx. 700 feet below sea level.

8 miles wide, 13 miles long, 140 feet deep

Also known as: Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, Lake Tiberias

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

The majority (70-80%) of Jesus' earthly ministry took place near here.



And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Matthew 8:5-9

Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. I say to you that many will come from east and west [non-Jews], and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the [unbelieving] sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed that very moment. Matthew 8:10-13

When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. Matthew 8:14-15

Then He [Jesus] got up and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them. Luke 4:38-39

Ancient Synagogue in Capernaum



House of Peter





When evening came, they brought to Him [Jesus] many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet [Isaiah 53:4]: “He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.” Matthew 8:16-17

- This is the first citation in the New Testament from Isaiah 52:13–53:12, the Tanakh (Old Testament) passage that most clearly portrays the Messiah as a servant of Adonai who suffers for the sins of the people. – Jewish New Testament Commentary

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher [Rabbi], I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man [a title for Messiah] has nowhere to lay His head.” Matthew 8:18-20

- This is the first of numerous times Jesus referred to Himself or was called by others the Son of Man (29 times in Matthew, 14 in Mark, 24 in Luke, 13 in John).— Jewish New Testament Commentary

Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the [spiritually] dead to bury their own dead.” Matthew 8:21-22

- Don't suppose this would-be disciple (talmid) is traveling around with Yeshua while his father's corpse is waiting at home, stinking in the sun. The father is not dead yet! If he had been, the son would have been at home, sitting shivah. The son wishes to go home, live in comfort with his father till his death perhaps years hence, collect his inheritance and then, at his leisure, become a disciple.

When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; **but Jesus Himself was asleep**. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" Matthew 8:23-27

On that day, when evening came, He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern [rear of the boat], asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?” They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” Mark 4:35–41

[The Jewish disciples of Jesus would have known the Psalms]

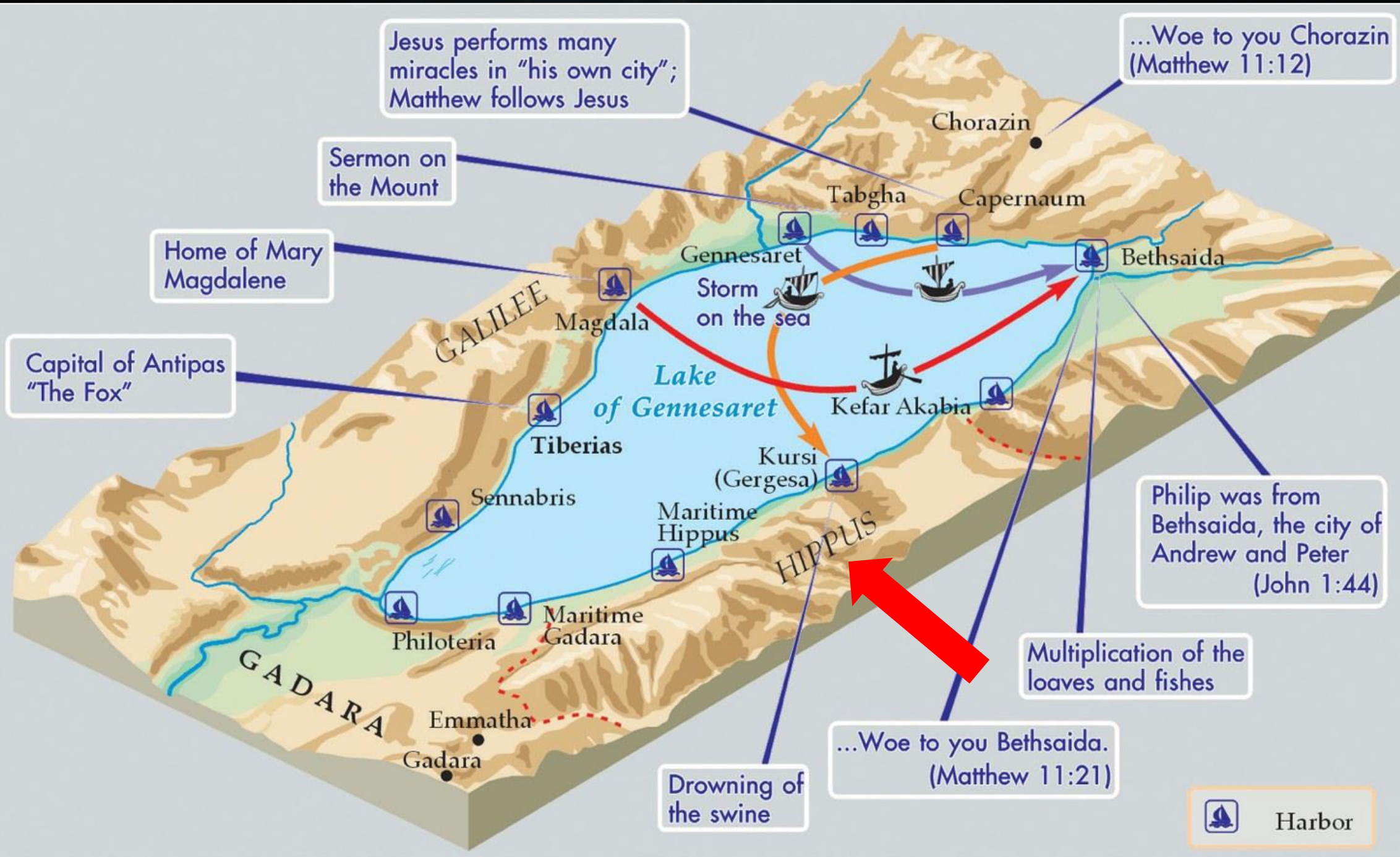
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distresses. He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed. Psalm 107:28-29

When He came to the other side [eastern side of the Sea of Galilee] into the country of the Gadarenes, **two men** who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.

Matthew 8:28

The Land of Israel in the days of Jesus











When He [Jesus] got out of the boat, immediately **a man** from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, and he had his dwelling among the tombs.

Mark 5:23a

- Matthew tells us there were two demoniacs, while Mark and Luke only mention one of the two. It is unclear why they chose to mention only one, but that does not negate the possibility of a second demoniac being present. Mark and Luke do not say there was “only one” demon-possessed man. They simply state that one of the two met Jesus and spoke to Him. For whatever reason, Matthew simply gives us more information than Mark and Luke.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/one-two-demoniacs.html>

And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

Mark 5:3b-5

- What do you do when human help is not possible?

And they [demons] cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the [appointed] time [eternal punishment at end of days – see Revelation 20:9-15]?” Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them. The demons began to entreat Him, saying, “If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go!” And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters. Matthew 8:29-32

- “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” James 2:19
- And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. Mark 5:13

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him [Jesus] to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. Luke 8:32-35

The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. Matthew 8:33-34

Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well. And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him [Jesus] to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. But **the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him**; but He sent him away, saying, "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:36-39

**We need a Savior who
can carry us through
various/diversified
struggles**

Multifaceted Struggles in Today's Lesson

- A person facing long-term disease/sickness themselves
- A person whose loved one has recently become paralyzed
- An older woman suffering from a fever/infection
- Many people suffering from spiritual/demonic oppression
- Many people suffering from illness
- The disciples who feared the traumatic weather conditions
- Individuals suffering from spiritual/demonic oppression
- Individuals living in unsafe and dangerous conditions
- Individuals who are hurting themselves
- Individuals struggling with convulsions/seizures

**Your Savior can carry
you through
various/diversified
struggles**

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 for a Miracle in a Multitude of Storms

- Honestly recognize and identify your multifaceted struggles
- Run to Jesus/Yeshua with EACH of your needs
- Remember that He has power over various problems
- Refuse fear and embrace trust
- Believe that He can and will heal in His timing
- Receive the miraculous gift of His gracious touch
- Tell others about the goodness of your Savior