

The Sea of Galilee is called the Chinnereth, or Kinneret, in Hebrew. This is the largest freshwater lake of Israel. It is about 13 miles long and about 7 1/2 miles across. Its maximum depth is less than 150 feet, but its surface lies 686 feet below sea level. The Jordan River feeds the lake from the north and various rivulets and springs feed directly into the lake, especially in winter. Some of the most important cities of the Old and New Testaments lie on its shores: Canaanite Beth Yerah (Hellenistic Philoteria) on the southwest beside the outlet of the Jordan, Roman Hammath Tiberias (Israelite Hammath) (see Slides 80-85), Roman Tiberias (Israelite Rakkat), Roman Gennesaret, Roman Magdala-Taricheae, Israelite Chinnereth, Roman Capernaum (see Slides 86-93), Roman Bethsaida-Julias, Roman Hippos-Susita (see Slides 58-60) and Byzantine Kursi (see Slides 102 and 103).