

John 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

Analysis

The Sea of Galilee, also called Tiberias (named after the Roman emperor), sets the stage for the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. John's mention of both names shows he writes for both Jewish and Gentile readers. This geographical note transitions from confrontation in Jerusalem to ministry in Galilee, where Jesus will demonstrate He is the Bread of Life through feeding thousands.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee is actually a freshwater lake, 13 miles long and 7 miles wide. Tiberias, built by Herod Antipas around 20 AD, was a predominantly Gentile city that pious Jews avoided. John's dual naming reflects the mixed audience of his Gospel.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why is it significant that the greatest miracle happens in a place of mixed Jewish and Gentile presence?

2. How does Jesus use common locations to teach extraordinary spiritual truths?

Interlinear Text

Μετὰ	ταῦτα	ἀπῆλθεν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	πέραν	τῆς
After	these things	went	G3588	Jesus	over	G3588
G3326	G5023	G565		G2424	G4008	
θαλάσσης	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας	τῆς	Τιβεριάδος		
the sea	G3588	of Galilee	G3588	which is the sea of Tiberias		
G2281		G1056		G5085		

Additional Cross-References

John 6:23 (Parallel theme): (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

Luke 5:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

Matthew 4:18 (References Jesus): And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

John 21:1 (References Jesus): After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

Numbers 34:11 (Parallel theme): And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward: