

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 Jesus over
G3326 G5023 G565 G3588 G2424 G4008 G3588

θαλάσσης τῆς Γαλιλαίας τῆς Τιβεριάδος
the sea of Galilee which is the sea of Tiberias
G2281 G3588 G1056 G3588 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: