

the altitude of Banias, from it the river drops very sharply until it reaches the point seven feet above sea-level, here it branches out into a small lake about three miles across which is called lake Huleh. Formerly this lake was often called the Waters of Merom, it is now more generally that Merom was at a more different place. South of this small lake the waters plung southward, falling six hundred eighty nine feet in a distance of eleven miles, to pour into the Sea of Galilee, which is thus almost seven hundred feet below sea-level.

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful place than the Sea of Galilee. Its superbly blue waters are almost surrounded by fairly steep slopes, from which many lovely views may be obtained. Six hundred twelve and half miles in extreme length from North to South and eight miles in width in its widest part. Its waters is crystal clear and very deep. At the north end its depth is over seven hundred feet. The sloping hills of the East are crowded with the most beautiful wild flowers in the Syrian continent. Back of them about a mile from the lake arises cliffs, which are very picturesque. It was in this region that Christ spent the principle part of his public life. Here he preached most of his great sermons from the scenes along the shores of this lake were taken most of his illustrations. He crossed this lake on various occasions, the one when a great tempest arose and he rebuked the waters of the sea and calmed it. The country south of the lake is bounded by precipitous cliffs from one of these, the swine into which the devil which he had cast out of the man to enter, ran and fell into the sea. Later we shall spend a lot of time beside this lake the events of the life of our Lord.

Several of the beautiful lakes of Galilee and the Jordan falls southward. There the valley narrows and is far deeper, it is about sixty five miles in the air line from the southern end of the Sea of Galilee to the northern end of the Dead Sea. In this distance however it winds so much that the length of the river is almost two hundred miles. In this distance a further drop of six hundred ten feet is made. Various streams come down the sharp hills on both sides of the valley so that the water is about double in volume as it dashes rapidly in this wide channel stirring up a great deal of clay and carrying it along so that it becomes muddy and dirty in appearance.