



The Half Shekel Journals of 2022 by Pastor Ed Rice
#16 Sun 6 Nov Sea of Galilee

Beverly Cook Rice and I were



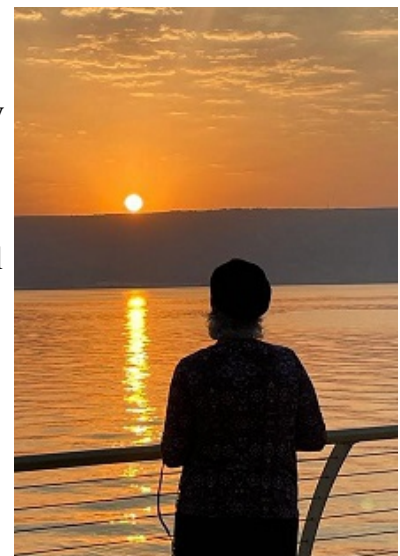
up late
anticipating
being on the
Sea of
Galilee on
November
6th. It was the
culmination
of four
months of
anticipation.
Bev had
started
collecting
little candy
wrappers that
had little
imprinted life

quips, and she had collected seven of them that
said “book the flight” ... so we did, back in
August.

We were teenagers when we married on
November 6, 1971. I was a Bible college dropout
settled into a dairy farm partnership that would
provide us very well for life in Addison, New



York. We had courted for a year and a half.
I had a
Vietnam
selective
service lottery
draft number
of 123, and
they would
likely draft all
those below
200. Our 4F
dairy farm
partnership
was not yet
registered.
Life was not
uncertain



however, so two lovers married, and I avoided being one of the 50,000 drafted for Vietnam by enlisting in the US Air Force in May 1972. The dairy farm partnership was put on hold.

We rehearsed a lot of our 51 year history on that November 5th stay in the luxurious Gai Beach Hotel in Tiberias, Israel. Tomorrow, November 6th we were to celebrate our 51st wedding anniversary, and we would be in a Sunday worship service on the Sea of Galilee. All my attempts to secure a dozen roses,... or even a single red rose, were futile, but that could not detract from the magnanimity of being in Israel for this celebration. After a blissful five hour sleep, we woke at dawn.

Several of our number we're excited to get a picture of the sun rising over the Sea of Galilee. Others thought "If God wanted us to enjoy sunrise, he wouldn't have put it so early in the morning." We watched it rise, but let others click the awesome pictures, I clicked a few mediocre ones. We left the spectacular seaside and went in for our



Kosher Buffet breakfast. It was Sunday morning, November 6th and we were on the Sea of Galilee.

As the Irizar tour bus was guided by Eiad out of Tiberias, and headed north along the coast of the Sea of Galilee, our guide Joe began to rehearse some of

the background information about the sea, and about our day. The sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake on earth, the second lowest lake in the world (-700 foot elevation, the Dead Sea was lower but not freshwater). It is about 13 miles long by 8 miles wide, 64 mi.² and 133 miles in circumference.



It reaches 140 feet in depth and is 84 feet average depth.¹ Joe reminded us that in Israel, a puddle, a hill, and the creek, are called a sea, a mountain, and a river. The “sea” supports native fish *Tristramella Sacra* (long jaw), and *Tristramella Simohis* (short jaw).



Hundreds of thousands of *Tilapia* (Saint Peter's fish, same genus different species²) are released into the sea of Galilee to replenish stocks hit by drought, and over fishing. Source waters of the Jordan, the Dan, and the Hasbani Rivers replenish the seas fresh water.

Off to our left is the Horns of Hattin. On July 4th, 1187 there was a battle there that marked the defeat and annihilation of the Christian Crusader armies by the Muslim forces of Saladin. It led to the Muslim reconquest of the city of Jerusalem and nullified the achievements made in the Holy Land by the leaders of the first Crusades.

To our right is the city of Magdalene (Magdala 32°49'30"N 35°30'56"E), the birthplace of Mary Magdalene. Archaeologist there recently uncovered two first century synagogues,



1 Seneca Lake NY is similar in size at 67 sq.mi., 38 mi x 2mi, but very deep and very narrow, 618 ft deep, 291 ft average. Oneida Lake where we lived previous was more like the Sea of Galilee at 80 sq.mi., 20 mi x 5 mi, very shallow, 55 ft deep, 22 ft average. Like the Sea of Galilee, Oneida was very susceptible to very fast rising ferocious storms.

2 Remember there are seven classifications of living things, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species with a memory mnemonic Ken Plays Chess On Fridays Getting Suspended. But wait there is more, there are seven classifications of visible light, Red, orange, yellow, Green, Blue, indigo, violet, RoyGBiv for an effective memory mnemonic. The capitals, RGB are the trinity of primary colors, ingredients in all visible light. God made our eye and molecules of earth's atmosphere more sensitive to Blue so for us, the sky resonates in it. Purple, is made of infrared and ultraviolet; it is majestic because it contains the beginning and the ending of the visible color spectrum, kind like the Alpha and Omega of the Greek alphabet. Scarlet hangs out at the far edge of visible light, just before it slips into the infrared and becomes invisible to the human eye. Blue, purple, and scarlet are the colors in God's Tabernacle, he did that on purpose. Learn more via the authors upcoming book “God Tabernacles with Men” coming to an internet near you.

which is very rare for one city.

To our right is the plane of Chinnereth, where swamps were drained by pioneers who came to build a land, but the land built them instead. There is also a water pumping station. In 1964 the National Water Carrier of Israel was completed. It carries water from the sea of Galilee through pipes, canals, tunnels, and large-scale pumping stations to supply agricultural and drinking water to the south (about 19,000,000 gallons per hour). Since 2016 there have been tremendous strides in our desalination abilities, and desalinated water from the Mediterranean Sea now supplies well over 75% of Israel's drinking water. Today 90% of our waste water is reclaimed for agricultural use (The US reclaims just 4% of its waste water).



On your right is the Church of the Loaves and Fish at Tabgha, where Jesus fed the 5,000. And on your left the Church of the Beatitudes, on the hill where he likely preached the sermon on the mount, his longest sermon. Coming up on your right is Capernaum, the town of Jesus. “*And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephtholim*” (Matt.4:13). Capernaum is from the Hebrew, *kaphar* = village, *nachuw* = comfort, i.e. Village of Comfort. And here we are at the docks of the Kfar Nahum National Park, (Holyland Sailing 32°52'55.24"N 35°34'48.46"E) let's go catch the boat.

Only our guide Joe could fit all of that information into a 30 minute bus ride. So, at 10:00 am on Sunday morning, November 6th, we boarded the Jesus Boat of Holyland Sailing and went out into the sea of Galilee for a worship service.

The brochure said:

“HolyLand Sailing welcomes you to a breathtaking spiritual Galilee journey –

sailing on a wooden boat – an exact replica of the famous boats that played a key role in Jesus' life in the Galilee.

This sail provides a spiritual experience you will never forget. You will feel the power of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus miraculously walked on water.

Holyland Sailing welcomes you on board to meditate, pray, explore and relive the life of Jesus Christ where he used to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

At the end of the voyage, each pilgrim will receive a participation certificate in recognition of his



following of Jesus footsteps in this memorable sail.” from www.jesusboats.com/?section=11



We were on the Sea of Galilee, in a small “JesusBoat”, with an awe and propensity to worship. We sang some hymns together and Pastor Charlie opened his Bible to Matthew 8.

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but

he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! (Matt.8:23-27).

Brother Charlie continued, In a Christian's life, storms build a great dependence on God. Twice it is recorded that Jesus's disciples encountered life threatening storms here on the Sea of Galilee. Here, in Matthew 8 Jesus entered into the ship and his disciples followed him. Later, in Matthew 14 Jesus “constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side.” (14:22a) Jesus remained behind, and when he did, “He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when evening was come, he was there alone” (14:23b).



He prayed all night, or at least until the 4th watch of the night (vr.25), which is just before daybreak. Jesus needed to pray. Here he needed to be alone in prayer with his Father. Do we?

The 4th watch is the darkest hour of night, and there, there is no greater calming effect than the person of Christ when he says “Be not afraid.” When Jesus came to the boat, walking on the water, Peter got out of the boat while others looked on, ... when you get out of the boat, keep your eyes on Christ (vr.32). Pastor Charlie noted howt “They walked back to the ship together.”

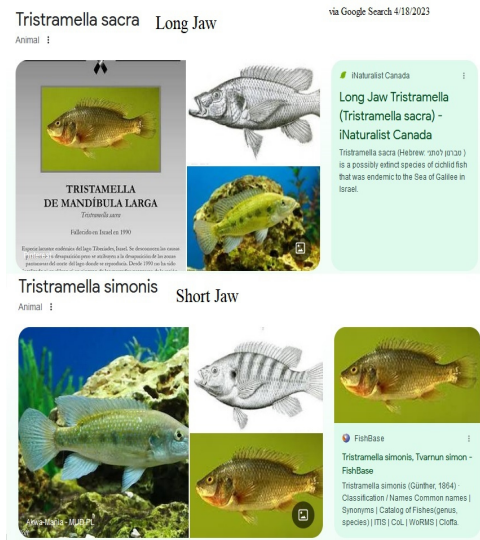
In Matt.8, Jesus was 1st into the ship, in Matt.14 Jesus was last into the ship. We need to be growing in our faith, we need to take the next step in faith. He is still with us, growing our faith. We follow his leading; we follow his commandments.

Pastor Andy Resse commented that the disciples life is a progression. In chapter 8 they said “What manner of man is this?”, in chapter 14 they said, “Thou art the Christ.”

Pastor Hawkins commented that chapter 8 records that they waited until the boat was full, then cried “We perish”... with Christ’s response “How is it ye have no faith?”

Pastor Gates commented, “I was the maniac of Gergesenes, and Jesus saved me.”

The worship service on the Sea of Galilee continued for some time. There were more



testimonies, Scripture quotes, and songs. Alas our captain started the engine and turned the boat back towards the dock.

