

THE CAPERNAUM SYNAGOGUE

Photos and descriptions for a study from the gospel of Luke



Here is an overhead view of modern day Capernaum. The white structure to the far right is the remains and reconstruction of the synagogue in this lakeside city.



We were told in our study of Luke that Jesus had visited the synagogue at Capernaum to teach the people there. After the Sermon on the Mount (see Mount of Beatitudes above) Jesus went to Capernaum (also pictured above) and healed the slave of the man who is said to have built the synagogue in that place.



While there doesn't seem to be much left of this synagogue at Capernaum, this is one of the best preserved synagogues that can be traced back to the 1st century during the life and ministry of Jesus. While the upper half of this synagogue dates back to the 4th century, there is a 3 foot foundation that is dated back to the original synagogue that Jesus had often visited during His time in this city.



The upper half of these walls, from the 4th century, are made of white limestone and were laid upon a foundation of black basalt that is believed to have been built by the centurion in Luke 7:1-10. When the debris was discovered a rebuilding process began to repair as much of this structure as possible. The remains of the synagogue at this location were found during several archeological digs.



The synagogue of Capernaum is one of the main attractions in this city today. Many people travel from around the world to come and see where Jesus spent a great deal of His ministry and to think about all of His mighty deeds that were accomplished at that location. While the restoration work is not complete on this synagogue what remain stands as a proof to the validity of what the Bible teaches us.

