

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 13, 19th June 2020

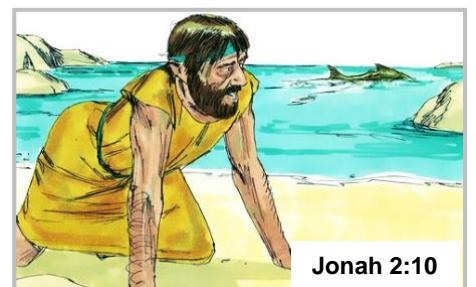
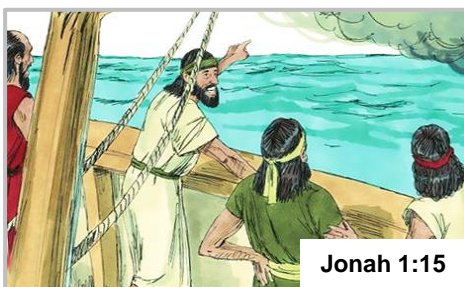
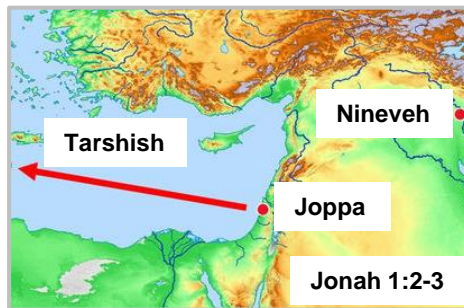
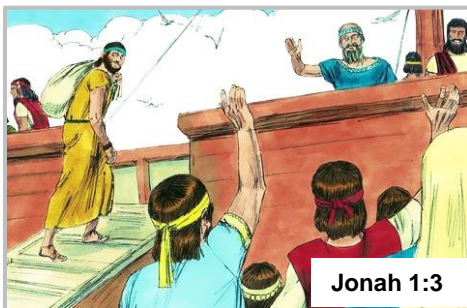
Arks, Boats, Rafts and Ships

'O Lord, what a variety you have made! And in wisdom you have made them all! The earth is full of your riches. There before me lies the mighty ocean, teeming with life of every kind, both great and small. And look! **See the ships!**'

Psalms 104:24-26, *Living Bible*



The Ship Was in Danger of Breaking Apart

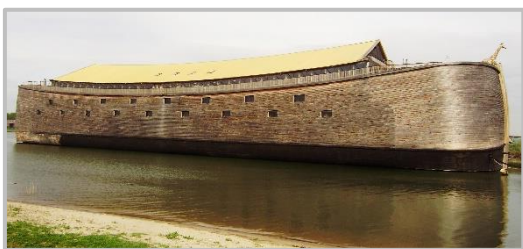


'The Lord spoke his word to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it. I see the evil things they do." But Jonah got up to run away from the Lord. He went to the city of Joppa. There he found a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish. Jonah paid for the trip and went aboard. He wanted to go to Tarshish to run away from the Lord. But the Lord sent a great wind on the sea. This wind made the sea very rough. So the ship was in danger of breaking apart. The sailors were afraid. Each man cried to his own god. The men began throwing the cargo into the sea. This would make the ship lighter so it would not sink. . . .

The men said to Jonah, "Tell us what you have done. Why has this terrible thing happened to us? What is your job? Where do you come from? What is your country? Who are your people?" Then Jonah said to them, "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord, the God of heaven. He is the God who made the sea and the land." Then the men were very afraid. They asked Jonah, "What terrible thing did you do?" They knew Jonah was running away from the Lord because Jonah had told them. The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger. So the men said to Jonah, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down?" Jonah said to them, "Pick me up, and throw me into the sea. Then it will calm down. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come on you." Instead, the men tried to row the ship back to the land. But they could not. The wind and the waves of the sea were becoming much stronger. So the men cried to the Lord, "Lord, please don't let us die because of taking this man's life. Please don't think we are guilty of killing an innocent man. Lord, you have caused all this to happen. You wanted it this way." Then the men picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. So the sea became calm. . . .

Then the Lord spoke to the fish. And the fish spit Jonah out of its stomach onto the dry land.'

Jonah 1:1-5, 8-15, 2:10, *International Children's Bible*



Noah's Ark

'Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. You



are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks. Understand that I am bringing a flood — floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of everything — from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds — will come to you so that you can keep them alive. Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them. And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.'

Genesis 6:14-22, *Christian Standard Bible*

The pictures above show the outside and part of the inside of a full-size replica of Noah's Ark built by Johan Huibers and his team. It can be seen in Dordrecht in the Netherlands. Some of the London congregation visited it in 2014.

The same Hebrew word *tebah* is used for both Noah's ark and Moses's ark.

Moses's Ark

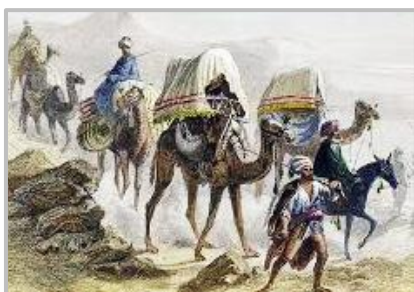


'She saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew

women, that she may nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."'

Exodus 2:2-10, *NKJV*

Ships of the Desert?

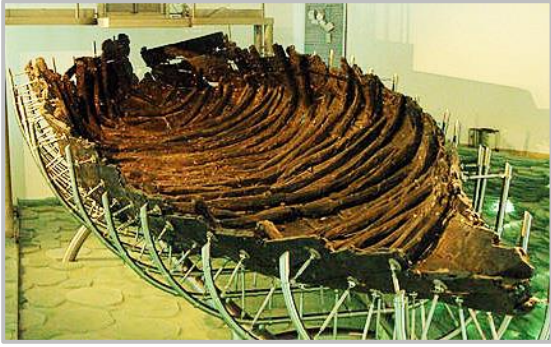


'I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning.' The fifth verse of the carol continues: O, they sailed to Bethlehem, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, O, they sailed to Bethlehem, on Christmas day in the



morning'. Question: What have 'ships' got to do with Christmas Day and Bethlehem? There are several possible answers. To me, the most likely explanation is that the 'ships' are probably referring to camels that brought the Wise Men from the East to Bethlehem. Camels are often referred to as 'ships of the desert'. This could be because they resemble a boat swaying when they walk. The camel moves both feet on one side of its body and then the other two on the opposite side, resulting in a rocking motion. Like ships, camels also carry a lot of 'cargo'. Another question: Why three? This is probably based on the assumption that there were three Wise Men. Actually, nobody knows how many Wise Men came from the East, the Bible does not say, all we know for sure is that there were three gifts. Of course, the Wise Men did not arrive in Bethlehem on 'Christmas Day in the morning', they came much later.

Sea of Galilee Boats



In 1986, when the Sea of Galilee waters receded in a drought, an ancient fishing boat from about the time of Jesus was found buried in mud on the north-west shore by two local fisherman Moshe and Yuval Lufan. Because the wood was extremely fragile, the boat was soaked in a wax bath for over 11 years (to replace the



water in the wood cells). The remains are now exhibited in a local museum (see picture above). The boat has been dated to 40 BC (plus or minus 80 years) based on radio-carbon dating and 50 BC to AD 50 based on finds of pottery and nails in the boat. The boat was about 27 feet long and 7.5 feet wide. The boat was constructed primarily of cedar planks joined together by pegged mortice and tenon joints. The 'ribs' were made of oak.

It has a flat bottom which allowed it to get very close to the shore. The boat could have been sailed or rowed. It had a single square sail fitted to a mast in the centre of the boat. Based on its size the boat would probably have had a crew of four rowers and a helmsman. It would have been steered by two steering oars. There was a storage area on the boat and a somewhat secluded area under the planks where the fisherman



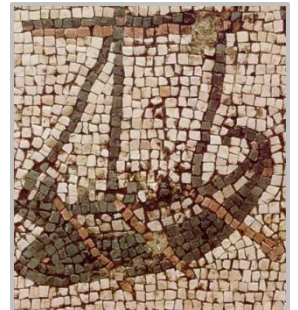
could get some occasional rest. Twelve different woods have been identified in the hull indicating it was repaired many times and had a long working life over many decades. Several models and life-sized reconstructions can be seen locally (See three of the pictures in this paragraph). The Sea of Galilee boats played a large role in Jesus' life and ministry. They are mentioned about 50 times in the Gospels.



The Sea of Galilee, or *Kinneret* as it is called in Hebrew, is not a sea, but a large freshwater lake shaped like a harp. Its main source of freshwater is the River Jordan which flows from the north originating in the Mt Hermon area. The lake is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. It has a total area of about 64 square miles and a maximum depth of about 140ft. Its circumference is approximately 33 miles. It's the lowest freshwater lake on Earth at about 686ft below sea level.

The hills around Galilee, especially on the east side where they reach roughly 2,000 feet, are a source of cool, dry descending air whereas over the lake there's often warm, moist ascending air. This large difference in height between surrounding land and the lake can cause large temperature and pressure changes. Consequently, very strong winds can occasionally funnel down through the hills causing sudden storms.

Josephus mentions a gathering of 230 fishing boats on the lake on one occasion in the first century, so it is assumed there may have been more than this in operation. One of the most important locations for fishermen was the town known as *Magdala* in Aramaic or *Taricheae* in Greek. The name *Taricheae* comes from the Greek verb 'to preserve by artificial means.' In Magdala fish were processed for selling and preserved using salt brought up from the Dead Sea region. Magdala was where Mary Magdalene lived.



More about the design of ancient boats on the Sea of Galilee can be learnt by studying Roman mosaics. The mosaic pictured on the right was found by archaeologists in the area of the ancient Magdala harbour in the 1960s.



The boat on the right is a modern Sea of Galilee tourist boat. The boat on the left shows a tour guide demonstrating how some of the disciples who were fishermen would have cast a net into the Sea of Galilee. My wife Jean and I were on this boat.



The Boat which was Made and Bought

Once upon a time a boy spent many hours building a model boat. It was very good. He took it to a local river to sail it. However, when he put it in the water, it moved away quicker than he anticipated. He chased it along the bank, but it went further away from him. Although he tried to retrieve it, the boat just went along with the current and then disappeared out of sight. The boy was heartbroken. A little later a man found the boat caught up in some branches further downstream. He retrieved the boat and then took it to the nearby town and sold it to the owner of a model shop. The following day the boy was in the town and just happened to pass the model shop. He looked in the window and, would you believe it, he saw his model boat for sale! He immediately rushed into the shop to claim his boat, but the shopkeeper would not give it to him, unless he paid for it. The boy knew the boat was rightly his, but he wanted the boat back so much he decided to pay for it. When he got out of the shop he said to the boat: 'Little boat, you are now twice mine. I made you and I bought you'.

- Lesson: God made us and redeemed us.

Based on a story by Les Christie, *Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks* by Wayne Rice.



'He Guided Them to Their Desired Haven'



'Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it

grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.' (The photograph shows a boat based on a 1st century design.) Psalm 107:23-31, *NIV*

Waves Were Crashing into the Boat

'Later that day, after it grew dark, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." After they had sent the crowd away, they shoved off from shore with him, as he had been teaching from the boat, and there were other boats that sailed with them. Suddenly, as they were crossing the lake, a ferocious tempest arose, with violent winds and waves that were crashing into the boat until it was all but swamped. But Jesus was calmly sleeping in the stern, resting on a cushion. So they shook him awake, saying, "Teacher, don't you even care that we are all about to die!" Fully awake, he rebuked the storm and shouted to the sea, "Hush! Calm down!" All at once the wind stopped howling and the water became perfectly calm. Then he turned to his disciples and said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Haven't you learned to trust yet?" But they were overwhelmed with fear and awe and said to one another, "Who is this man who has such authority that even the wind and waves obey him?"'

Mark 4:35-41, *The Passion Translation*



from you is that you feed my crew."'

Log Rafts

'Then he sent this message to Solomon: "I received your request for the cedars and cypresses. It's as good as done—your wish is my command. My lumberjacks will haul the timbers from the Lebanon forest to the sea, assemble them into log rafts, float them to the place you set, then have them disassembled for you to haul away. All I want

1 Kings 5:9, *The Message*

'Go ahead and send the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine you promised for my work crews. We'll log the trees you need from the Lebanon forests and raft them down to Joppa. You'll have to get the timber up to Jerusalem yourself.'

2 Chronicles 2:16, *The Message*



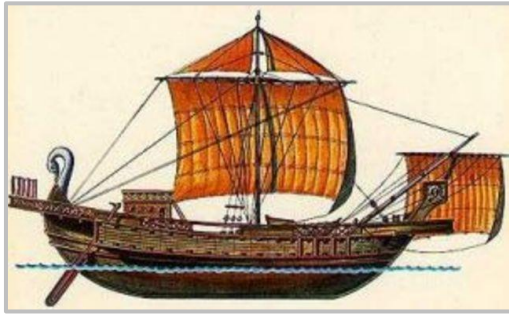
'The Utterly Reliable Anchor'

Anchors in ancient times were often made by making a hole in a heavy carved stone and then ramming a short beam into it (see left picture). The picture on the right shows an ancient Roman anchor.



'God, wishing to show beyond doubt that his plan was unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath. So that by two utterly immutable things, the word of God and the oath of God, who cannot lie, we who are refugees from this dying world might have a source of strength, and might grasp the hope that he holds out to us. This hope we hold as the utterly reliable anchor for our souls, fixed in the very certainty of God himself in Heaven.'

Hebrews 6:17-19, *Phillips*

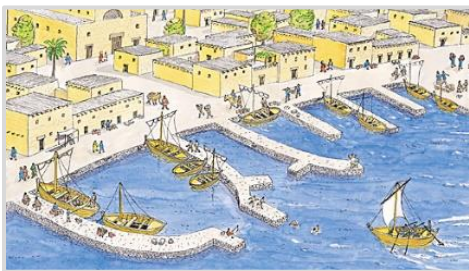


The ship in Acts 27 that Paul was on may have resembled the above illustration?

'276' People on the Ship Acts 27:37

'We began making the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea. When daylight came, the sailors saw land. They did not know what land it was, but they saw a bay with a beach. They wanted to sail the ship to the beach, if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.'

Acts 27:38-41, *International Children's Bible*



Ancient Sea of Galilee Harbours

The diagram on the right shows the position and names of the harbours around the Sea of Galilee in the time of Jesus. They were plotted by fisherman, Mendel Nun, between 1989-1991 when there was a severe drought in Israel and the Sea of Galilee water levels dropped considerably. Because of the drought ancient harbours were easier to find. The biggest harbour was probably at Capernaum where the remains of several jetties were discovered, the above picture shows where archaeologists believe they were.



King Solomon's Trading Ships

'King Solomon also had many trading ships at sea, along with Hiram's ships. Every three years the ships returned. They brought back gold, silver, ivory, apes and baboons. So Solomon had more riches and wisdom than all the other kings on earth. People everywhere wanted to see King Solomon. They wanted to hear the wisdom God had given him.'

1 Kings 10:22-24, *International Children's Bible*. The picture illustrates what one of Solomon's ships may have looked like.



'Their Faith Has Been Shipwrecked'

'Timothy, my child, I am giving you a command that agrees with the prophecies that were given about you in the past. I tell you this so you



can follow them and fight the good fight. Continue to have faith and do what you know is right. Some people have rejected this, and their faith has been shipwrecked.'

1 Timothy 1:18-19, *New Century Version*

See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

'This hope is like an anchor for us. It is strong and sure and keeps us safe.'

Hebrews 6:19, *Easy-to-Read Version*

Word Search

JONAH	ARK
GALILEE	BOAT
ANCHOR	RAFT
HARBOUR	SHIP
SOLOMON	NOAH
SHIPWRECK	MOSES
SAILORS	SEA
KINNERET	HAVEN
MAGDALA	OARS
HELMSMAN	HULL
STERN	LAKE
SAILING	WAVES
BEACH	ROW
SANDBANK	JETTY



Pictures are courtesy of: Six Jonah pictures: **Free Bible Images**. Mosaic: www.witsgila.com. Galilee Tourist Boat: **Israel21c**. Model Galilee Boat: **Mario Rangel, Pinterest**. Ancient Galilee Harbours: **Mendel Nun, Free Bible Images**. Life-size reconstruction of Galilee boat: **WordPress, Pinterest**. Seven men on boat: **WordPress, Pinterest**. Men on boat in Sea of Galilee storm: **David Padfield, Lumo Project, Free Bible Images**. Camels around two ships: **Pinterest, WordPress**. Roman anchor: **Wikipedia**. Jesus asleep in boat: **Eugene Delacroix, 1834, Wikiart**. Camel train: **Emile & Adolphe Rouargue, 1855, Wikipedia**. Boy holding model boat: **Pete Thornton, pulselive.co.ke, Pinterest**. Moses's ark: **Wikipedia**. Five cruise ships: **Solarglide Ltd, cruisecritic.co.uk, Pinterest**. Boat pulling raft of cedar trees: www.StudyJesus.com. Ship on its side: **State Library and Archives of Florida, Flickr**.

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Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council
or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.