

VILLAGE of BETHSAIDA

Bethsaida near the shore of the Sea of Galilee. **Hometown of the Apostles Simon Peter, his brother Andrew, and Philip**, the city appears prominently in the Gospel accounts. According to the Gospels, Bethsaida was the home of the earliest apostles, as well as the place where Jesus reportedly cured a blind man.

Mark 8:22: “And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him...”



Ba'al Hadad Cultic Stele BETHSAIDA, 9TH-8TH CENTURY BC, BASALT

This carved stone slab was discovered in the capital of the Aramean kingdom of Geshur, Bethsaida, near the city gate. The bull-headed figure wearing a sword probably symbolized either the chief god Hadad, who was the storm god responsible for rainfall, or the moon god, who was responsible for the swelling of the rivers. Alternatively, it may have represented a fusion of the two. Displayed in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

