

# Walk Across the Holy Land



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Destination Cana:

You have now walked with Jesus and his disciples 10 miles to Cana, where Jesus performed his first public miracle. Jesus, his mother Mary, and the disciples were all invited to a wedding there. At that time, weddings were week long festivals, and wine was a very important part of the wedding celebration. Running out of wine was an embarrassment for the host. Mary asked Jesus to help the bridegroom by turning gallons of water into wine.

As with many biblical sites, the location of the Cana that Jesus visited is disputed and not known for certain. The ruins of Kirbet Cana are the most traditional site believed to be the biblical Cana.



## **Is this the biblical site?**

Kirbet Cana has the following factors in favor of its authenticity:

- It is located on the main road between two important cities in the region (Sepphoris and Tiberias) and is not far from Nazareth.
- The ruins on this site indicate the presence of a town in the time of Jesus.
- The site has no running spring water, so in ancient times water would have had to be brought from cisterns or from the valley below and stored in stone jars such as those mentioned in the miracle story.
- Christian pilgrims have revered this site as the place of Jesus' first miracle from an early date. Ancient graffiti can be seen on one of the grottoes.

It was a Galilean town ten miles north of Nazareth located on a steep hill in the heart of the wide valley. Now on this hill are the ruins of an ancient village full of rubble, stones, caves, cisterns, pits, grass in the winter and thorns in the summer.



The photo below shows the blue flowering thorns (Echinops - Blue Globe Thistles).

Very few trees grow here, the result of heavy grazing of goats and sheep over the centuries (which continue to date with the herds of the Arab villagers nearby). The missing trees and grass caused the rain to wash away the soil into the valley, leaving the hillsides with bare rocks and little shadow.



Below is a photo is taken from the top of the hill over looking the valley. In the background above the valley there are two Arab villages.



On top of the hill are dozens of cisterns that are dug into the stone. They were used both as storage areas and **water** reservoirs. The water factor was critical for life on the hill, due to the difficulty to fetch the water from the creek or from the valley. They stored the water that was collected from the rain, off the rooftops. The cisterns were also used for hiding places during the revolts against the Romans (66/67AD, 131/132, 352). Most of them were inter-connected by tunnels as part of an underground complex.





Here a large complex was found, with monumental columns, cisterns and stone-paved floor. It was probably a Byzantine synagogue, church or monastery.



Excavations revealed a “Mystery” cave. Inside, the pilgrims marked graffiti and crosses.



## Biblical References:

John 2:1-11

### Jesus Changes Water to Wine

1On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,  
2and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

4"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."

5His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

8Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, 9and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

11This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

### **Next Destination Nazareth:**

Jesus then traveled 10 miles to Nazareth, his boyhood home. On the Sabbath, he went to the synagogue where he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to read to the crowd gathered there. Walk with Jesus 10 miles then click on your 4<sup>th</sup> destination to receive your next packet.