



**VIEW NORTHWEST:** THE BYZANTINE MONASTERY AND CHURCH (BOTTOM CENTER). ALSO VISIBLE ARE THE SEA OF GALILEE AND PLAIN OF BETHSAIDA (UPPER RIGHT), WHERE JESUS FED THE FIVE THOUSAND (SEE MATT. 14:13–21).

**BELOW (VIEW SOUTH):** THE LAKE'S EASTERN SHORE. THE SPOT IS HALF A MILE (800 METERS) SOUTH OF GERGESA (KURSI), WHERE THE SWINE MIRACLE TOOK PLACE (SEE MATT. 8:28–34). NOTICE THE STEEP HILL RUNNING DOWN TO THE WATER.





**VIEW EAST:** THE KURSI BYZANTINE MONASTERY AND CHURCH (CENTER), AT THE WESTERN END OF NAHAL SAMACH, WHICH BEGINS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS (TOP CENTER; SEE "NAHAL SAMACH" ON PAGE 271).

## GERGESA (KURSI)

(SEE MAP ON PAGE 151)

The fifth-century AD Byzantine monastery and church reflect an ancient memory of the swine miracle, which, according to tradition, happened on the hillside east of the church called the Holy Rock (see photos on pages 268–269).

When Jesus “arrived at the country of the Gadarenes,” He was met by a man “which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.” He fell down before Jesus “and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. . . . And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.”

And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain; and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them [see the bottom photo on page 264].

Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. (Luke 8:26–33; see also Matt. 8:28–34, Mark 5:1–15)

### NAMES

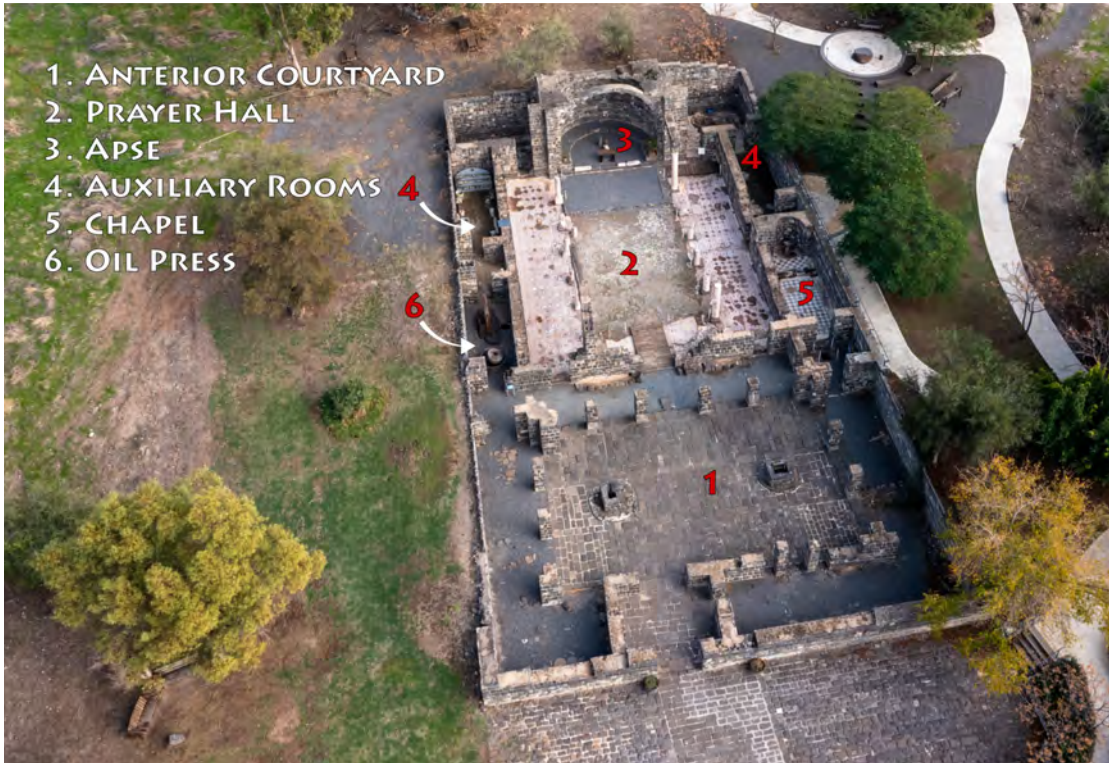
Luke’s and Mark’s accounts say “the country of the Gadarenes” (6 miles or 9.6 kilometers from the lake). Matthew’s account calls the location “the country of the Gergesenes.” There are other textual differences in the stories. All the stories, however, place the event near the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.



**VIEW EAST:** THE PRAYER HALL (CENTER), SIDE AISLES, AND APSE OF THE MONASTERY. THE TALMUD MENTIONS KURSI, CALLING IT A CENTER OF IDOL WORSHIP.

**BELOW (VIEW EAST):** THE ANTERIOR COURTYARD LOOKING TOWARD THE PRAYER HALL AND APSE OF THE MONASTERY, WITH THE GOLAN HEIGHTS (TOP RIGHT) LOOKING DOWN ON IT.





1. ANTERIOR COURTYARD
2. PRAYER HALL
3. APSE
4. AUXILIARY ROOMS
5. CHAPEL
6. OIL PRESS

**VIEW EAST:** ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE IDENTIFIED THIS SITE AS ANCIENT KURSI. IT IS A FIFTH-CENTURY AD BASILICA, MONASTERY, AND CHURCH WITH TWO ROWS OF COLUMNS THAT DIVIDE THE PRAYER HALL FROM TWO SIDE AISLES.

**BELOW (VIEW EAST):** THE CHAPEL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE MONASTERY (NUMBER 5 ABOVE). MONASTERIES HOUSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO RELIGIOUS VOWS AND OFTEN INCLUDE A CHURCH.





**VIEW SOUTHEAST:** ABOVE THE FIFTH-CENTURY AD BYZANTINE MONASTERY AND CHURCH (LOWER CENTER) IS A CHAPEL PAVED WITH THREE SEPARATE LAYERS OF MOSAICS. IT IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST MOUNTAIN SPUR (CENTER).

**BELOW (VIEW EAST):** ONE OF THE MOSAIC FLOORS OF THE HOLY ROCK CHURCH. PART OF THE APSE OF THE CHURCH IS ALSO VISIBLE (TOP RIGHT).





**VIEW SOUTHEAST:** THE HOLY ROCK CHURCH ON THE HILLSIDE EAST OF THE BYZANTINE MONASTERY. YOU CAN SEE THE APSE OF THE CHURCH (CENTER RIGHT) AND MOSAIC FLOORS. FOR PERSPECTIVE, SEE THE TOP PHOTO ON PAGE 268.

**BELOW:** THE MOSAIC FLOOR OF THE HOLY ROCK CHURCH. THIS IS WHERE, ACCORDING TO TRADITION, JESUS ENCOUNTERED THE MAN POSSESSED BY DEVILS.

