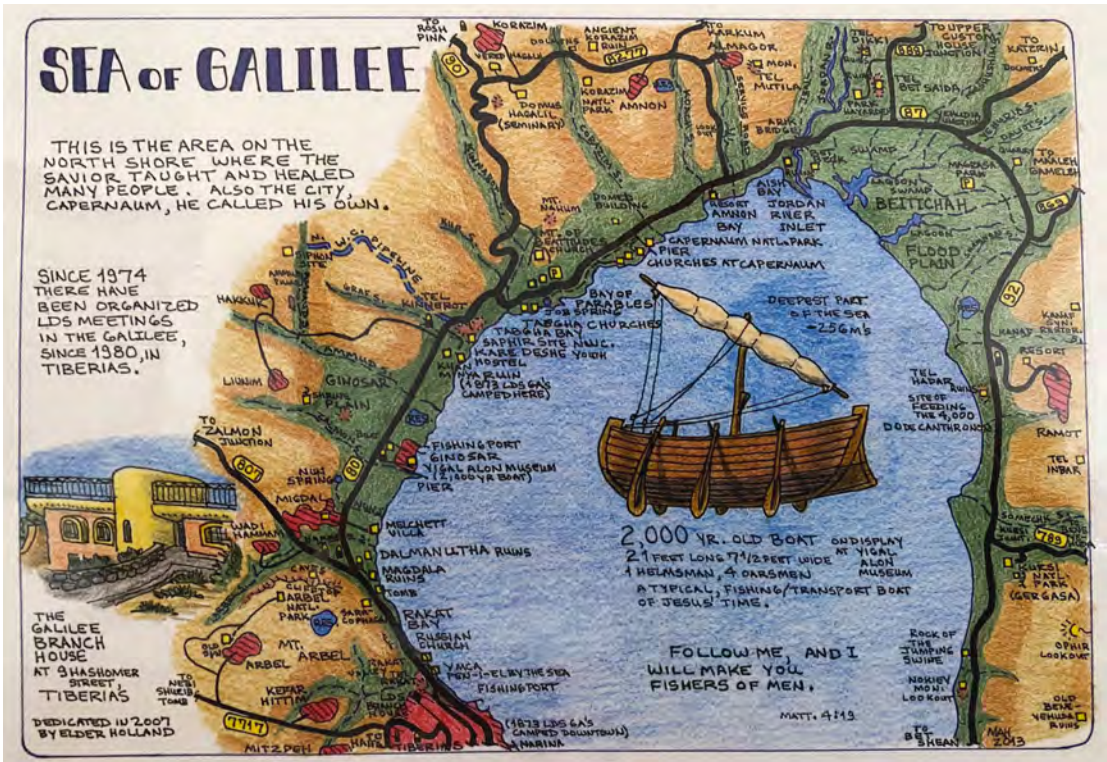




MICHAEL AND ANN HANSEN IN THEIR HAIFA APARTMENT. WE HAD MICHAEL'S VERSION OF STIR-FRY THAT DAY: CHICKEN, RED PEPPERS, AND MUSHROOMS WITH TERIYAKI SAUCE. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT LOCAL COOKING FROM MICHAEL.

MICHAEL HANSEN DRAWING OF THE SEA OF GALILEE WITH THE GALILEE BOAT. MICHAEL TAUGHT WITH HIS DRAWINGS, FILLING THEM WITH HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AND ITS GROWTH IN THE GALILEE.



APPENDIX A

MICHAEL A. HANSEN—IN MEMORIAM

Michael Hansen passed away quietly in the hospital on Friday, August 2, 2024, in Haifa, Israel. He is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter and three sons, and several grandchildren. Michael's family immigrated to Israel in July 1973, three months before the Yom Kippur War. As a soldier, Michael served in the IDF tank regiment and in the Lebanon War (1982). At the time of this writing, he has two sons fighting in Gaza. A soldier in his son Bryan's battalion was killed only yesterday (August 23, 2024). Bryan was among the first soldiers to enter the Gaza Envelope after the horrific Hamas terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. He was unable to talk about the horrors he witnessed in the aftermath of that day despite being a decorated soldier with experience in Lebanon.

After many years away, I returned to Israel in 2021 to photograph the land. Michael and Ann Hansen have been my most valuable resources for everything Israel. There was not a question about history, geography, or archaeology they could not answer. Michael and Ann have studied the land and its history for over fifty years. As Israelis, and because they are fluent in modern Hebrew, Michael and Ann have stayed up to date on the latest lectures and archaeological reports from Israel's universities, which few in the Church can do, even today.

Michael was excited about illustrating *Blessed Pilgrimage* with drawings. He was to cover several of the most important ancient synagogues in the first round of drawings (see the drawing of the Gamla synagogue on page 281). He also did work on Herod's Palace in Jericho and other sites. Alas, he was able to finish only Gamla's synagogue before his unexpected passing.

Michael took an interest in my work soon after my arrival in Israel and was an enthusiastic supporter. He gave me assignments to learn about little-known sites. One such site was Tel Rakkath, located below the LDS Chapel on the outskirts of Tiberias, and the valley by the same name. He challenged me to learn as much as possible about the site, then return and report. I climbed the tel more than once and got stunning photographs of the Sea of Galilee and the entire region north of Tel Rakkath toward Mt. Arbel and the lake's northwest shore. Little did I know then how significant that site would become in my travels. For example, one day, I hiked from the crest of Mt. Arbel to Tiberias. I got gorgeous pictures of the tel and valley as I approached from the north, which I wouldn't have known or thought about except that Michael was interested in my work and took the time to tutor me every time we got together. My favorite photo of Tel Rakkath ended up on the front cover of this book. Michael was a true friend, and I can't see this photo without thinking of him. I needed to remember him this way.

Likewise, the top photo on the front cover of the book came from another Michael and Ann moment. They taught me about the Greek Orthodox Church of the Twelve Apostles and why it was one of their favorite sites. They went there often over the years and knew the priest well. I have visited Israel and Capernaum many times but had never visited Eastern Capernaum and the Greek Orthodox Church. I count it now as one of my favorite places in Israel. There, you can get away from the crowds, and with scriptures in hand and a little time, contemplate the ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee.

One morning, I was listening to Elder Uchtdorf's talk from the latest General Conference (April 2024). He spoke about airplanes and joy, and I thought of Michael because of his love for ships and planes. Several things Elder Uchtdorf said in the talk reminded me of Michael, especially about "devoting our lives to our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son." Michael was always serving, and he was always interested in what I was doing, where I had been during the week, and where I was going the following week. Michael would come to church the next Shabbat with books and a bag of items related to my questions if I mentioned an interest in something. I lost track of how many times it happened. I took pictures of the material he brought and ended up with over five thousand pages from his journals about life in Israel.



MICHAEL AND MY GOOD FRIEND ERICH WILSON. WE VISITED THE CRUSADER FORTRESS OF ATERET ON THE JORDAN RIVER NOT LONG AFTER I ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN 2021. I CREDIT ERICH WITH SAVING MY LIFE DURING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHEN HE KEPT ME ALIVE USING CPR UNTIL THE AMBULANCE ARRIVED. HE ALSO GAVE ME A PRIESTHOOD BLESSING IN THE HOSPITAL. EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THAT DAY, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE MIRACLES THAT SAVED ME. THE PHOTO BELOW OF MICHAEL WAS TAKEN THE SAME DAY AS THE ONE ABOVE.



As I sit here making these few notes about my friend, I envy him a little. He now knows by physical experience what I know in principle through the Spirit. I can't wait to see him! I can't wait to converse with him again about the Holy Land he knew so much about and loved so well.

I love Ann and the Hansen family and treasure their friendship. I pray the Lord will bless and keep them always. I know He will.

MICHAEL'S JOURNAL

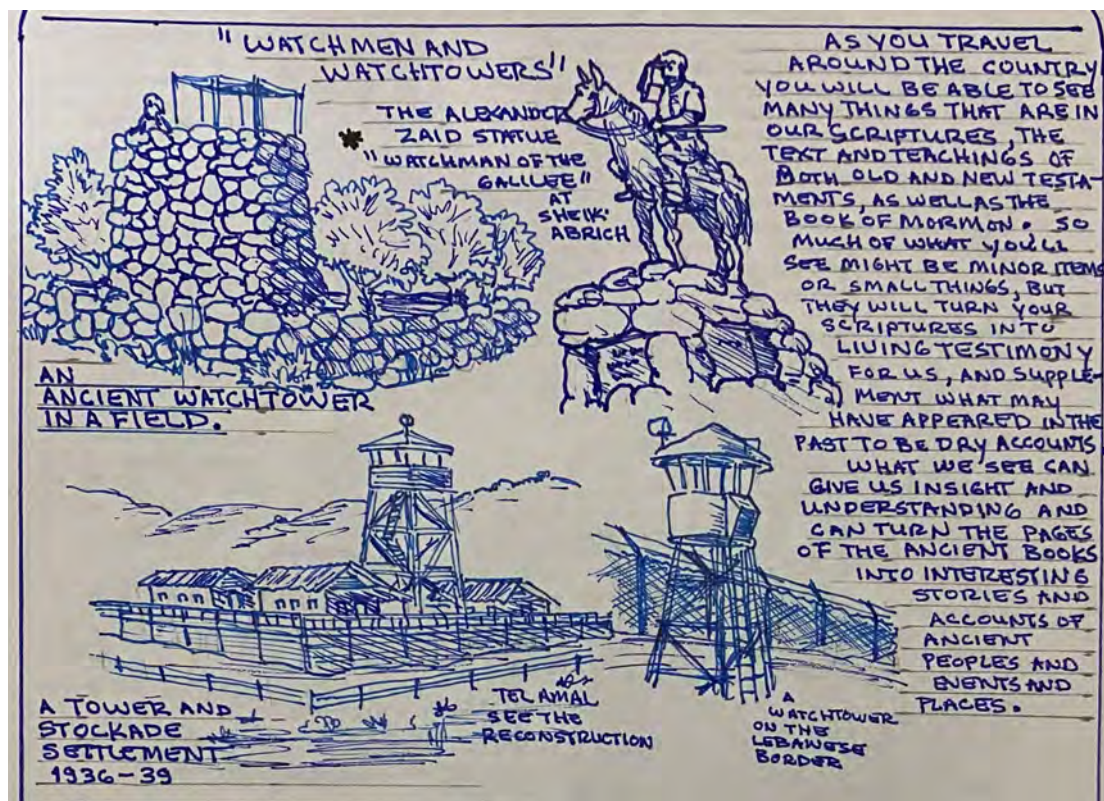
I've included three sample pages below, showing how much of Michael's journal contains sketches about the land, its history, and the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Israel. The binders of notes he brought me week after week influenced the writing of this book. Many of the thoughts it contains originated from discussions with Michael and Ann.

SAMPLE JOURNAL ENTRIES

Entry 1 below: This page is a typical entry from Michael's journal with sketches and notes about what interested him that day. It focuses on scriptural passages about watchmen and watchtowers and how those themes have carried over into modern history, especially of Israel.

Entry 2 on page 298: This page focuses on the Galilee branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In addition to a few historical notes, Michael was wanting to emphasize the location of the branch house in relation to important New Testament events from the life of the Savior (e.g., Magdala, Tabgha, Capernaum, the Galilee Boat, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, and so on).

Entry 3 on page 299: This page is about the first-century AD Jewish historian Josephus, who is quoted many times in this book. Michael's entry tells the story of Josephus, his defense of Jotapata (Yodfat), and his involvement in the Jewish revolt against Roman occupation. Michael was a determined and dedicated writer on all things Israel.



GALILEE BRANCH



AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SYNAGOGUE IN CAPERNAUM WHITE SYNAGOGUE



CHAPEL OF ST. PETER'S TABGHA ST. PETER'S PRIMAOCY



COMING FROM NAZARETH, YOU PASSED BY THIS CLIFF

MOUNT ARBEL CLIFF

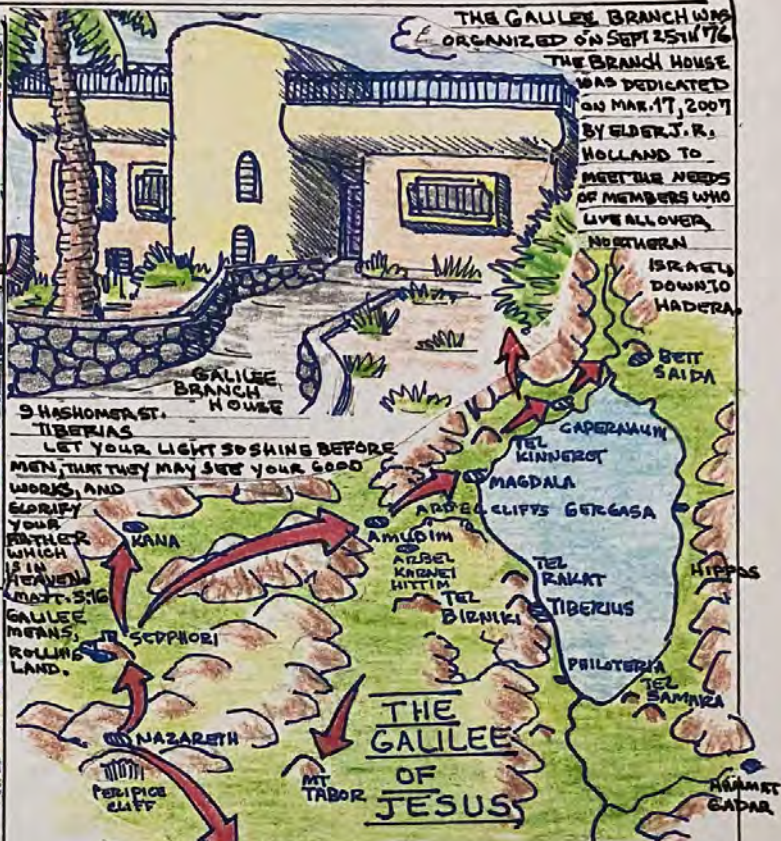


HOME OF THE 2,000 YEAR OLD BOAT

YIGALALON MUSEUM GINOSAR



MARY'S WELL NAZARETH



AN ANCIENT FISHING BOAT



A MODERN FISHING BOAT

AT GINOSAR'S GATE



MAGDALA THE TOMB



A POSSIBLE TRANSFIGURATION SITE MOUNT TABOR



THE BRANCH MEETS SAT. MORNING 10:00 TO 13:00 SAC. MTC, SABBATH SCHOOL, PA/REL SAC AT THE BRANCH HOUSE LOCATION SHASHOMER ST. TIBERIAS, ISRAEL, 14265. PHONE 077-9301292
 BRANCH PRESIDENT: MAH

JOSEPHUS - AUTHOR OF ANCIENT HISTORY Pg. 1 of 1

- A MAIN SOURCE FOR JEWISH ANCIENT HISTORY HERE IN THE HEBREW-ISTIC AND ROMAN PERIODS IS ROMAN PERIOD LEADER, GENERAL AND LATER ON, HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS. - OR AS HE IS KNOWN TO JEWS, YOSUF BEN MATTIAHU. - HE LIVED BETWEEN 37 TO 100 CE (AD) BOTH HERE AND IN ROME. MOST JEWS, THEN TO NOW DON'T CONSIDER HIM AS A PROMINENT PERSONALITY, BUT IN DISGUST, AS A TRAITOR TO HIS JEWISH FAITH, AND TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE. - HE IS OUR GEN. BENEDICT ARNOLD. HE WAS AN OBSESSIVE JEW, HIGH IN THE RELIGIOUS COUNCILS OF HIS DAY. FANATICALLY ZEALOUS, HE HAD BEEN ZEALOUS IN HIS DESIRE TO RID GALILEE, JUDEA AND SAMARIA OF THE INFIDEL ROMAN RULERS AND TROOPS, ESPECIALLY THEIR PAGANISM AND THEIR PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN JUDEA.



"THE COMPLETE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS" JOSEPHUS (A COMPILATION OF FLAVIUS 4 VOLUMES)

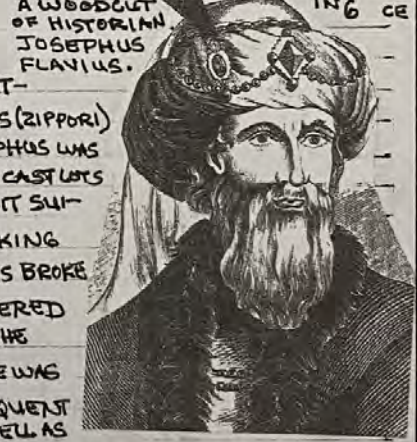
- JOSEPHUS HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE OF JEWISH MILITARY LEADERS IN THE JEWISH REVOLT AGAINST ROMAN OCCUPATION.

- ACTIVE AND PREDOMINANT IN JERUSALEM, HE WAS SENT TO FORTIFY THE GALILEE, AND TO MAKE THE PEOPLE READY FOR THE IMPENDING ROMAN ONSLAUGHT. TO ORGANIZE MILITARILY, TO ADD BACKBONE TO SOME JEWISH LEADERS OR COMMUNITIES. TIBERIUS WAS AN EXAMPLE. WHEN CONFLICT DID BREAK OUT, HE LED MANY IN ARMS AGAINST THE INVADING ROMAN FORCES, SADLY HE WASN'T A VERY UNITING FIGURE IN THE GALILEE, BUT HIGHLY POLARIZING AMONG THE PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS. WHEN ROMAN MILITARY LEADER



TEL YODEFAT, WHERE JOSEPHUS SURRENDERED TO ROMAN TROOPS. AN A MAJOR REVOLT AND FIGHT WITH THE ROMANS.

SWEPT INTO GALILEE WITH HIS FORCES TO QUELL THE REBELLION. IN 6 CE AT THE FIERCE FIGHTING AT YODEFAT IN THE HILLS NORTH OF SEPPHORIS (ZIPPORI) AND AT THE END OF THE LONG SIEGE THERE, JOSEPHUS WAS HIDING OUT IN A CAVE WITH OTHER LEADERS, THEY CAST LOTS TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD BE THE LAST TO COMMIT SUICIDE AFTER ENSURING NONE WOULD SURVIVE TAKING THEIR LIVES AND THEN BEING CAPTURED. JOSEPHUS BROKE HIS VOW AND OATH TO THE OTHERS AND SURRENDERED INSTEAD. HE WAS ALLOWED TO GIVE HIS WORD TO THE ROMANS HE WOULD DISAVOW THE REBELLION AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY THE TROOPS IN THE SUBSEQUENT BATTLES. HIS ACCOUNTS OF JEWISH HISTORY AS WELL AS



A WOODCUT OF HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS.

THE WARS OF THE JEWS IS CONSIDERED TO BE ACCURATE. THOUGH SOME HISTORIANS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS FEEL HE EXAGGERATED JEWISH NUMBERS SO HE COULD PRESENT THE HEROISM OF THE REBELS IN A BETTER LIGHT. RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS NOW CONFIRM & STRENGTHEN HIS ACCOUNTS AS TO GEOGRAPHIC & HISTORICAL CORRECTNESS. HIS IS A GOOD ACCOUNT OF LIFE AND CUSTOMS IN THE 2ND TEMPLE PERIOD, AND POST JESUS CHRIST. MUCH MENTION IS MADE OF THE GALILEE AND IT'S TOWNS LIKE YODEFAT, ZIPPORI, TIBERIAS, GAMALEH, ARBEL, ETC.

MAH 7/11