

RESUME

The Significance of the Archaeological Excavations in Galilee for the Interpretation of the Gospels.

During the latter half of the last century a number of excavations have been conducted throughout the Holy Land. Out of all the sites excavated one stands out in particular and that is Capharnaum which Matthew did not hesitate to call Jesus's "own town". The large number of Gospel references to Capharnaum, when taking into account the proverbial conciseness of the Gospels, is striking and it simply underlines the importance it had in Jesus's public ministry. This settlement has actually been extensively excavated and several remnants from the first century A.D. have been unearthed. Among the most significant are the house of St. Peter and the synagogue from the Early Roman period, however, they are not the only ones meriting attention. This thesis is probably the first work attempting to furnish the reader with a complete description of the archaeological findings that are dated to the first century A.D. Moreover, it contains what is probably the most complete presentation of the extra-biblical references to Capharnaum to date. The aim of this thesis is to present and scrutinize these finds comparatively with both the biblical and extra-biblical sources as well as with finds from other contemporaneous sites in the Levant. Apart from providing the reader with insight into the Capharnean excavations it will hopefully allow him or her to envision Capharnaum while reading the Gospels.

Key Words

Biblical Archaeology

Capharnaum (Capernaum)

First Century Synagogue

House of Saint Peter

Time of Jesus