



## Israël 2 : Biblical past and modernism



**Directed by Chantal BAUMANN**

*French version*  
*English Version*

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Though they have, to a certain extent been transformed by the passage of time, the monuments of the Holy Land are still some of the most respected and reputed destinations for Christian pilgrims.

The faithful come from all over the world to gather in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, on Mount Thabor, by Lake Tiberias, or on Mount Camel.

On the banks of Lake Tiberias is Capernaum, the old town of Galilee, which is referred to in the Gospel: « Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody,...he came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ».

At 200m above sea-level, Lake Tiberias, or the Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake fed by the river Jordan.

Rich in fish, it is known for the violent storms which spring up because of the difference in temperature with the surrounding highlands.

Nazareth is home to the Basilica of the Annunciation (catholic), the largest church in the Middle East.

Inaugurated in 1964 by Pope Paul VI, and consecrated in 1969, it was built on top of the ruins of former churches, and over an ancient grotto, which is thought to be the site of the Annunciation.

In the modern town of Tel Aviv is the Memorial of Yitzhak Rabin.

The port of Jaffa, was very active in the Classical and Middle Ages, together with the two other ports of Ancient Palestine – Acre and Caesarea, it served as an important resting post for European ships en route to the Orient.

Further on, the Negev desert, with its pastel-coloured stones, is one of Israel's best-kept secrets.