

Two Seas in the Holy Land

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By Lenny Cacchio

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—The book of John in the Gospels mentioned a quote from Jesus Christ talking about "rivers of living water."

John 7:37-38—"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "

Let me tell you about the two seas in the Holy Land. One is the Sea of Galilee in the north. The other is the Dead Sea in the south.

The Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake, cool and refreshing and alive with fish. It is filled with runoff from adequate rainfall and from cool, flowing springs to its north. Fishermen and recreation abound.

Water flows into the Sea of Galilee from the north and out via the Jordan River to its south. Along its route the Jordan River picks up salts as it journeys southward and eventually dumps its water into the Dead Sea, including the impurities it picks up along the way.

It rarely rains in the vicinity of the Dead Sea. It is truly situated in a dry and thirsty land. Neither is there any outlet from the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea gains water and salt by an inflow from the Jordan, but unlike the Sea of Galilee there is no stream draining it. It loses water solely from evaporation.

The water evaporates, leaving behind a brine rich in salt but devoid of life. The Dead Sea is dead because no meaningful life can be supported in its waters.

To the north is the Sea of Galilee, abounding with life and activity. To the south is the Dead Sea.

When Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water," perhaps He was thinking of these two seas—one with water-giv-

ing life as waters flow through it and the other dead because it takes in water, but gives back nothing.

When He referred to living water as the Holy Spirit and painted the picture of it as flowing water, was He offering a parable for you and me?

Was He suggesting for us to be conduits for God's nature, refreshing and healing the world by reflecting God's nature rather than always taking in but never giving back?

There are two seas in the Holy Land.