

The Land of the Gadarenes

Matt.8:18, 23-34, Mark 4:35-5:20, Luke 8:22-39

The land of the **GAD**arenes in the Gospels is Gadite territory. You may recall this is the place where Yeshua (Jesus) cast out the Legion of demons from the man who lived among the tombs and allowed them to go into the herd of swine which them, like lemmings, took a fatal swan dive over the cliff and into the sea where they drown.

There is a preposterous barrage of purposeful misinformation being dished out by Jewish Archeologist Simcha Jacobovici to try and plant seeds doubt within the mind of the believer who says Yeshua (Jesus) went to Spain and that is where he cast out the Legion of demons from the demoniac, but if that were so, that would mean the Scriptures are in error and we know the Scriptures are inerrant.

Mr. Jacobovici says that there are three places in Israel which are traditionally said to be the place where Yeshua cast out the demons from the possessed man; Kursi, Hippos and Gadara. His requirements as he reads these gospel accounts are that there must be cliffs and tombs nearby. Kursi has cliffs but no tombs, Hippos has no cliffs but tombs and though Gadara meets the criteria he says the cliffs are too far away due to Marks account which seems to indicate the tombs and cliffs were side by side. However, cliffs are not a requirement for in the Greek and Aramaic of the Gospels a steep hill is indicated (Matt. 8:32) and not necessarily a sheer cliff as he assumed. He also argues that the boats used on the Sea of Galilee were too small for Yeshua (Jesus) to fall asleep in. But there were yacht-like boats with small cargo holds where one could sleep in. The Gospel account indicates that smaller vessels accompanied the larger one Yeshua was in (Mark 4:35-38). The Gospel language in the Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic in Matthew 8:18 clearly

indicate the crossing of a small body of water, the “Sea” (really more of a Lake) of Galilee and not the vast expanse of the Mediterranean Ocean!

Some doubt the validity of the Gospels and cite the inconstancy of the number of demoniacs Yeshua dealt with, was it one or two? Matthew says two, Mark and Luke only speak of one. The answer is simple, there were two as Matthew said, but the main focus was on only one of the two demoniacs, one was more prominent than the other.

So it is believed that the main demoniac that was dealt with was a Gadite. By this time the tribes have been scattered due to disobedience to the Torah and many of the 10 tribes would have assimilated into the pagan peoples around them, thus living in places where unclean pigs are raised. It is believed that this demoniac was a Gadite because he resided in the Gadite territory of Gadara and that this man was prone to violence as a warrior would be and that his possession was not a simple one, but the demons said, “we are Legion, for we are many,” and recall that the name Gad means troop, or we could say, a legion!

Mark 5:20 says the formerly demon possessed man gave his testimony of deliverance in Decapolis, but didn’t we say he was a Gadarene? Decapolis means, “10 cities,” so Decapolis was a region and not a city itself, but a territory of cities, one of which was Gadara known today as Umm Qais. The other cities of the Decapolis are; Gerasa in Jordan, Scythopolis (Beth Shean), Hippos, Pella, Philadelphia (Amman in Jordan), Capitolias (Beth Ras), Canatha (Qanawat), Raphana and Damascus.

Simcha Jacobovici tries to make the argument that in Southern Spain there is a Gadara (modern Cadize) which is known for its pig farms, its celebration of the dead and has cliffs and tombs side by side with surrounding cities that has the prefix “Gaud” which is the Spanish word for Gad. He also speaks of anchors with Hebrew inscription being found there and points out a footprint cast which locals

says is Jesus' footprint and that after His death and resurrection many of his family and disciples fled to Spain. None of which proves Jesus went there to cast out a Legion of demons, but does indicate a Gadite presence in Spain as well as a settle of 1st century believers. The locals of the area even call themselves "Gaditanos!" Historically the Spanish Conquistadors would fit the Jacobic and Mosaic prophecies concerning Gad.