


# HULEH LAKE

(H)



At the foot of Mount Hermon, several smaller streams of water come together to make the beginning of the Jordan River. The valley where these rivers meet is called Huleh. A little farther south these rivers run into a lake called Huleh Lake. In the Bible this lake is sometimes called the Waters of Merom.

## WHAT WAS HULEH LAKE LIKE IN THE DAYS OF JESUS?

In the time of the Bible and long after that (until about 1950), this valley was wet and soft. The lake was muddy. At least one half of Huleh could be called a swamp. Many mosquitoes were here and some of them carried a disease called "malaria". Tall rushes grew on this ground that was always soaked with water. Travellers knew that this land was dangerous because it was soft and muddy. So those who travelled this way, made a trail on the side of the nearby mountains. It was safer here.

## WHAT IS THE HULEH LAKE AREA LIKE NOW?

When Israel became a new nation in 1948, and Jews came from all parts of the world to live here, the men in this new nation needed all the good farm land that they could find anywhere. They made a plan to drain off the water from this swamp so they could use this land for farming. They dug out some of the land making great ditches. Then the water was pumped into these ditches or trenches. Today if you would visit

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Huleh, you would see many canals full of water. They look like blue threads woven back and forth and up and down the land. In between the canals there are beautiful fields of green corn and sugar cane, rice and wheat. There are red, yellow and purple fields too where flower bulbs are raised. Now this land is the best farm land in all of Israel. These brave people wanted also to protect the birds and animals that they found at Huleh. So they made this a Nature Reserve. Here, birds and animals are safe. They feed, rest, and raise their families. No one can harm living creatures in a reserve.

WHAT IMPORTANT THING HAPPENED IN THIS HULEH LAND?

Once many of the enemies of Israel joined together and came to make war against Israel. They came with many horses and chariots. It seemed as if these enemies were like the grains of sand on the sea. You can read about what happened here by Huleh Lake in Joshua 11:1-9.