

1. Main Points:

- a. Decapolis – other names.
- b. Psalm 107:23-29
- c. “the driven-out ones”

2. Review of “Sea.”

- Abyss
- Enemy of God
- Forces of Chaos
- Authority of God/Son

3. Decapolis –

- Considered unclean by religious Jews
- Opposite of the area where Jesus lived/ministry
- A euphemism for a ‘dirty’ word

4. Example from a writing called **Sirach** (in the Catholic Bible - Ecclesiasticus)

- The writer won’t use the proper name Samaritans –

25. Two nations my soul detests,

And the third is not even a people:

26. those who live in Seir, and the Philistines

And the foolish people that live in Shechem

Sirach 50:25-26

5. **Mark 4:35** (compared to Luke 8:22)

- ‘other side’
- ‘other side’ of what?

Religious Jews

- God
- Torah
- Synagogue
- Modesty
- Piety
- Community
- all people made in ‘Image of God’

Decapolis

- many gods
- sexuality of the gods
- sport in nude
- Hellenistic worldview
 - All about me
 - certain people are more valuable than others.

6. Jesus stills the storm (Mark 4:39)

- Psalm 107: 23-29

7. Mark 5:1 – ‘land of the **Gerasenes**’

- This word has created difficulty for scholars as multiple manuscripts have other spellings.
- See the footnote in your Bible: Gadarenes or Gergesenes

8. Suggested cities:

- Geresa – the problem is that it is 40 miles from Sea.
- Gadara – the problem is that it is 6 miles from the Sea.
- Village of Kursi (which would have been considered part of Hippos)
 - This village is the closest to a cliff that runs into the sea.

9. The ‘**driven out ones**’ or ‘**the expelled ones**’ –

- In the Hebrew Bible, the word for “expel” or “cast out” is *Gerash* (גרש)

“Observe what I command you this day. I will **drive out (*Gerash*)** before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.”

Exodus 33:11

- God drove out the pagan nations. Where did they go?

10. Bargil Pixner suggests that Mark uses a Hebrew word (*Gerushim*) transliterated into Greek to describe the land across the lake.

- Origen of Alexandria (184 – 253 AD) comments on **Gerasenes** different spellings in various manuscripts in his commentary on John's Gospel.

“Now, the meaning of Gergesa is ‘**dwelling of the casters-out**’”

11. “expelled” or “cast out” is a theme of the event:

People of the Decapolis	“the driven-out ones”
Daemons	“cast out” by Jesus
Jesus	“driven out” by the people of Hippos

12. Next week – Decapolis as an “unclean” area.