

# 88 Chorazin

## Names (also known as)

Korazim (Hebrew), Khirbet Karaze (Arab village), Almagor (present day village)

## Etymology

Chorazin is an Aramaic word that Thayer defines as a furnace of smoke. The Hebrew name for the town is Korazim and may come from the word *karoz* which means to announce.

## Location/Description



Chorazin is located on a hill 300m above the Sea of Galilee and about 4.5 km north.

## Scriptural references

### New Testament

Matt.11:21; Luke10:13 - Its only mention is a condemnation by Christ because the town ignored his teachings and the miracles he did.

## Brief history

Chorazin seems to have been built during the 1st century AD. In Scripture it is grouped with nearby towns Bethsaida and Capernaum. However the ruins seen today date to later periods of building in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. According to the Babylonian Talmud the city was known for its grain production and as

archeologists have found many olive millstones, it seems olive oil was also part of its economy. The village was constructed using local black basalt volcanic rock. Most of its structures date to the 3rd and 4th centuries. The village is broken into 5 parts with the central section being the location of the synagogue.



The synagogue was built late in the 3rd century and according to Eusebius was destroyed by an earthquake in the 4th. One of the synagogues most striking features is the seat of Moses, from which public speaking was done. This explains Christ's words in Matt. 23:2-3, the Pharisees desired the spotlight of sitting in the seat of Moses (see photo below) and presiding over the people.



With the rebuilding of the synagogue in the 6th century the city was inhabited until the 8th century and then again from the 13th century until the 20th. In 1948 the city was abandoned by its Bedouin inhabitants for the last time.



## **The warning of Chorazin**

Like the city of Chorazin we have heard the words of Christ and the message of the Father and unlike them we need to receive it with all readiness of mind, so that when we stand before our risen Lord we will not hear the awful condemnation of Chorazin and Capernaum but rather the words; well done my good and faithful servant.

### **Sources:**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chorazin>

Biblewalks.com

Seetheholyland.net

Frommers Guide to Israel

(Compiler – Dan Leadbetter)