



Emperor Tiberius • Pilate • Herod the Great Master Builder





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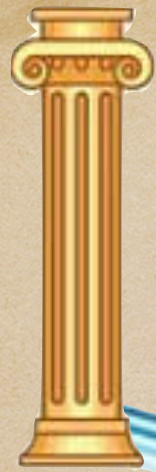
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# Caesarea

## Definitions

**amphitheater** - These were similar to our stadiums. gladiators (criminals, captured slaves or army deserters) would fight each other or have athletic contests between each other or with animals such as lions, tigers, bears, crocodiles, elephants or rhinoceros. There were also contests between animals. Specially trained animals would also perform.

There were also track and field events, wrestling and boxing by naked competitors (which the Jews looked upon as very shameful). Sometimes performing arts were featured at the amphitheatre, such as singing, dancing, and poetry readings.

**aqueducts** - Stone structures used to carry water to the city usually from very long distances.

**basilica** - A rectangular building surrounded by columns. It could be used as a public hall or court room. Some early churches were designed this way.

**centurion** - An officer in the Roman army in charge of 100 soldiers.

**circus or hippodrome** - These were larger than the amphitheatres and used for chariot racing and stunt riding. The race track had a sharp curve at one end and competitors needed great skill. Competitors would try any trick to disable competing chariots.

**forum** - A place where crowds could gather to hear speakers or to discuss issues of the day.

**Herod's Promontory Palace** - This luxurious palace in Caesarea juttred out over the sea and visitors could enter from the sea at the lower level.

**mole** — A breakwater or harbor with a stone barrier that helps protect it from the forceful waves.

**Pax Romana** - The terms of peace imposed by Rome on any of its possessions.

**prefect** - Various high ranking officials in Rome or chief magistrates in charge of governmental military departments.

**procurator** - In the Roman empire this was an official who managed the financial affairs of a province or acted as governor of a territory not having the status of a province.

**province** - Any of the outside territories controlled and ruled by ancient Rome.

**public baths** - Only the very wealthy had bathing facilities in their homes. Others used well engineered steamy public baths which were also popular social gathering places.

**theatre** - Semi-circle seating was usually made out of stones and arranged in a staggered formation down a steep hillside uncovered. Plays, musical performances and dancing programs were featured on stage at the theaters.

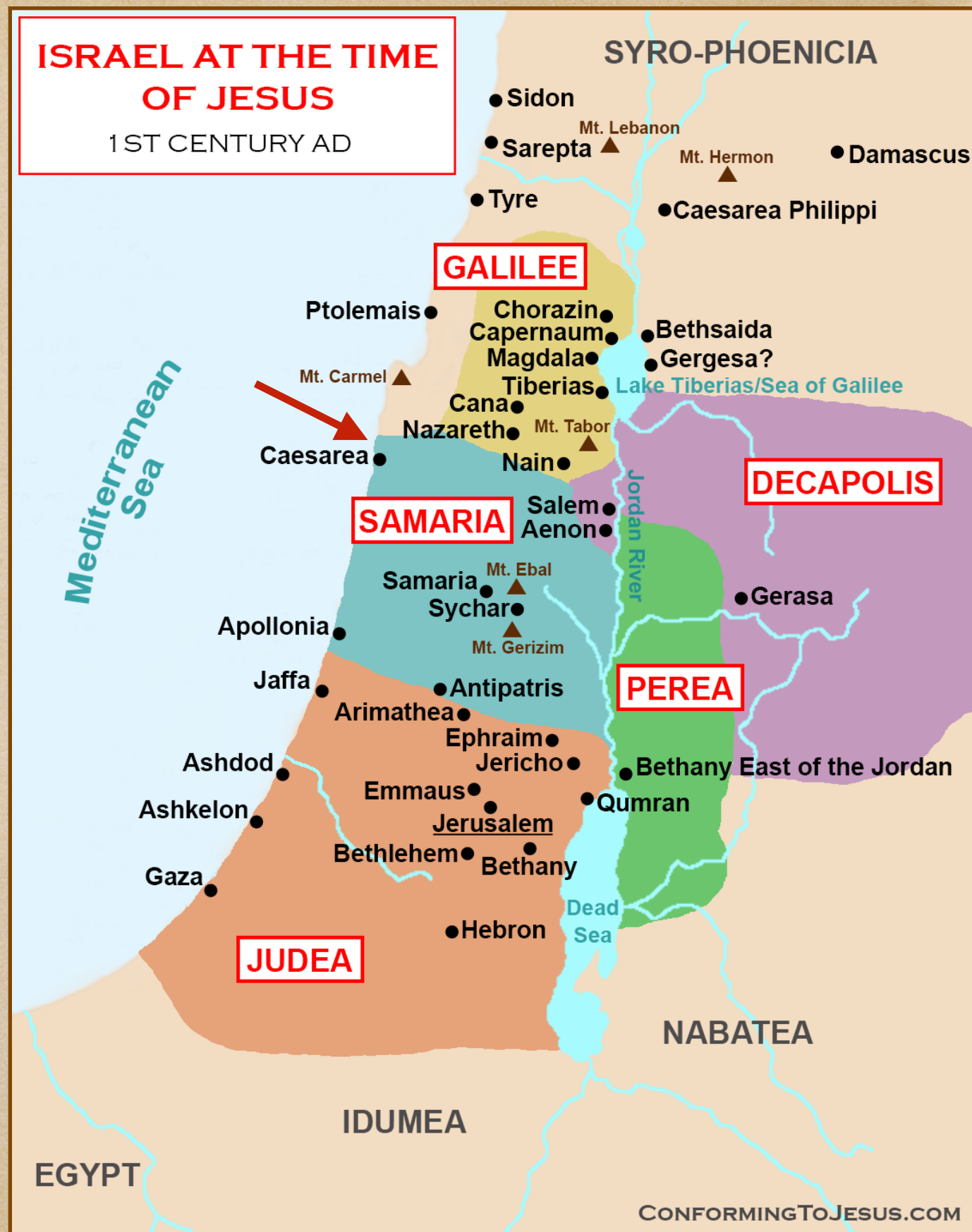




Where are we?

## ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD





# Caesarea

## What time is it according to bible prophecy?

King Nebuchadnezzar was king of the Babylonian Empire (Chaldea) when Daniel and his friends were taken captive from their homeland, Judah. During this time the king had a strange dream and he wanted someone in his court to not only tell him what the dream meant, but what the dream was! None of his wisemen, magicians, astrologers or sorcerers could do that. They would be killed if they didn't come up with the answers—and soon! With God's help Daniel offered to tell the king his dream and its interpretation. God gave Daniel all of the answers in a night vision.

### The Dream (Daniel 2:31-36, 45)

He saw this awesome image with:

- (1) a head of gold
- (2) chest of silver
- (3) belly & thighs of bronze
- (4) legs of iron with feet of clay & iron mixed

### The Meaning (Daniel 2:37-45)

World powers beginning with:

- (1) Babylon  
Nebuchadnezzar
- (2) Medes & Persians  
King Cyrus
- (3) Greece  
Alexander the Great
- (4) Roman  
The Caesars

**Then** Daniel saw a stone cut (without hands) out of a mountain & it rolled down and broke the images of gold, silver, bronze, iron & clay!

As these world empires came on the scene and conquered each one in succession beginning with the Babylonians up to the Romans, God revealed there would be a kingdom coming that could not be destroyed as these earthly kingdoms were. It would be everlasting.

This kingdom would come “in the days of these kings (Roman) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...” (Daniel 2:44) It was during this time Jesus Christ would come and His church (or kingdom) would be established. His rule would not be over some country, but over His church and in the hearts of those who obey His will. It would never be destroyed like these earthly kingdoms for it would last forever.

**According to prophecy  
the time period  
in this study we are in  
is the Roman empire era—  
“during the days of these kings”**

Some Additional Scriptures: Matthew 7:21; 16:19, 28; Luke 17:20-21; Mark 9:1; John 3:3, 5; 18:36; Galatians 5:19 - 25





# Caesarea

## The Harbor

Have you ever heard of a Jewish Navy? No, and I doubt that anybody else has either. Along their coastline there was no place deep enough to develop a harbor that could accommodate large ships. Since Egypt was one of the major powers at that time Israel got lots of land traffic from the fertile crescent to Egypt and visa versa. If you wanted to get to Israel by water you would go to Egypt or probably to Lebanon and then get there on land the best way you could.

Herod, a very wicked person, yet a master builder, could not stand for that so he devised the plan to make an artificial harbor. This port would be the largest ever built in the open sea, up to that time.

Amazingly, this port was built in record time considering the problems to overcome. It was amazing even considering massive building projects done today. This harbor was built in c. 23-15 BCE. It was then called "Sebastos" in honor of Augustus, the Roman emperor at the time.

Looking at the views (on the right) it appears to be reaching out with protective arms to guard the ships coming into the harbor. A ship going into this port would be protected from the battering waves of the sea.

This unusual port has been studied repeatedly underwater and getting samples of building materials and methods of building. Like how do you pour cement in water and make it harden? Hydraulic cement was used, making it hard under water and would be strong enough to stand up against turbulence in the sea.



Aerial views of the seaport at Caesarea  
"Sebastos"





# Caesarea

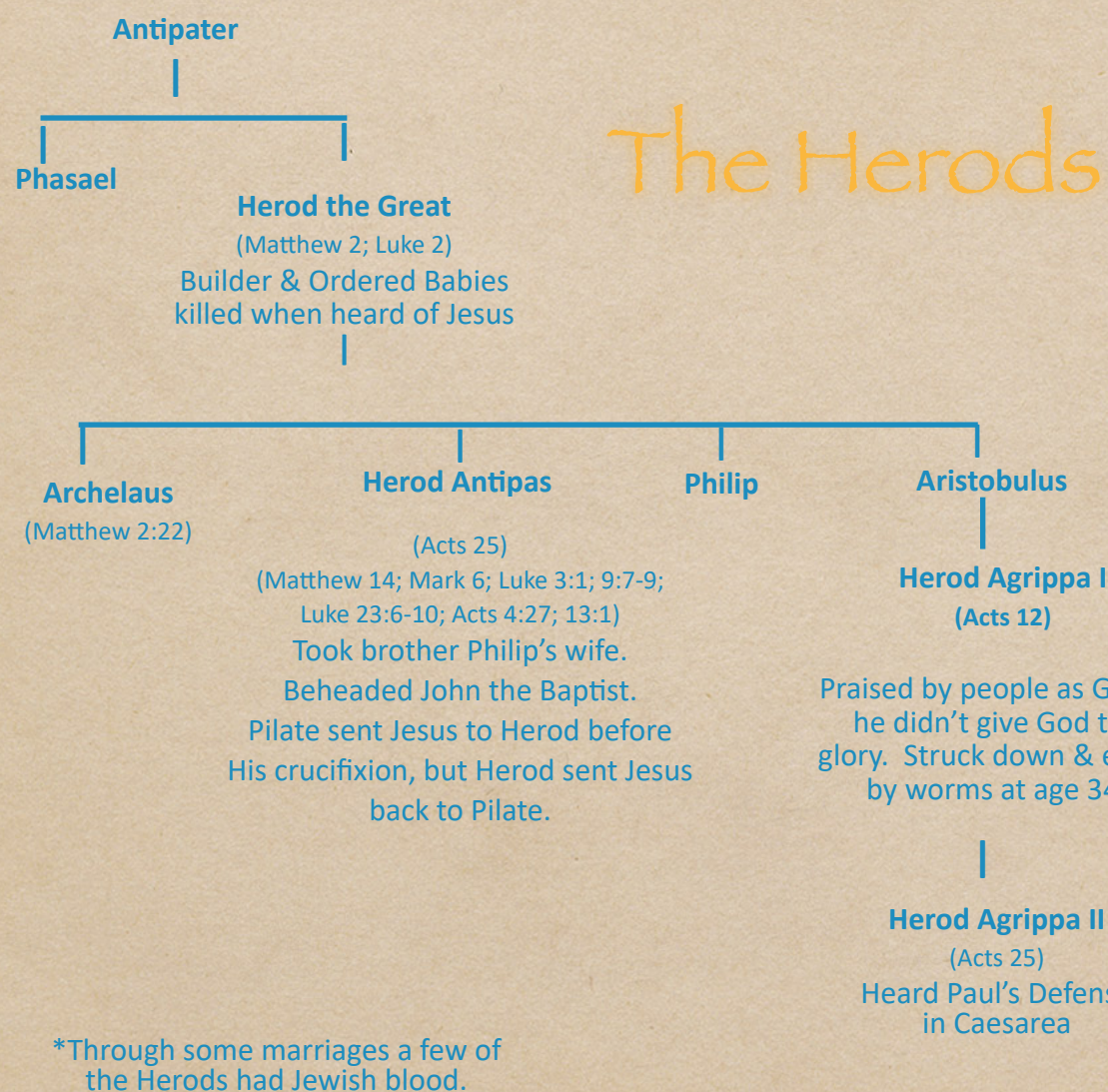
## The Herods



**Masada (fortress)**

An isolated rock plateau looming up on the eastern side of the Judean desert, rising about 1300 ft. above the Dead Sea level, became another engineering feat by Herod the Great. He built palaces on top, storerooms, cisterns and fortified it.

Later when Israel was under siege by the Romans it became a fortress for the Jews. It was vacant for years and eventually became a monastery. When Muslims took over Masada again became vacant. It is now an Israeli national park.







# Caesarea

## Herod the Great Master Builder & Master Murderer

It was hazardous to your health if you were to be a Roman ruler or high ranking official and you didn't honor the emperor somehow. There was always someone lurking in the wings wanting to take your place. Poisoning People was raised to an art with the Romans. Being skewered with a handy knife or sword was also a possibility. Ask Julius Caesar.

### A Jewish King Herod

But King Herod was a *Jewish* ruler serving under the Roman political system. He was Idumean (a Greek name for Edom), descendants of Esau. He was made a procurator of Judea by Caesar and was later given the title of king. He was cruel and liked nothing better than showing his authority.

### Herod Did Not Spare Family

In his personal life Herod had ten wives. He was so paranoid he had many people killed, including his favorite wife Marianne. He also murdered his two sons by Marianne—Aristobulus and Alexander. Other sons and family members were cruelly eliminated as a matter of course.

### Herod and the Jesus Problem

Jesus was born just before the end of Herod the Great's reign. After questioning the wise men he feared this child would threaten his kingship. Therefore, he ordered the slaughter of all the male children two years old and under in Bethlehem.

### Early Prophecy of this Event

In a prophecy concerning Bethlehem, Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife and mother of Joseph and Benjamin is buried in Bethlehem. The prophet Jeremiah laments that figuratively "Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children for they are no more." Jeremiah 31:15

### Roman Accomplishments

With the Romans Herod was in his element. The Roman empire was at the height of its long and powerful reign and they were master soldiers and builders. Roads, buildings and aqueducts were constructed all over the vast empire, many you can still see today. Many are still in use. Herod the Great is particularly noted for his massive building projects.

### The Temple

Herod added many beautiful buildings just to the city of Rome. However, his crowning achievement was adding dramatically to the Temple. Herod held hopes this would gain some favor from the Jews. The original Temple was built by Solomon during Israel's golden age. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon looted and destroyed this Temple.

Seventy years later (according to prophecy) the Israelites (Jews) were allowed to return to their homeland, Judah, to rebuild their Temple and their life there. The construction of this second Temple was led by Zerubbabel and it was not nearly as grand as Solomon's Temple. People who had seen the first Temple wept when they saw this later version of it. It was this Temple Herod enlarged and enhanced.

This became known as Herod's Temple which was destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans. All that remains of it until this day is the

**"Wailing Wall."**







# Caesarea

## Caesarea Maritima

Israel was never known for its Navy, mainly because they didn't have one. The reason is simple—they didn't have deep harbors along their coastline or deep enough for large seagoing vessels. So, how did people all across the Mediterranean get to Judea for trade, religious observances, visits, etc.?

### Travel to a Country with No Ports

First, they could go over land which could make it a very long journey, usually on foot. The Romans had built an extensive road system throughout their empire which expedited travel and spread of the gospel. It was still a long, hot journey.

Secondly, a traveler could get passage on a ship going to Alexandria, Egypt. The traveler could then go north on land to Judea, crossing the brutal Sinai Peninsula. While another option was to transfer to a smaller ship and continue up the coast closer to Judea. The small vessels were more vulnerable to storms at sea.

Tyre or Sidon could also be a port of entry, having the same options as landing in Alexandria.



### The Problem Solver

Herod the master builder decided to solve this problem. He was going to make a seaport and a city worthy to become the Roman capital of Judea. This feat would not only enhance his master builder image but would also give him an opportunity to heap more glory on the Roman Emperor Augustus (Octavian). Building up an emperor's fragile ego could extend your own life—unless that emperor was assassinated and you were suddenly perceived as being on the wrong side politically.

### Construction on the City and Harbor

Herod began construction on the city and harbor in 22 B.C. honoring Caesar Augustus. His seawall in the port at Caesarea was an engineering feat that would be difficult to accomplish even today. The expense would be prohibitive. The Romans had devised a way to put concrete under water and the concrete would harden.

### Entertainment

Herod also built theaters, a circus or hippodrome, all sorts of entertainment and sports venues to help keep up with Rome. Most of the Jews did not care to participate in many of these activities, but the general population embraced them. If Jews decided to go to one of these venues they had to dress like a Roman, then they were treated with disgust by their fellow Jews.





# Caesarea

Caesarea Maritima

Several views of this  
Unique Harbor



As many as 300 ships could enter the protected harbor. The breakwater inside the walls was called the mole. The buildings on the pier were used for warehousing and for putting up sailors between trips.



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Emperor  
Tiberius

Critics of the bible constantly look to find fault. First, they claimed there was no such person as Pontius Pilate. Then, if there was he didn't live at the same time as Emperor Tiberius.

Earthquakes and wars do a lot of damage in the Mediterranean area. If a building is destroyed builders will take material from it and use it in another structure. Some Italian archaeologists were repairing and stabilizing a theatre in Caesarea. While repairing the steps a stone was loose and it was pulled out and they were amazed it had an inscription carved in it! It had been facedown and used as a step. Part of it had been chiseled out to make it even with the other steps.

In latin the stone showed where Pilate had dedicated a building to Tiberius, the Roman emperor at that time. It also gives Pilate's position as prefect of Judea.



Pilate Stone was used for a step in this theatre in Caesarea.



The partial inscription reads[conjectural letters in brackets]:

[DIS AUGUSTU]S TIBERIEUM  
[...PO]NTIUS PILATUS  
[...PRAEF]ECTUS JUDA[EA]E  
[...FECIT DJE[DICAVIT]

From Latin to English for the inscription reads:

To the Divine Augusti [this]Tiberium  
...Pontius Pilate  
...prefect of Judea  
...has dedicated [this]

Pontius Pilate



This inscription certainly removes any doubt that Tiberius and Pilate were contemporaries. A ring was also discovered near Bethlehem with Pilate's inscription.





# Caesarea

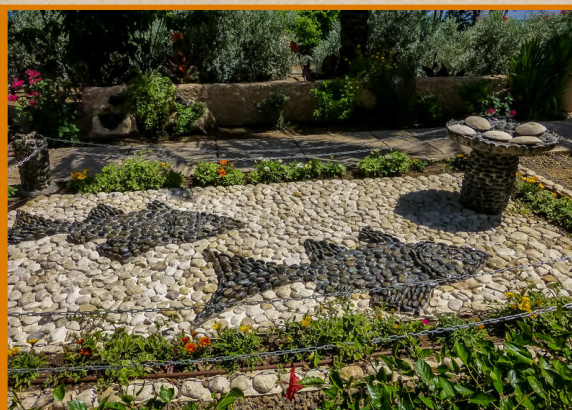
## The Bible in Mosaics

The two mosaics on the right were found in the old revenue office in Caesarea. Both mosaics have part of a verse in the bible found in Romans 13:3. The mosaics represent a longer and shorter version of this scripture.

It is not surprising the quote from the bible was put in a public place where people had to go to pay their taxes! I have seen some film clips and power points done professionally and not one has mentioned these mosaics have anything to do with the bible.

The mosaics showing the loaves and the fish are found scattered about Israel.

Matthew 14:19

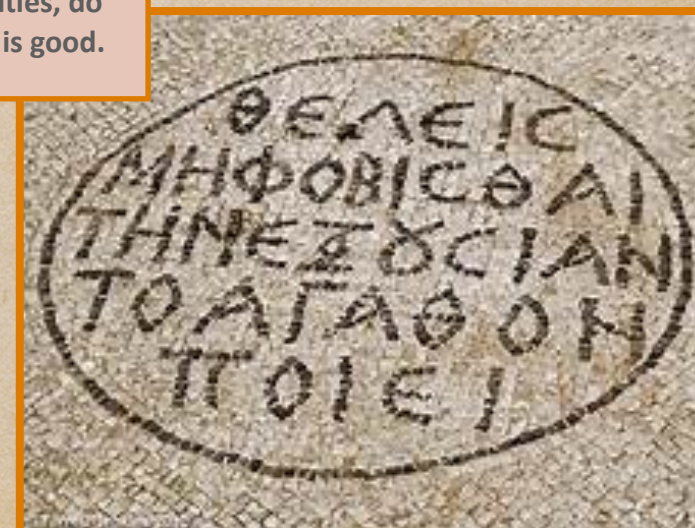


For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Romans 13:3



If you would not fear the authorities, do that which is good.







# Caesarea

## The Roman Centurions

Basic training to become a Roman soldier was particularly harsh. Soldiers came out of this experience very hardened, very tough and very brave. It was difficult to survive Roman scouring. Their god was Caesar.

When the Romans occupied the land of Palestine there was little love lost between the Romans and the Jews. Yet one Roman centurion, gained their respect. He had been in charge of building a synagogue for the Jews in Capernaum.

When he heard about Jesus coming to the area he wanted Him to heal his servant. He was very humble and didn't feel worthy for Jesus to even to even enter his house. He expressed enough faith in Jesus that he knew if Jesus would just say the word his servant would be healed. He's explained how he understood authority in the army and realized Jesus had all authority.

Later when Jesus was crucified a centurion was guarding him. As he saw the things that happened and felt the earthquake he said that this man (Jesus) must be "the Son of God!"

Forty days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead He ascended back to Heaven before a group of people including His apostles. The apostles were instructed to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. This event became the beginning of the Lord's church and for awhile the only members were Jews. Traditionally, Jews and gentiles did not associate with each other.

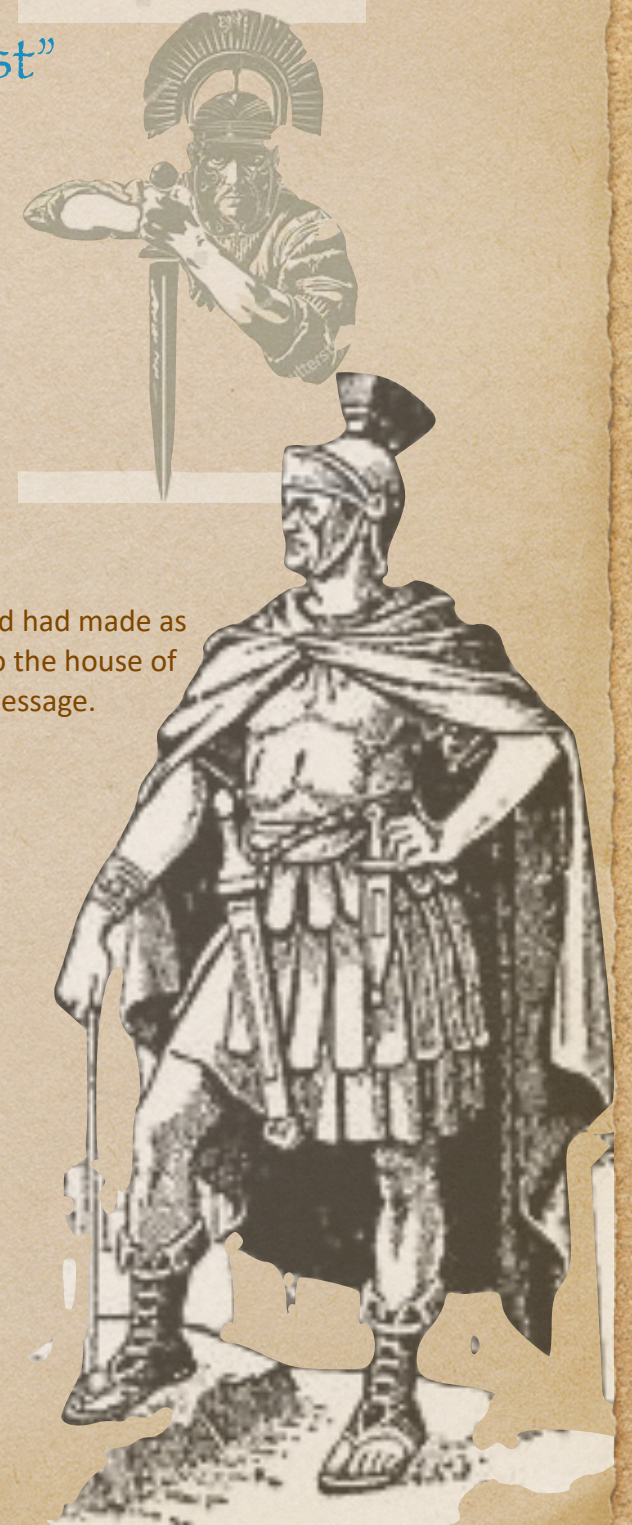
## "The Gentile Pentecost"

Sometime later in Caesarea a centurion named Cornelius was a good man, did good works and prayed to God regularly. An angel of God told Cornelius to send for the apostle Peter in Joppa and he would tell Cornelius what he needed to do.

In the meantime, Peter was experiencing a strange vision teaching him not to call anything or anyone God had made as "unclean." Cornelius' men took Peter and his group to the house of Cornelius where many had gathered to hear Peter's message.

Realizing the gospel message of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection was for gentiles, too. Peter preached to the gathering. The Holy Spirit fell upon these gentile believers and all were baptized in the name of the Lord. Cornelius became the first recorded high ranking Roman gentile to become a Christian.

Matthew 8:5-10; 27:54; Luke 7:1-10; 23:47; Acts 2, 10, 11







# Caesarea

## Apostle Paul in Caesarea



Hearing after hearing after hearing!  
Before

Gov. Felix • Gov. Festus • King Herod Agrippa

After leaving Jerusalem, heavily guarded, Paul is handed over to Gov. Felix with Claudius Lysias' letter. Paul does not go to a prison cell but is taken to Herod's Palace (or Judgement Hall). However, he is continually under guard.

Paul becomes something of a curiosity. Dignitaries who dropped by to pay a social call hear about Paul. They wanted to see and hear him speak.

The Jews didn't waste any time in bringing a group with a lawyer to continue to present their charges against Paul. Their lawyer, Tertullus, flattered Felix every way he could dream up and presented charges he couldn't back up.

Paul's rebuttal was reasoned about righteousness, self-controlled judgment to come. Felix kept wanting to hear more about "the way."

He even brought his Jewish wife to hear Paul. Felix trembled. He declared that when he had a "convenient season" he would send for Paul. (He also hoped that Paul would offer him a bribe!) Felix is a true example of someone convicted, but not converted.

Festus came to replace Felix. Jews came up from Jerusalem to, again, press charges they could not prove. Paul reiterated that he had done nothing wrong against Jewish law, the Temple or against Roman law. When they were considering trying him in Jerusalem Paul appealed to Caesar.

King Agrippa and his wife Bernice came to visit Festus and to hear Paul. Paul gave an account of his life and conversion. Agrippa asked if Paul was trying to convert him in such a short time? Yet he agreed that Paul had not done anything deserving death. Since he asked for it, Paul would go to Caesar!





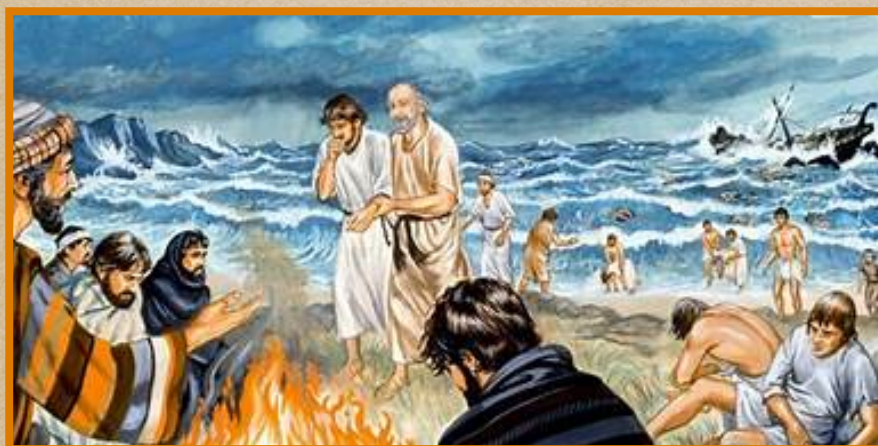
# Caesarea

To Caesar Paul will go!

Paul spent two years in prison or house arrest in Caesarea and two years in Rome. In Rome he was in his own rented house, but always had a Roman guard. Sometime during these imprisonments Paul wrote his "prison epistles." The prison letters are as follows: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

Paul boarded a ship sailing to Rome from Caesarea. A Roman centurion named Julius was assigned to Paul. Two brothers, Luke and Aristarchus were with Paul. Midway in the journey a violent storm arose up and broke up the ship, but all were saved. They reached Malta where very hospitable people took them in. Their trip was delayed until they could get on another ship—and in better weather.

After three months they again set sail for Rome. A group of Christians met them along in Italy on their way to Rome. These extra days spent with fellow Christians greatly encouraged Paul.



Castor  
&  
Pollux



In Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself in his own rented house, but he always had to have a Roman guard with him. He sent word out to the Christians in Rome and explained to them what his situation was. People came to see him to see him and Paul never failed to teach and to reason with them. Some of the Jews still had problems with gentiles being Christians also. Paul kept this up for two years in Rome.