



Caesarea Fact Sheet

Location: In the upper Galilee on the Mediterranean Sea, halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa.



Meaning of Name: also referred to as “Caesarea Maritima” (to distinguish from Caesarea Philippi in the Golan); name means “town of Caesar”

Bible References: 15x

- *Acts 8:40, 21:8* – Home of Philip the Evangelist
- *Acts 10:1* – Home of Cornelius, first Japhethite to trust Christ
- *Acts 12:19-23* – King Herod killed by God due to pride
- *Acts 23:23-33* – Paul brought from Jerusalem to Caesarea to be tried
- *Acts 25* – Paul tried before Felix, Festus & Agrippa

History: Caesarea was originally a Phoenician port dating back to the 6th century BC. When the Romans took over the world stage, King Herod established Caesarea as on the largest and most important



cities in the Roman Empire. Its location as a major port on the Mediterranean Sea, as well as its position on a major road going from Lebanon to Egypt made Caesarea a prized jewel to whichever empire was ruling at the time.

Pontius Pilate ruled Judea from Caesarea, as evidenced by both archaeological evidence and testimony of the famous Jewish historian Josephus Flavius. The scriptural record indicates that Caesarea was the home of Philip the Evangelist. It was also the home of the Roman centurion Cornelius, the first Roman convert to Jesus Christ. Peter was led of the Spirit to go to Caesarea to preach the Gospel to Cornelius, signifying that salvation was now being offered to the Gentiles. Paul was all too familiar with Caesarea as well. He made use of the port at Caesarea several times during his missionary journeys, and spent his last years in Israel testifying to several magistrates while waiting to be sent to Rome for his appeal to Caesar.



Stone Tablet with name of Pilate found in Caesarea

Like many cities in Israel, Caesarea experienced decay under Arab rule and revival under Crusader rule before sitting in silence until the rebirth of Israel in the 20th century.

Archaeological Significance: Today, Caesarea is one of the richest archaeological sites in all of Israel.

The remains of the harbor built by Herod, the various government houses used by Herod,



Hippodrome with Herod's Palace extending to the sea on the left

Pontius Pilate and others, and a Crusader fort are well preserved. A 10,000 seat hippodrome is located along the shores of the sea, stretching 250 meters. Many chariot races and other sporting events were held here. Herod's palace was located near the south end of the hippodrome, and is the likely location of Paul's various appeals to Festus, Agrippa and Felix recorded in the book of Acts. Also of note is the large Roman theater, which is still in use today for concerts and other events.



The last significant archaeological find in Caesarea is the remains of a large aqueduct built by Herod to provide fresh water to the city. The first aqueduct ran 6 mi from the city northward to the southern slopes of Mt Carmel. A second aqueduct was later added to the original line as the water demands of the city grew. Two later aqueducts were added during the Crusader and Byzantine periods, mainly due to the decay of the original pipeline. Today, beachgoers use the arches of the aqueduct for shade while barbecuing and enjoying the beautiful beach that it borders.



Roman Theater



Aqueduct along Mediterranean Sea

Consider This:

- Look at how the powerful Gentiles reacted to the men of God in Caesarea:
 - Cornelius was prepared (*Acts 10:33*)
 - Herod was prideful (*Acts 12:20-24*)
 - Felix had more perfect knowledge, but procrastinated (*Acts 24:22, 25*)
 - Festus was political (*Acts 25:9, 12*)
 - Agrippa was almost persuaded (*Acts 26:28*)