

Reflections from the **HOLY LAND**

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Caesarea

Herod the Great began building Caesarea, a seaport city on the Mediterranean Sea, in 22 B.C. to accommodate his summer palace, and it took 12 years to complete. The city was named in honor of Caesar Augustus and had lavish palaces, public building, a temple to Augustus, a theater, a hippo-drome, an amphitheater and an elaborate sewer system.

The city appears in the book of Acts as a place of witness, travel, and the seat of government. Peter led Cornelius, a centurion who was stationed there, to Christianity (**Acts 10**). Paul had several reported contacts with the city as a port (**Acts 9:30; 18:22**; and perhaps **21:8**) and a place of imprisonment and trial (**Acts 23:23; 25:1-7**).



Mount Carmel

The attraction of Mount Carmel's garden-like beauty motivated the Egyptians and Canaanites to establish Mount Carmel as their center of worship for the pagan deity Baal in the time of Elijah and the prophets. God revealed his supremacy through Elijah's consistency and dependency on him atop this mountain when he confronted the prophets of Baal in **1 King 18:19-40**. From Mount Carmel the Jezreel Valley, also known as the Valley of Armageddon, is visible as well as Mount Moreh, Tabor, Gilboa and Nazareth.



Megiddo

Megiddo, located where the Via Maris enters the Valley of Armageddon, was a royal fortress city of the Canaanites that protected the greatest ancient trade route in the world. The very word Armageddon comes from **Revelation**



16:16 and means the hill of Megiddo. The excavations reveal a great deal about the time periods in the land and the cultures of the occupying people. Joshua took Megiddo (**Joshua 12:7,21**); Solomon fortified the city as one of his chariot cities (**2 Kings 9:15, 19**)

Mount Precipice/Nazareth

When rejected in his home town of Nazareth, Mount Precipice is believed to be the place where the people of Nazareth took him to throw him over the cliff. Jesus slipped through the crowd. (**Luke 4:16-28**)



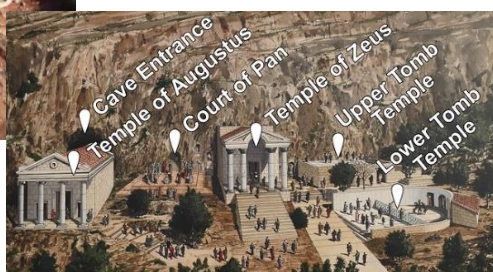
St. Peter's Primacy

Around this area is believed to be the place Jesus met Peter and some disciples in the boat after his resurrection. Peter had been carrying a lot of guilt following the death of Christ because he was the one who had denied Him 3 different times. Smelling the fire on the shore where Jesus was cooking fish, reminded Peter of that guilt, but Jesus was looking to bore his calling into the heart of Peter. Peter was never the same and a few weeks later lead the way on the day of Pentecost and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.



Caesarea Philippi

"Whom do you say that I am?" Peter's great confession at Caesarea Philippi ([Matthew 16:13-20](#)). Located at foot of Israel's highest mountain, Mt Hermon, and one of the sources of the Jordan River,



Caesarea Philippi was a place of godlessness. Jesus lead his disciples on a three day journey to make the point that he will build his church even in the midst of such evil.

Sea of Galilee



The Sea of Galilee is the home of many of the miracles of Jesus. Jesus revealed his identity and provision when he calmed storms, walked on water, and aided the disciples in catching fish. [Matthew 8:23-27](#); [Mark 6:45-52](#)

Magdala

Home of Mary Magdalene ([Luke 8:2](#)), a hero in the faith, Jesus would have preached in this synagogue ([Matthew 15:39](#); [Luke 4:14-15](#)).



Masada

Masada, the Judean fortress fortified by Herod is situated on the top of an isolated rock plateau overlooking the Judean desert panorama to the west and the Dead Sea to the east. Masada was fortified between 31 and 37 A.D. as a refuge for Herod in the event of a revolt. The thrilling sort of the site reveals the courage of the Jewish defenders of Masada and their battle against the conquering Romans.



Applications:

1. Historicity of our faith
2. Spiritual Desperation – Those who are DESPERATE for the Lord will **FIND** him. [Matthew 5:1-10](#); [Jeremiah 29:13](#)
3. Spiritual Legacy – Build for the kingdom of God. It will endure.