

# Caesarea

A Phoenician Port called Strato's Tower before 22 BC when Herod the Great renovated it and called it Caesarea. Caesarea served as the governmental seat for Rome for 500 years. Roman procurators made Caesarea their home. Herod created the first man made port by building underwater walls with cemented blocks filled with masses of rubble.

This harbor was called Sebastos (Greek for *augustus* or *great*). A massive lighthouse sat on the corner of the harbor walls that was modeled after one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World in Alexandria. The city was a typical Roman city with grid street layout, efficient sewer system, public buildings and public entertainment, a grandiose palace in the sea. Pontius Pilate's name was found on an inscription here saying he was "perfect of Judah." Herod the Great built the theater and aqueduct. The walls and gates built by the Crusaders can be seen today in the harbor.

**In the Bible:** **Act 8:40; 21:8-9**, Philip preached here, settled here and raised four daughters here. **Acts 10**, Peter came here to preach in Cornelius' house; **Acts 12:19-24**, God strikes Herod Agrippa I here; **Acts 9:30; 18:22; 21:8-16**, Paul visits Caesarea three times; **Acts 23:23-27:2**, Paul in prison for 2 years in Caesarea.



An inscription dedicating something Pilate built in Caesarea to Emperor Tiberius. It reads: "TIBERIVM... PONTIVS PILATE, PREFECT OF JUDEA..."



Photo taken from the theater looking towards the palace on the sea.



Aqueduct in Caesarea.