

chapters

- 13a *I've Been Everywhere*
- 13b *The Old Rugged Cross*
- 14 *Eye of the Tiger*
- 15a *Amazing Grace*
- 16 *Free at Last*
- 17 *How Great Thou Art*
- 18 *Down on the Corner*
- 19 *Never Enough*
- 20-21 *Top of the World*
- 21-22 *Blinded by the Light*
- 23-26 *Dirt Road***
- 27-28 *Softly & Tenderly*
Jesus is calling

Acts of the Apostles

November 17, 2024

Acts 26:29 – Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but **ALL** who are listening to me today **MAY BECOME WHAT I AM**, except for these chains.”



Paul before King Agrippa, 1875
by Vasily Surikov (1848-1916)

Paul's Missionary Journeys

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Sept 1	13a	<i>I've Been Everywhere</i>	Paul to Paphos on Cyprus & Sorcerer Elymus
Sept 8	13b	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Paul Gains Ear of Whole City of Pisidian Antioch
Sept 15	14	<i>Eye of the Tiger</i>	Paul Beaten in Lystra, Flee to Derbe then <i>RETURN</i>
Sept 22	15a	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem for 1st Church Council
Sept 29	15-16	<i>The Wanderer</i>	Paul, Silas, & Timothy Thru Macedonia to Philippi
Oct 6	16	<i>Free at Last</i>	Paul & Crew to Phrygia, Troas, Philippi, Convert Lydia, Paul Frees Slave Girl, Beaten, Jailed, Free to Lydia's Home
Oct 13	17	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	Paul & Silas Thessalonica, Berea, Athens' Areopagus
Oct 20	18	<i>Down on the Corner</i>	Paul to Corinth, Meets Aquila & Priscilla, to Ephesus
Oct 27	19	<i>Never Enough</i>	Paul in Ephesus w Big Miracles – Riot x “The Way”
Nov 3	20-21	<i>Top of the World</i>	Paul Hunted Thru Greece, Ephesus, to Jerusalem
Nov 10	21-22	<i>Blinded by the Light</i>	Paul—Roman Citizen, BEATEN, then to Governor Felix
Nov 17	23-26	<i>Dirt Road</i>	Paul to Festus, Then Paul's Words Impress Agrippa
Nov 24	27-28	<i>Softly & Tenderly</i>	Paul's Storm-Rocking Trip to Rome

Jesus Is Calling

As we begin—recall last week Paul was viciously GANG attacked with clubs
Crowd **TRIED** to **KILL** Paul – does NOT take 7 to 13 men long to inflict
SERIOUS damage – Paul still had **MANY bruises**

We've seen a lot of
BRUTALITY

Over the last 10 years
of Paul's journeys

Following is also
quite brutal ...

My pup Reba has serious
Hunter-Killer Skills



In the Last Days of Paul

ALSO – Recall,
until Agrippa 2 years later,
Paul is **STILL** healing from
WOUNDS by those who
tried to **KILL** him

Book of Acts does NOT record
1/10th of his **beatings** & toils



In the Last Days of Paul

What is conspicuously **MISSING**
in these last chapters of Acts?

No Handkerchiefs ...

No Healings ... *except for 3 days on Malta*

No Casting out of Demons ...

Though there was a **LOT** of great sickness
& **LOT** of demonic activity

Oddly enough, those who believed Paul
was **EVIL** were the Jewish Leaders

Odder still, those who believed Paul was
INNOCENT were the **NON-BELIEVERS**

And don't forget, until Agrippa, Paul is **STILL** healing from

WOUNDS by those who tried to **KILL** him



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

The Walk by Sawyer Brown – 1991

Written by Mark Miller in 1990
in their 1982 Eagle Model 10 tour bus

Released in 1991 on Sawyer's
album "Buick" & in

1992 on album "The Dirt Road"

Peaked #2 in U.S. & #5 in Canada

My point here is that we ALL ...
that is, ALL of us ...

that is, Each & Everyone of Us

that is, Every Single One of Us

Have Mentors, Role Models



Paul Did Too ... indeed, story behind the Books of Acts is HOW

Christ MENTORED Peter & Paul ... perhaps most of the time on a Dirt Road ... *and*

HOW Peter & Paul became a Role Model, a Mentor for so many Disciples

Even for 2,000 Years – the Church – Even Today Mentors You & ME



**Apostle Paul before King Agrippa, 1875
by Vasily Surikov (1848-1916)**



Apostle Paul before King Agrippa, 1875
by Vasily Surikov (1848-1916)


Paul to Caesarea before Gov. Felix, then Festus

- 23:1-11 Paul to Sanhedrin & Pharisees – Paul claims the “resurrection”
- 23:12-22 40 Men Plot to **KILL**, v.16 “**son of Paul’s sister**” to commander
- 23:23-35 Two Centurions, 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen,
200 spearmen - to Caesarea safely
- 24:1-27 Paul before Felix & Sly Lawyer Tertullus - Two Years w Felix
Felix **DIES** ... then Paul before new Governor Festus
- 25:1-7 Festus – Caesarea to Jerusalem to Caesarea – *Jew-plot foiled again*
- 25:8-12 Paul before Festus, “**appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!**”
- 25:13-22 Festus Tells Agrippa about Paul & Paul’s Appeal to Caesar
- 25:23-27 Festus Finds Nothing Wrong w Paul after Agrippa enters w great pomp
Festus Presents Paul to Agrippa

Paul in Caesarea before King Agrippa

- 26:1-18 Paul before Agrippa, Paul Recounts *Blinding Light* to Agrippa
- 26:19-23 Paul Recounts his THREE Missionary Journeys
- 26:24 Festus to Paul, “Great learning ... driven you insane”
- 26:25-27 Paul Recounts How King Agrippa KNOWS the Prophets
- 26:28 King Agrippa, “Short Time ... Persuade Me to be a Christian”
- 26:29 Paul, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you
but **ALL** who are listening to me today may become what **I AM**”
- 26:30-32 King Agrippa Confirms Paul Innocence –





Key Verse – Acts 26:29

**Paul replied, “Short time or long—
I pray to God that not only you
but ALL who are listening to me today
may become what I AM
except for these chains.”**



Alternate Title

Wish that Others

May Become

Like YOU?





23:1-11 Paul to Sanhedrin & Pharisees –
Paul claims the “resurrection”

23:12-22 FORTY Men Plot to **KILL**,

23:16 “**son of Paul’s sister**” to Commander

23:23-35 Two Centurions, 200 soldiers,
70 horsemen, and
200 spearmen –

to Caesarea safely



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

The Walk by Sawyer Brown – 1991
Written by Mark Miller in 1990

How many came with Paul?

**When in route to Caesarea with
2 Centurions & 100s of Soldiers?**

How many DID NOT want to go?

**Down our long dusty driveway
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO**

**But I set out w tears in my eyes
*a wonderin'***

Daddy took me by the hand

**Looked out at the school bus
and at his little man and said
"Don't worry boy it'll be all right"**

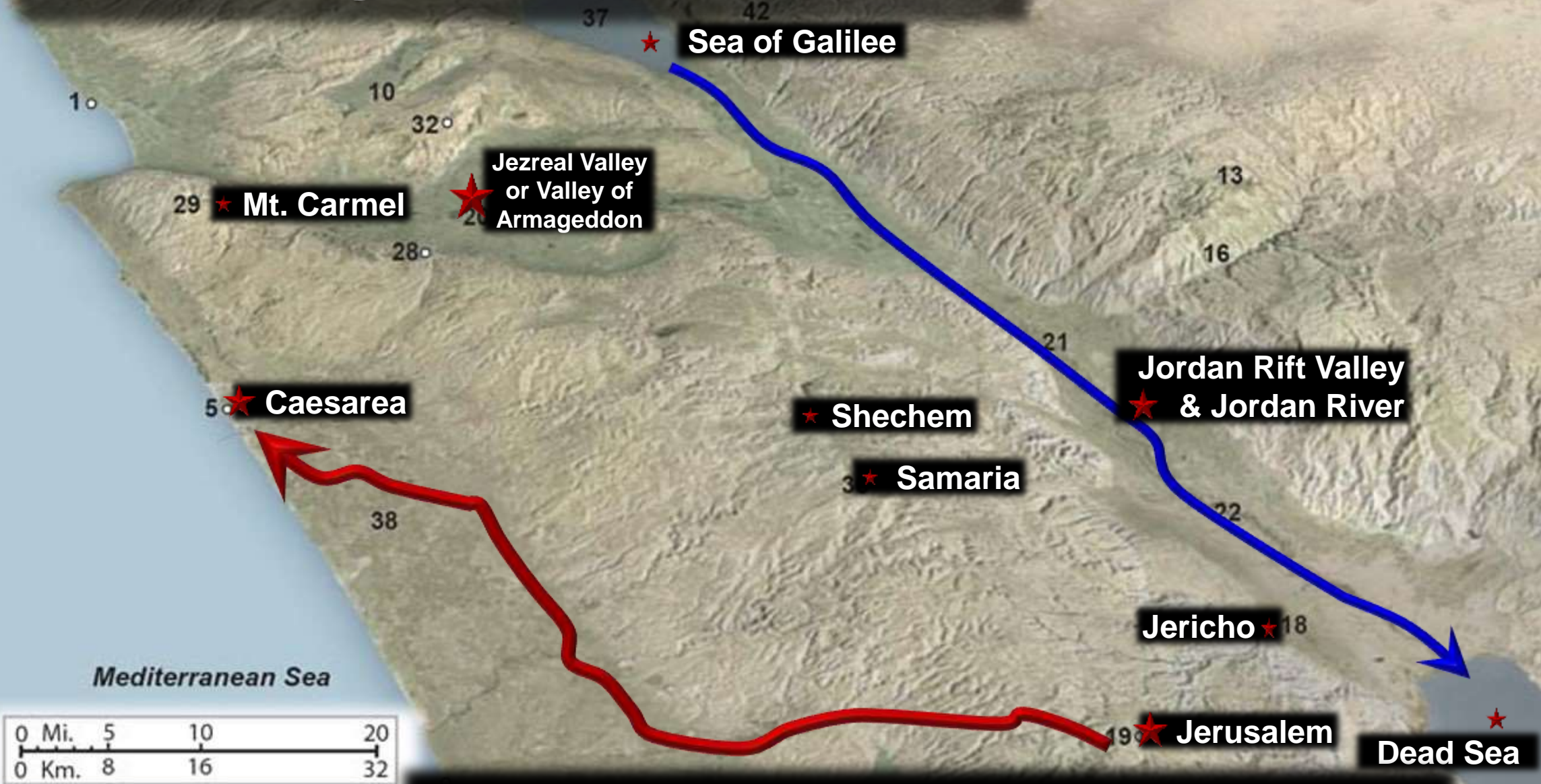
**'Cause I took this walk you're walking now
Boy, I've been in your shoes**

**You can't hold back the hands of time
It's just something you've got to do**



**So dry your eyes
I understand just what you're going through
'Cause I took this same walk with my old man
Boy, I've been in your shoes**

Acts 31 Paul goes from Jerusalem to Caesarea



Paul travels in chains about 70 miles

24:1-21 Paul before Governor Felix

24:22-27 ... Paul in prison at Caesarea

**24:22, Felix “well acquainted with the WAY”
yet does *nothing* for TWO YEARS**



**Paul before Felix, 1752
William Hogarth, color**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)**

A reconstruction of ancient Caesarea

24:22, Felix “well acquainted with the WAY”

yet does *nothing* for TWO YEARS



Ancient
Caesarea

Paul in prison HERE
—perhaps

Paul, c. 1657
(and 1606-69)

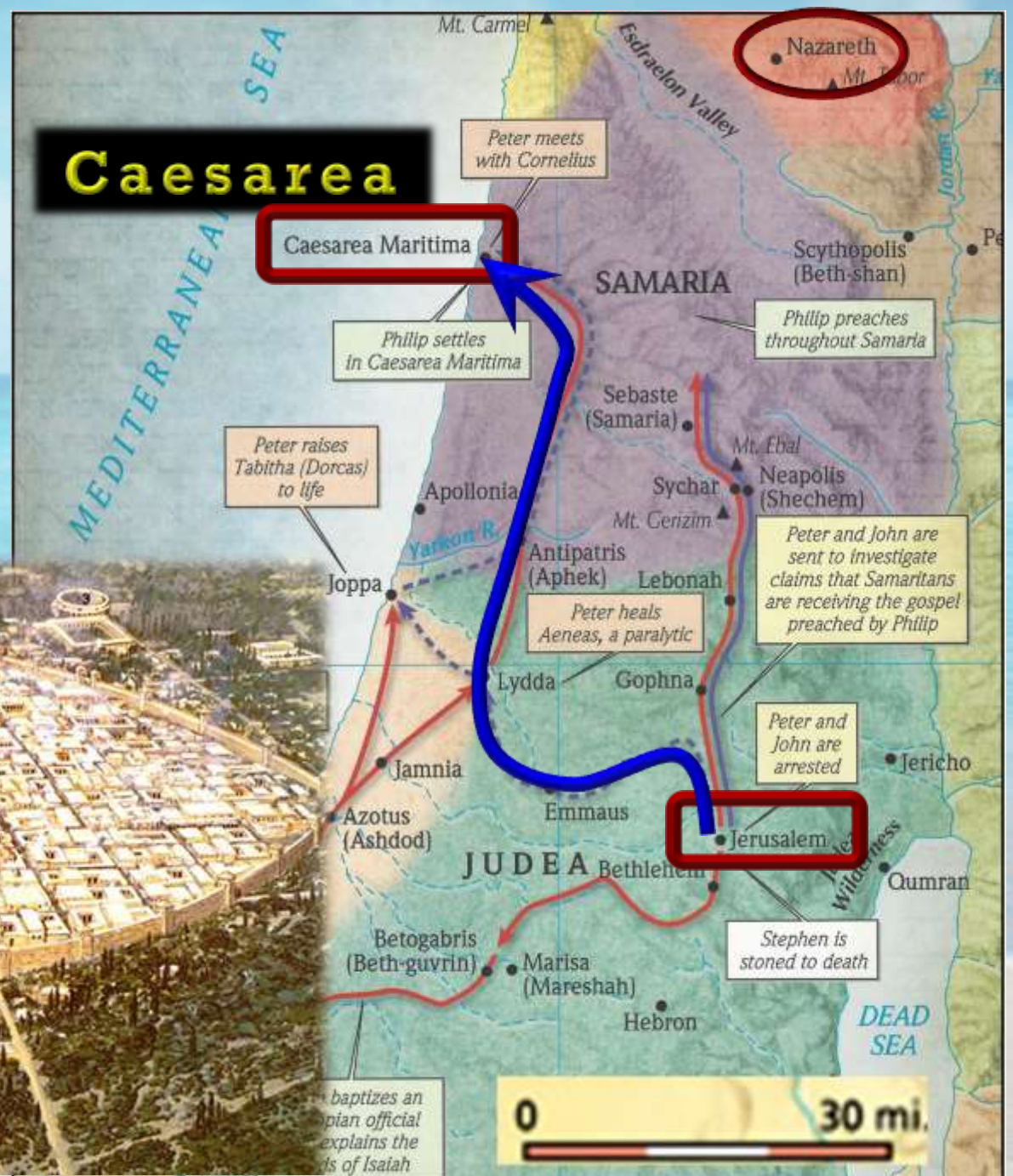


To Caesarea

- ✓ Built by Herod the Great with Roman help
- ✓ Agrippa is Great GSon of Herod
- ✓ Built in 25-13 BC to honor Caesar Augustus 27 BC - AD 14
- ✓ Roman HQ in Judea

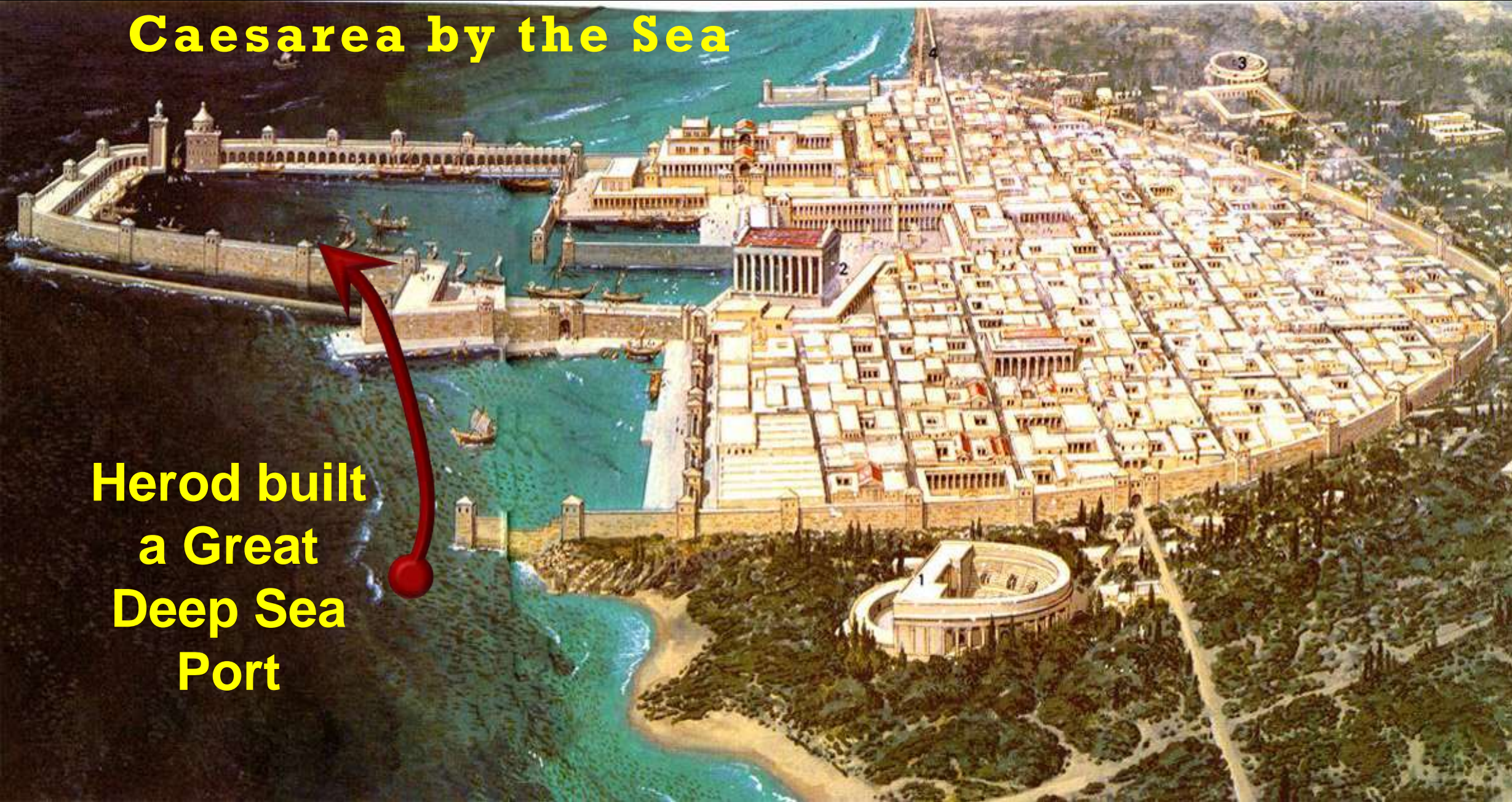


Ancient Caesarea



Caesarea by the Sea

Herod built
a Great
Deep Sea
Port

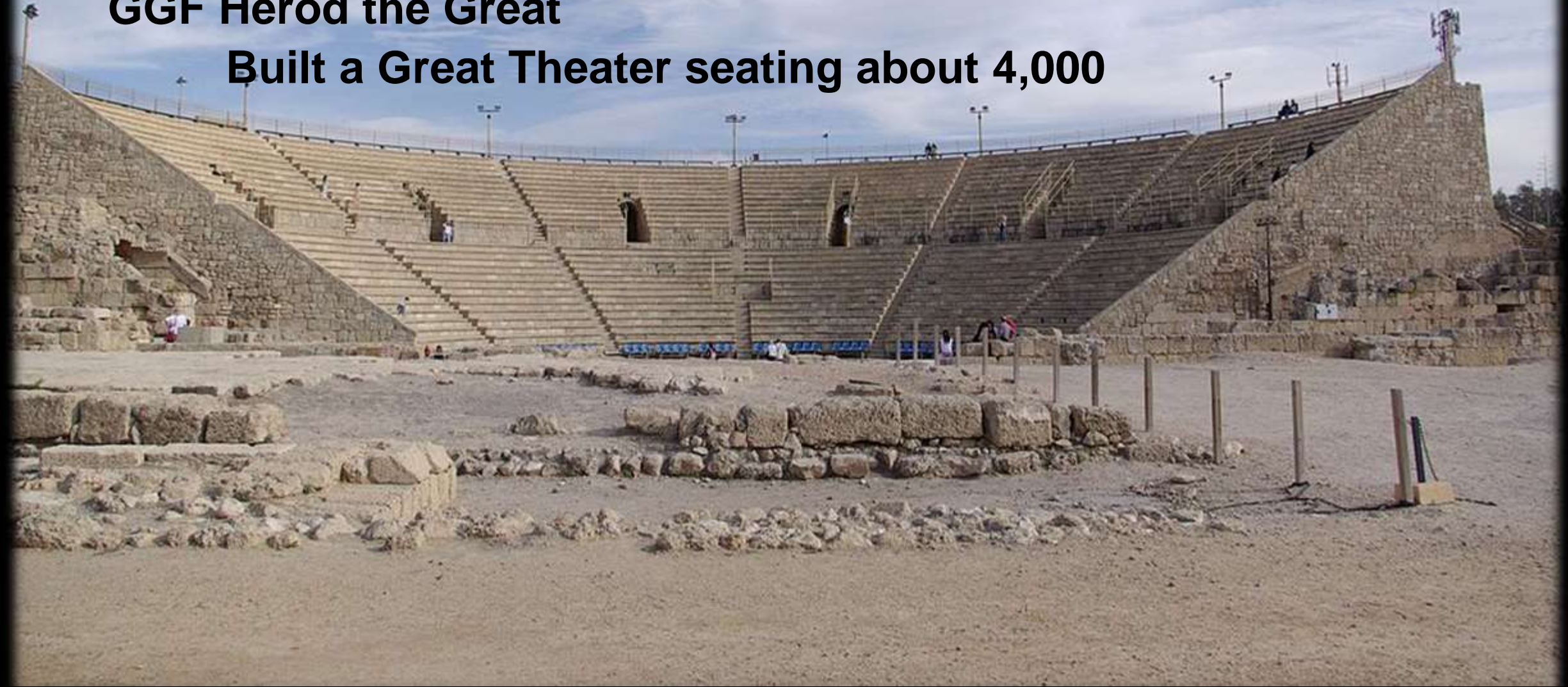


Caesarea

Herod the Great was King Herod Agrippa's GGF

GGF Herod the Great

Built a Great Theater seating about 4,000



Caesarea - Herod the Great
Built a Hippodrome – Seating 10,000+



Caesarea

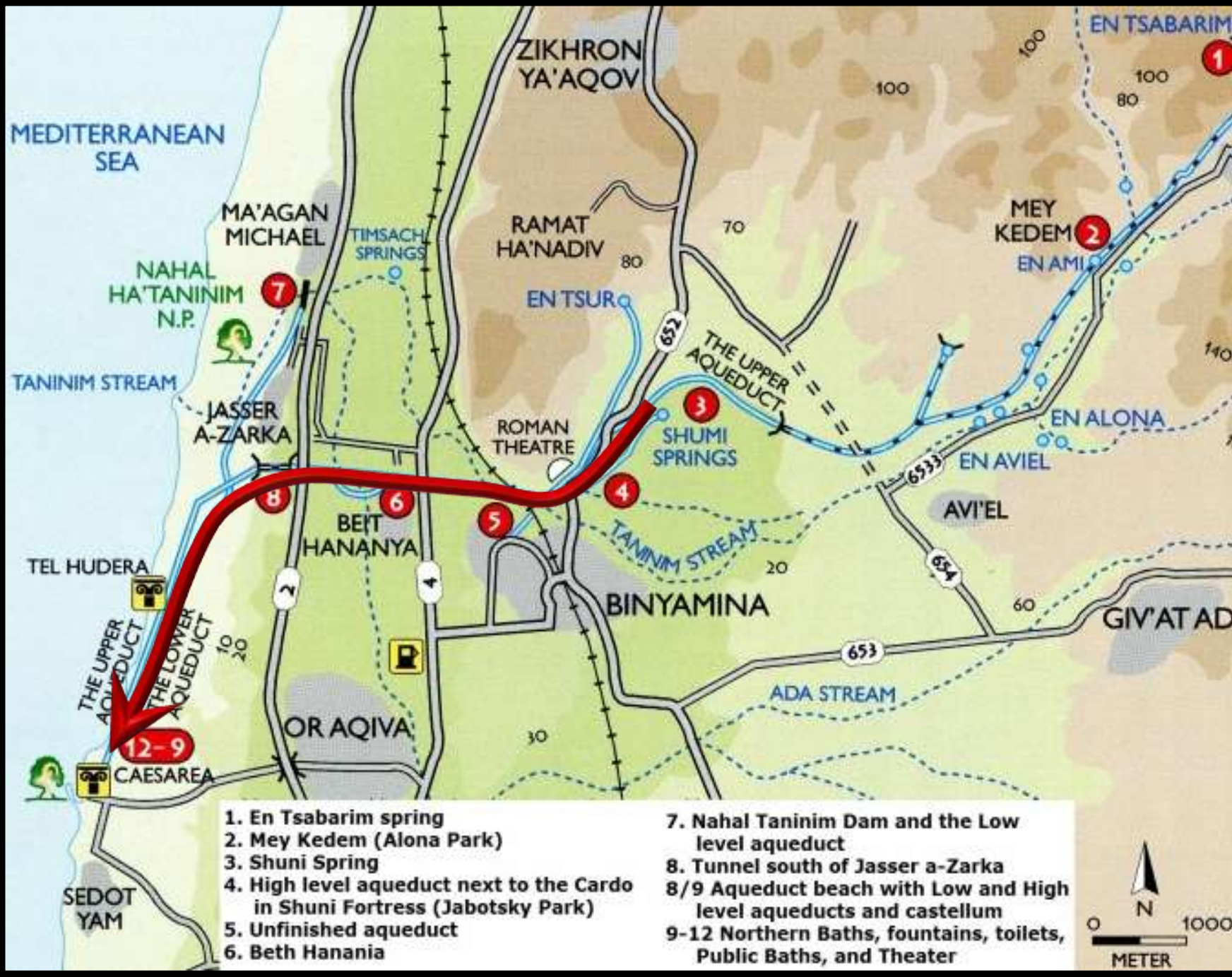
Herod the Great

Built a Great
Aqueduct w
Roman Help

✓ 4.5 miles

✓ 300 m³ hour

✓ supply 50,000



Bulgaria

Plovdiv Aqueduct

Croatia

Burnum Aqueduct

Diocletianus Aqueduct

France

Pont du Gard in France

Aqueduct from Gorze to Metz, France

Pont du Gard, southern France

Barbegal aqueduct

Aqueduct of the Gier

Luynes, Indre-et-Loire

Nîmes

Aqueduct from Gorze to Metz

Germany

Eifel aqueduct

Greece

Argos, Hadrian's Aqueduct

Athens, Peisistratid Aqueduct

Athens, Hadrian's Aqueduct

Athens, Long Walls Aqueduct

Athens, Late Roman aqueduct

Corinth, Hadrian's

Kavala aqueduct,

Mytilene, Lesbos

Nicopolis, Epirus

Patras

Italy

Aqua Claudia

Aqua Anio Novus

Aqua Augusta, Naples

Pont d'Aël, Aosta Valley

Aqua Appia, Rome

Aqua Virgo, Rome

Aqua Alexandrina, Rome

Aqua Anio Novus, Rome

Aqua Alsietina, Rome

Israel

Caesarea Maritima, Israel

Lebanon

Aqueduct of Zubaida, Beirut

Aqueduct of Tyre, Tyre

Aqueduct of Msaylha, Batroun

Aqueduct of Nahr Ibrahim, Jbeil

Portugal

Aqueduct of São Sebastião, Coimbra

Skopje Aqueduct

Spain

Aqueduct of Mérida

Albarracin-Gea-Cella

Aqua Nova Domitiana Augusta

Barcino

Bejis

Caños de Carmona

Cordoba (Aqua Fontis Aureae)

Itálica

Las Medulas

les Ferreres, Tarragona

Los Banales

Los Milagros Aqueduct

Lugo

Noain

Onuba Aestuarria

Peña Cortada

Rabo de Buey-San Lázaro

Aqueduct of Segovia

Toledo

Valdepuentes

Tunisia

Aqueduct of Hadrian

Aqueduct of Valens

Aspendos, Antalya Province

Lamas Aqueduct, Mersin Province

Dorchester, Dorset

Lanchester

Roman Aqueducts

Masters of the World

Caesarea

Herod the Great w Roman help
Built a Great Aqueduct

- ✓ 4.5 miles + 300 m³ hour
- ✓ supply 50,000
- ✓ Still seen today

- ✓ Labor that went into this!
- ✓ Blood, sweat, and tears



24:1-21 Paul before Governor Felix

24:22-27 ... Paul in prison at Caesarea

24:22, Felix “well acquainted with the WAY”
yet does *nothing* for TWO YEARS



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

Paul before Felix, 1752,
William Hogarth

**24:22-27 ... Governor Felix & wife Drusilla allowed
Paul some freedom ... called upon Paul**

**25 As Paul talked ... on judgement to come,
Felix was afraid & said,
“That’s enough for now! You may leave.
When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”**



**Paul before Felix, 1752,
William Hogarth**



Paul before Felix, 1752
William Hogarth



Paul before Felix, 1752
William Hogarth

**Governor Felix, afraid, had had enough & said,
“When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”**

The Walk by Sawyer Brown – 1991
Written by Mark Miller in 1990
in their 1982 Eagle Model 10 tour bus

Paul—in jail for two YEARS
Governors Felix & then Festus *FUSS*
Who was WITH Paul?

Down our long dusty driveway
I set my mind to go

Well, I was eighteen and
wild and free and *a wonderin'*

Daddy took me by the hand
Looked out at the world
and at his grown man and said

"Don't worry boy it'll be all right"

'Cause I took this walk you're walking now
Boy, I've been in your shoes

You can't hold back the hands of time
It's just something you've got to do



So dry your eyes
I understand just
what you're going through

'Cause I took this same walk
with my old man
Boy, I've been in your shoes



**24:26, Felix hoped
for a bribe
from Paul**

TWO YEARS
no writings survive

28:27, Felix dies

**Succeeded by
Porcius Festus**

Paul before Felix, 1752
William Hogarth, *Close Up*

25:1-12 ... Paul before Governor Festus

intrigue upon intrigue

Holy Jewish Leaders appeal to Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem ... why?

25:3 ... as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.



Paul before Agrippa & Festus, 1875
by Nikolai Bodarevsky (1850–1921)



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt 1606-69)

Paul Appeals to Caesar

25:13-27 ... Festus Invites Agrippa to Listen

26:1-23 ... Paul Testifies to Agrippa & Festus

**Pt. 1 – 26:1-18, Paul recounts his persecution
then vision ... again ... for perhaps *127th time***


Pt. 2 – 26:19-23, Paul to King Agrippa

26:24-32 ... King's 1st Reaction – Free Paul

But Paul has appealed to Caesar ...

Roman Law ... rules higher than local kings!

Eventually ... a foundation to our Rule of Law





**Paul before Agrippa & Festus, 1881
by Vasily Perov (1833–1882)**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

Paul before Agrippa, c. 1710
by Sir James Thornhill
Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut



**Apostle Paul before King Agrippa, 1875
by Vasily Surikov**

26:1-23 ... Paul Testifies to Agrippa & Festus

Pt. 1 – 26:1-18, Paul Testifies for *101st time*
then, Paul recounts God's words to him:

¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and
from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them

¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from
darkness to light, and from the power of
Satan to God, so that they may receive
forgiveness of sins and a place among
those who are sanctified by faith in me.

After his testimony vv. 1-18 ...

Pt. 2 – 26:19-23 ... then Paul gets personal



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

26:19-23 Gospel Told – To This Day

In a subtle, yet honest acknowledgment

In a subtle, yet clear appeal to a moral charge

**¹⁹ “So then, King Agrippa, I was not
disobedient to the vision from heaven.**

You understand this ... we all do

IF ... you had a vision like Paul ...

Then YOU would WANT to obey too ...

Truth ... once revealed ...

Banishes Darkness



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)**

Herod Agrippa II, c. A.D. 27-93 ... or Marcus Julius Agrippa ...

- ✓ Son of Herod Agrippa “the Great”
- ✓ Great Grandson of Herod the Great

Paul before Agrippa & Festus, 1875
by Nikolai Bodarevsky (1850–1921)



Paul before Agrippa, c. 1657
(by Rembrandt 1606-69)



Agrippa II raised in Rome's Imperial Court

- ✓ A.D. 44, at death of Agrippa's father, Claudius returned Judea to a province
- ✓ Agrippa won MODERATION for Jews
- ✓ A.D. 48, appointed over Temple affairs



Herod Agrippa II – DEFENDER of Jews

- ✓ Acts 12, King Herod Agrippa II ... yeah
Had James “Son of thunder” *BEHEADED*
- ✓ Peter arrested ... later delivered by angel
- ✓ King Agrippa ... no friend of Christians



until Paul



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

before Agrippa & Festus, 1875
Nikolai Bodarevsky (1850-1921)

King Herod Agrippa II, c. A.D. 27-93

- ✓ Died at 70 without children
- ✓ Close to Roman Jewish Historian Josephus A.D. 37-100
- ✓ Helped Josephus w his *Antiquities of Jews*



Paul before King Agrippa II, c. 1657
(by Rembrandt 1606-69)



26:19 “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

Agrippa ... listens to Paul's vision

Paul tells of the places where he told his vision

**20 First to those in Damascus,
then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea,
and then to the Gentiles,
I preached that they should repent
and turn to God and
demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.**

**then his
Message**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)**

Sounds good so far ...

²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in
the temple courts & tried to **KILL** me.

Why—following his vision ... obeying Lord

²² But God has helped me to this very day;
so I stand here & testify to small & great alike.

I am saying nothing beyond what the
prophets and Moses said would happen—

THIS—King Agrippa *KNEW* something about

THIS—Paul *KNEW* that King Agrippa cared about



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

Sounds good so far ...

26:23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

What is Paul guilty of doing?

Bringing LIGHT of the Prophets to PEOPLE?

How under heaven can ANYONE hate that?

Remember ... 6,500 miles ... city after city

No Jewish Scholar or Priest could

COMPETE with Paul



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)**

Enter Porcius Festus,

Roman Procurator of Judea c. 59-62

Procurator = Roman Governor of a Province

Jewish REBELLION increased under Festus

26:24 Festus interrupted Paul's defense.

“You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted.

“Your great learning is driving you insane.”

Festus ... doesn't buy the vision

Yet, does NOT deny Paul's wisdom



Bronze prutah minted
by Porcius Festus, c. 58
10 Prutah = Loaf of Bread

Paul, never missing a beat, responds heartily

**26:25 “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,”
Paul replied. “What I am saying is
true & reasonable.**

**26:26 The king is familiar with these things,
and I can speak freely to him.**

**I am convinced that none of this
has escaped his notice,
because it was not done in a corner.**

King Agrippa KNOWS ...

Way Paul puts it ...

makes the King seem wise too



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt 1606-69)**

Paul very gently, almost with a *whisper* ...

Paul very gently, even *rhetorically* ...

Paul very gently even with a *KNOWING smile*

26:27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?

I know you do.”

There was no JEW capable of outwitting Paul

King Agrippa ... knowledgeable ... has to

Confront his own Light of Truth

Paul is too CLEAR



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt 1606-69)**

King Agrippa II, defender of Jewish Heritage

26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you
Think that in such a SHORT TIME you can
persuade me to be a Christian?”

One cannot TURN their life around easily

On May of 1869, Charles H. Spurgeon
on this very verse said King Agrippa

certainly never was an almost-Christian

There is a great difference between

being **almost** a Christian and

being **almost persuaded** to be a Christian....



C. H. Spurgeon, “To Those Who
Are ‘Almost Persuaded,’” # 871,
May 16, 1869; Metropolitan Tabernacle.

**26:27-29 Invitation Given – King Almost Persuaded
Paul takes them both home**

AFTER this, 26:30-32, King Agrippa admits

Paul is INNOCENT

Procurator Festus, w Jewish rebellion rising

Listens to the expert, King Agrippa

In 22vv. 30-32, Agrippa said to Festus:

³² “This man could have been set free

if he had not appealed to Caesar.”



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)**

The Walk by Sawyer Brown – 1991
Written by Mark Miller in 1990
in their 1982 Eagle Model 10 tour bus

So now Paul is *mentoring*
Governor Festus & King Agrippa
Who was WITH Paul?

Down our long dusty driveway
This time we both would go

Well he had grown old and gray
And his mind was a *wanderin'*
Daddy took me by the hand

Said, "I know where we're going
And I understand

Don't worry boy it'll be alright"

'Cause I took this walk you're walking now
Boy, I've been in your shoes

You can't hold back the hands of time
It's just something you've got to do



So dry your eyes I understand
just what you're going through

'Cause I took this same walk
with my old man

Boy, I've been in your shoes

There is a great difference between
being **almost** a Christian and
being **almost persuaded** to be a Christian....

A man who is **almost** an artist
knows something of painting,
but a man **almost persuaded** to be an artist
may **not even know** the names of the colors....

Paul's object was that Agrippa might in very
deed **BE** a Christian.

To **SEEM** is nothing, but to **BE** is everything.



Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

To bring men to **BE** Christians,
“this is the work, this is the labor.”

Apostle does not ... aim at merely making the

- ✓ man a convict as to his judgment,
- ✓ or a trembler as to his feelings,
- ✓ or an enthusiast as to his passions.

Is it not ... the drift of ministers to make men
weep for *weeping's* sake?



Paul closed his masterful testimony to King Agrippa

²⁹ Paul replied, “Short time or long—
I pray to God that not only you
but *ALL* who are listening to me today
may become what I am,
except for these chains.”

Paul to King Agrippa ... *message clear*

- ✓ Would *Love* God wholeheartedly—like *ME!*
- ✓ Become a *Real* Christian—like *ME!*
- ✓ Accept *Christ* as your *Savior*—like *ME!*

Oh, we should *want* others to be like *US!*

Like You & Me!?!?



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt (1606-69)

