

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

Archeology 107 N.T. Places & Artifacts

The Madaba Mosaic Map: This amazing 1450-year-old map accurately represents the holy land from Egypt to Lebanon, including Sinai, Israel, Palestine, and Transjordan. This decorative church floor covering is the oldest map of this region found to date, and is the best topographical representation of the area in 560 AD. Most amazing is that it identifies in writing the names and locations of numerous important biblical events and where they took place. What remains of the map identifies 156 locations by name, of which only about 25 not being positively identified. This map is so cool that it has its own website. Check it out – just Google Madaba Map.

A Boat from the time of Christ was discovered in the Sea of Galilee during a drought in 1986. The craft and the coins and pottery found onboard were well preserved in the low oxygen, salty mud of the sea. All date to the time of Christ and fit the context of the time as described in God’s Word.

Two Caesarea’s: Many places were named for Caesar during Roman rule, but two of these cities play a prominent role in scripture. First is **Caesarea Philippi**, the same one mentioned in Matthew, Mark and Acts, and the site of archeological digs since 1990. Situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and at the base of Mt. Hermon, Caesarea Philippi is the location of one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River. The palace of Herod Agrippa the 2nd was discovered here, and matches the description given by the Jewish historian Josephus. This is the same Herod before whom Saint Paul defended the faith in Acts, chapter 26. The second city is one I have had the privilege of visiting. **Caesarea Marittima** is situated just south of Haifa and north of Tel Aviv, Israel, on the Mediterranean coast. This has been the site of archeological activity for over 60 years. Here are some of the things discovered there: Herod the Great’s completely man-made Harbor (using special underwater concrete foundations), streets, the amphitheater, the hippodrome, the market place, shops, miles of aqueducts, temples, homes and a palace complex on a hill overlooking the whole city. At its peak, this small city of 164 acres was home to over 100,000 people. This became the capital of the Roman Province of Judea. It is where Pontius Pilate lived, and is the location for many events in the book of Acts. I cannot even begin to do justice to this archeological site which now covers over 8000 acres, with only 5 acres having been uncovered and explored. Simply Google “**Caesarea Marittima**” for more information. It is a national park in Israel and there are dozens of reputable websites with great information on this mountain of archeological data that affirms, and is a witness to, the life and times of Christ and the early church.

Megiddo: This unassuming little town sits on a hill that overlooks a valley protecting the approaches to the hill country and the coast. This vantage point has made it a military stronghold over the centuries. This was also one of the locations where Solomon kept the horses for his chariots, and it was the location of many battles throughout history. Its location plays a role in Christ’s revelation given to us by Saint John while on Patmos. You see, the Hebrew word for mountain is “har”, so if you translate mountain of Megiddo, you get Armageddon, the location mentioned in Revelation 16 after the sixth bowl of wrath, for the gathering of Kings for the final battle. Those to whom John was writing would have had clear knowledge of this location—not as an actual geographic location, but symbolizing the location of the great final battle between God and all the forces of evil.

In Christ
Pastor Portier