

2019 EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

Study Guide for 4b: Caesarea



Historical background: Caesarea is a port city built on the Mediterranean coast by Herod the Great between 25 and 13

BC. It is about twenty-five miles northwest of the town of Samaria. When Herod rebuilt the city, he renamed it Sebaste. Many archeologic discoveries can be seen; like a harbor built with massive stones, a theater, a hippodrome, and a luxurious bathhouse. Herod built typical institutions in many great Greco-Roman cities, some of which we will see. We will sit in the amphitheater thought to be the possible place where Paul was put on trial before Festus. Another discovery was an inscription found with Pontius Pilate's name, which identified him as the prefect of Judea.

Bible Application: As we explore how the gospel finally made its way to the Gentiles, let's study the account in [Acts 9:36 – 10:48](#).

1. Acts 9:36-43 puts the story's setting in Joppa and the plot sets in motion with the death of a woman full of good works and charity, named _____, which translated means, Dorcas. The disciples heard Peter was in the area and pleaded for him to come to them without delay. A resurrection miracle occurred that day and news of it spread throughout all Joppa, and many _____ in the Lord (Acts 9:42).
2. At the beginning of chapter ten, Cornelius, a commanding officer in the Roman military, had a vision. God said, "And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called _____."
3. The next day, according to Acts 10:9-16, Peter fell into a trance and saw a vision. In the vision, he was asked to kill and eat a variety of animals. Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is _____ or _____."
4. And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call _____."
5. How many times did this happen? _____
6. While Peter pondered the vision he had in Acts 10:19, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you." When the men sent by Cornelius found Peter, they invited him to Cornelius's _____ to hear what Peter had to say.
7. The next day, Peter and several others, traveled from Joppa to _____ (verses 23-24). Cornelius saw Peter and fell down at Peter's feet to worship him. Peter said, "Stand up; I too am a man." Peter stepped into the house and noticed a group gathered there and he said, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another

nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person _____ or _____” (Acts 10:28).

8. In Acts 10:29-33, Peter was anxious to hear why Cornelius sent for him. I bet Peter’s jaw dropped when Cornelius told him about the vision he had. Peter responded, “Truly I understand that God shows no _____ “(Acts 10:34).
9. Peter shared the gospel message about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to both Jews and Gentiles. Those gathered in Cornelius’s house had possibly seen these things with their own eyes or had heard about them. But this time everyone who believed in Him received _____ of sins through His name (Acts 10:43).
10. While Peter spoke, the _____ fell on **all** who heard the word. Believers among the circumcised, the men who traveled with Peter, were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out even on the Gentiles, Cornelius and his relatives and close friends (Acts 10:44).

Thanksgiving and Praise: Think about Peter’s vision. All people can be made clean. Have you compared your life to others by thinking that you are a better person than they are? How can we do life better with others and not show partiality? How can we be ready to share the hope that is in us with others, so that they can meet the Savior? [1 Peter 3:15](#)

Digging Deeper:

There are so many more events that happened in Caesarea. Philip, also known as the evangelist, lived there. According to [Acts 6:5](#) and [Acts 21:8-9](#), Paul visited the city three times. On his third visit he was warned about being captured by the Jews and delivered to the Gentiles if he went to Jerusalem ([Acts 21:8-16](#)). Paul spent two years in prison and was tried there before Felix and Festus, and before King Herod Agrippa II ([Acts 23:23-27:2](#)).

For more on Caesarea by the Sea check out these posts on Kym’s blog (Looking4theBlessedHope.com):

[More on Caesarea](#)

[Huge Treasure of Gold Coins Found off the Coast of Israel](#)

[Caesarea by the Sea Re-Visited](#)

Keep looking for blessings!