

EXPERIENCE THE LAND AND THE BOOK
A CAPTIVE'S CALL TO FREEDOM
ACTS 14–26



The Heart of the Matter

Along the beautiful Mediterranean lies the coastal city of Caesarea. Caesarea was the official seat of government, a busy port, and a naval base for the powerful Romans in the province of Israel. On the grounds of the seaside palace called Herod's Praetorium, the apostle Paul was unjustly imprisoned from AD 58–60. Through a curious chain of events, Jerusalem's authorities brought Paul here to appear before the Roman magistrate on three trumped-up charges. Paul modeled for us how a thinking, believing follower of Christ can defend himself or herself against criticism.



Discovering the Way

1. A Biblical Survey of Caesarea

Caesarea had a long and storied history in the New Testament. This city was the place of ministry for Philip, one of the original deacons (Acts 8:40). It was the place Peter preached to the Roman centurion Cornelius (10:24). And it was the place where Herod Agrippa I accepted worship from his subjects (12:19–24).

2. Paul's Imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 24–26)

Paul spent two years as a prisoner of Rome in the Caesarean jail, appearing before the governors Felix and Festus and before King Herod Agrippa II.



Starting Your Journey

Paul's imprisonment reveals three truths about the gospel. First, the simple facts of the gospel are true and reasonable. Second, the clear presentation of the gospel calls for a decision. Third, the personal response to the gospel must be left to God.



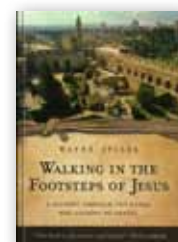
Tools for Digging Deeper



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