

# Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ  
Summer 2021

# Helpful Link



<https://www.teamagee.com/class/>

✎ Copies of the slides with my notes

# Caesarea Philippi



Matt 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30



# Caesarea Philippi



- ❧ The city was originally built by Herod Philip, the second son of Herod the Great at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon.
- ❧ It was adjacent to a spring, grotto, and related shrines dedicated to the Greek god Pan. Pan had the face and upper torso of a human and the horns, beard, and lower body of goat. He was the god of forests.
- ❧ Caesarea Philippi is mentioned in both Matthew and Mark as the setting for a conversation in which Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” – to which Peter replies, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30). Luke records a similar conversation but does not mention Caesarea Philippi (Luke 9:18–22).
- ❧ Jesus’ comment about the “rock” could possibly have been inspired by the giant rock mountain face at the temple of Pan.

## Caesarea Philippi (Cont.)



- ✧ Caesarea Philippi is the home to the recently uncovered remains of the palace of Herod Agrippa II.
- ✧ Agrippa II was the last Herod to also be called king.
- ✧ Herod Agrippa II tried Paul in Caesarea Maritima in Acts 25 and 26.
- ✧ In 61 AD, King Agrippa II renamed the administrative capital as **Neronias** in honor of Roman Emperor Nero.



Spring dedicated to the Greek god Pan.





Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan





Artist rendition of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



Greek god Pan / god of Forests



Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan





Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan



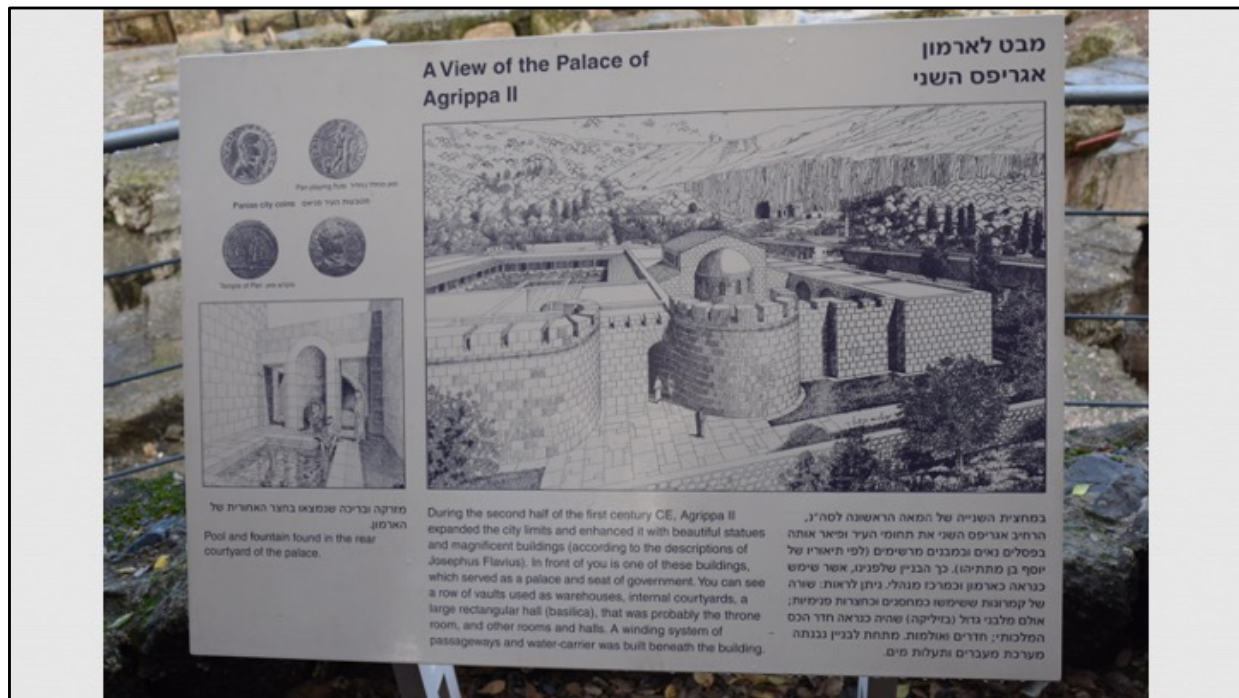
Remains of the Temple and Grotto of Pan





Palace of Herod Agrippa II (Recently excavated)





Artist rendition of the Palace of Herod Agrippa II



Palace of Herod Agrippa II (Recently excavated)

# Mount of Beatitudes (Eremos)



Matthew 5-7





## Mount of Beatitudes (Eremos)



- ✧ On the northwestern shore of Galilee between Capernaum and Gennesaret.
- ✧ This is the traditional location of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.
- ✧ The traditional spot was identified by the Byzantines approximately ~350 years after the event.
- ✧ The site is a natural amphitheater, and the geography generally matches the account in the gospels.
- ✧ The specific spot doesn't matter only the content of the message.



Church of the Beatitudes - The modern church was built between 1936 and 1938 near the site of the fourth-century Byzantine ruins.





Church of the Beatitudes - The modern church was built between 1936 and 1938 near the site of the fourth-century Byzantine ruins.



Gate leading to the traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred.



Traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. See the Sea of Galilee in the distance.



Another view of the traditional spot on the Mount of Beatitudes where the sermon occurred. See the Church of the Beatitudes at the top of the mountain.



# Capernaum



Matthew 4:12-17, 8:5-15, 9:1-10, 18-26, 11:21, 17:24-27

Mark 1:21-31, 2:1-12, 5:21-43

Luke 4:38-41, 5:17-20, Luke 7:1-10, 8:41-56

John 2:12, 6:59, 21:4-14





# Capernaum



- ❧ Capernaum was inhabited continuously from the 2nd century BC to the 11th century AD, when it was abandoned sometime before the Crusader conquest.
- ❧ This town was the home base of Jesus during His Galilean ministry, after he left Nazareth (Matthew 4:12-17) and was referred to as Jesus' "own city" in Matthew 9:1.
- ❧ The Gospels reference Capernaum 16 times, but it is not mentioned in the rest of the New Testament.
- ❧ The Gospels also speak of Jesus' mother and brothers having been in Capernaum (John 2:12), and Matthew 17:24-27 demonstrates that Jesus paid the temple-tax there for Himself and Peter.
- ❧ Capernaum is well known for being the town in which Peter lived and where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, and Luke 4:38-41).
- ❧ The calling of Matthew is also featured prominently in relation to Capernaum. The town housed Matthew and other tax collectors (Matt 9:9-10).

## Capernaum (Cont.)



- ✧ Jesus cursed Capernaum, along with Chorazin and Bethsaida, because even after He performed miracles there, the inhabitants of these towns did not believe He was the son of God (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13).
- ✧ Jesus performed the following miracles in Capernaum:
  - ✧ Healed Jairus' Daughter (Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:41-56)
  - ✧ Caught a miraculous number of fish (John 21:4-14)
  - ✧ Healed a demon possessed man (Mark 1:21-28)
  - ✧ Healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15)
  - ✧ Healed a paralytic (Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-20)
  - ✧ Healed the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)
  - ✧ Healed the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:21-43)





St. Peter's Church כנסיית בית פטר - (also called the Pilgrimage Church of St. Peter) in Capernaum is a modern Catholic pilgrimage church found in the archaeological site of Capernaum, northern Israel. The church is part of the Franciscan monastery in Capernaum. It is dedicated to St. Peter, which Catholics consider the first leader of the Church. Archaeological excavations carried out in this place discovered another layer of residential structures, on which the first half of a first century church was built. It is considered "the first church in the world" and believed it could be the place where the house of the Apostle Peter was. In the 5th century an octagonal church was built in its place. In 1990 a church of modern pilgrimage was built over the remains of the ancient temples.





A house from the first century AD that is traditionally identified as the house of Peter or his mother-in-law. These remains are surrounded by a wall from the remains of an octagonal Byzantine church.

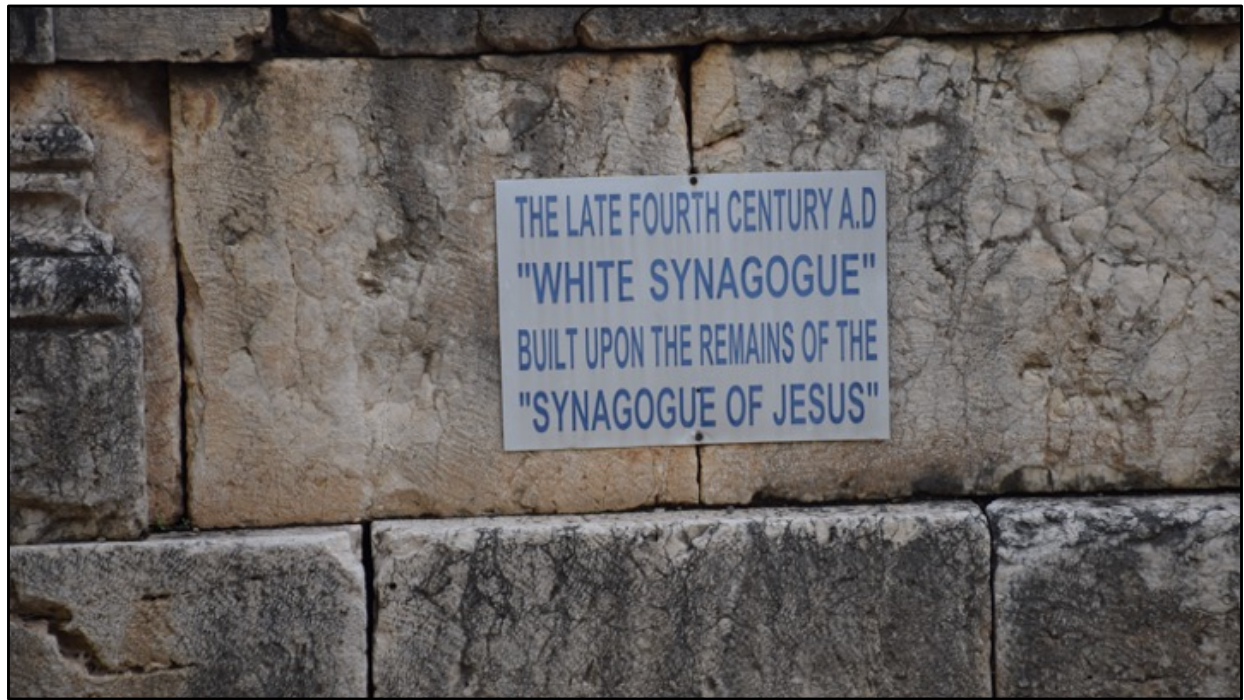


A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)





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An olive press with a millstone from the first century AD.

## Matthew 18:5-6



*“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great **millstone** fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”*





A black stone with a menorah that is likely from the first century AD synagogue. The menorah is a candlestick with seven branches that represent the six days of creation and the sabbath (*shavat* (שַׁבָּת))



A synagogue from the 4th century AD that was built on top the synagogue from the first century AD (John 6:59)



View of the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum

# Magdala



Mark 15:46-16:1; Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25







# Magdala



- ✧ Magdala is on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, north of Tiberias.
- ✧ The name Magdala means “tower.” This is possibly the birthplace and residence of Mary Magdalene (Mark 15:46-16:1; Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25).
- ✧ The discoveries at Magdala are quite recent:
  - ✧ First Century Synagogue was discovered in 2009
- ✧ Some manuscripts of Matthew 15:39 refer to Jesus coming into “the region of Magdala,” however this translation is called into question. With that it is unknown if scripture directly supports that Jesus was ever in Magdala. However, it is clearly in the vicinity of much of His ministry, so it is certainly possible that he came here.



First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue were uncovered in 2009 have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact.



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First Century AD Synagogue – The remains of this synagogue were uncovered in 2009 have not been restored in any way. It is a rather large structure with parts of a mosaic floor still intact. Note the mosaic floor in the foreground and a reproduction of the stone box in the middle of the structure.



First Century AD Ritual Baths (Mikveh – מקווה) These were ritual baths cut out of rock and used for Jewish ritual cleansing. One of these was completely intact and was filled with water.





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First Century AD Port – Port to the Sea of Galilee for Magdala. There was a mosaic of a ship found at this location (removed from site), and the ship looked very similar to the ancient Galilee boat that has recently been found.



Today there is a Franciscan church that has been built on this site. The Franciscan's are commercializing the site to make money by building a hotel, restaurants, and likely destroying historical artifacts in the process.