

# Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ  
Summer 2021

# Helpful Links



🔗 <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

🔗 Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

🔗 <https://www.teamagee.com/class/>

🔗 Copies of the slides with my notes

# Caesarea Maritima



Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19;  
18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13



# Caesarea Maritima

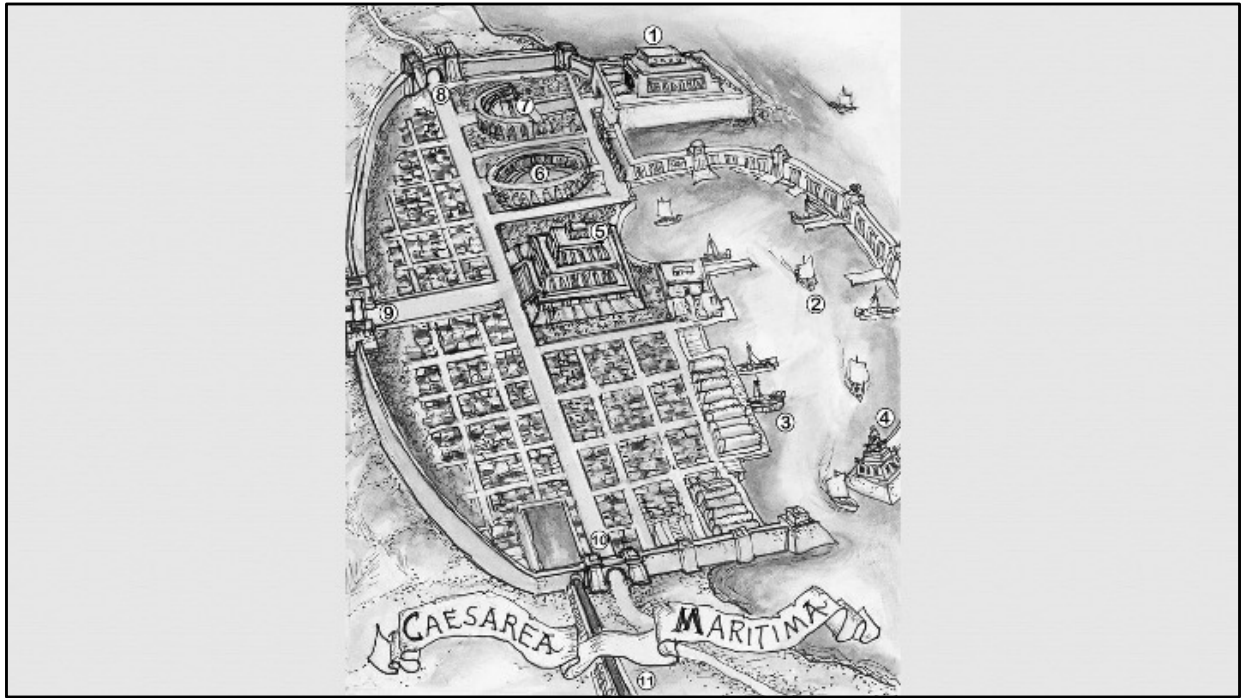


- ❧ “Maritima” means “by the sea” (port city on the Mediterranean)
- ❧ Known simply as “Caesarea” in scripture
- ❧ The city was built by Herod the Great between approximately 22 and 10 B.C. and was named for Caesar Augustus.
- ❧ Herod was considered “Great” not because he was a great man, but because he was a great builder.
- ❧ The excavated ruins today include a theater, palace, hippodrome, and aqueduct.

## Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ❧ The ruins at Caesarea are very important because they show us what a Roman city looked like at that time.
- ❧ It was built according to a “Hippodamian Plan” which consisted of horizontal and vertical roads creating square-shaped patterns that contained buildings.
- ❧ It shows that Romans planned out their cities in detail before starting to build. This style was invented by the architect Hippodamus of Miletus.
- ❧ Caesarea was also full of sculptures, as was typical of Roman cities of the time (All of them are headless today as they were beheaded by Muslims because Islam does not allow icons).



Artist drawing of Caesarea which shows the Hippodamian Plan

## Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ✧ The city only appears in the book of Acts
  - ✧ Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19; 18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13
- ✧ It is first mentioned when Philip came to Caesarea as he went from city to city, spreading the gospel after the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:40).
- ✧ After Paul's conversion, Paul was brought to Caesarea and sent on a ship to Tarsus to avoid death by those who were opposed to his testimony (Acts 9:30).
- ✧ Caesarea was the home of Cornelius, and was mentioned in Acts 10:1, 24 and 11:1 related to his conversion.



## Caesarea Maritima (cont.)

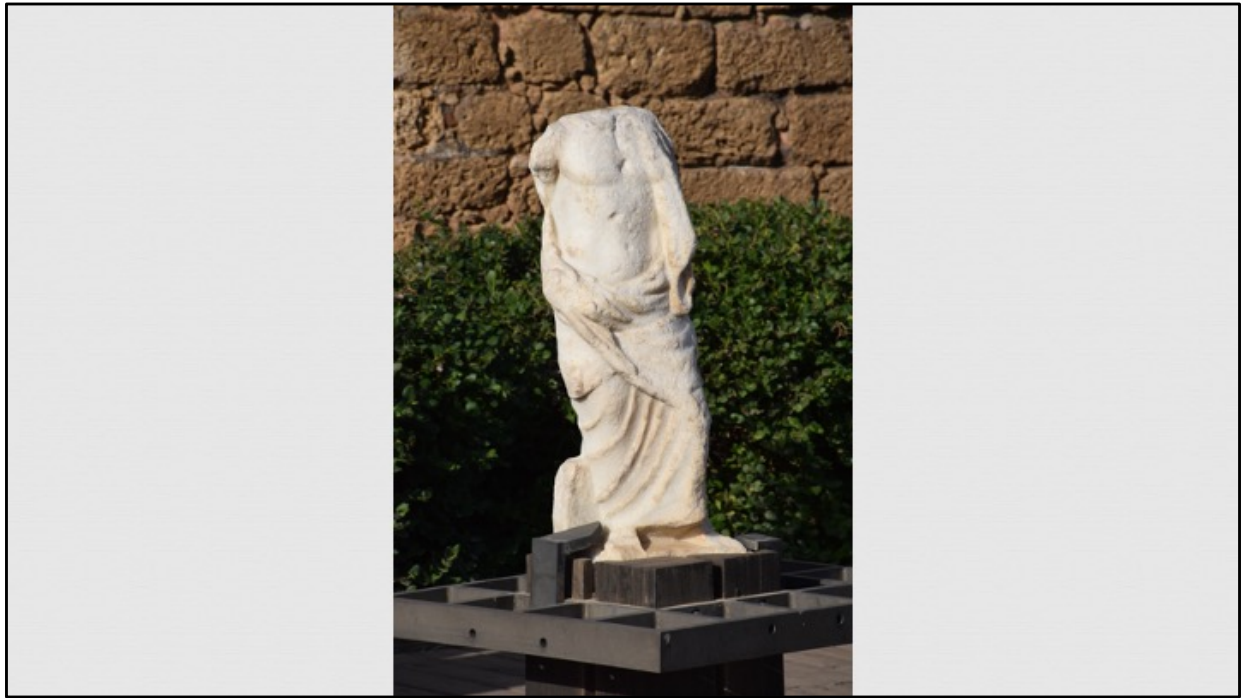


- ✠ Soon after Peter escaped from prison, Herod Agrippa I journeyed to Caesarea where he made his final speech (Acts 12:19–23). Acts records that he sat down and praised himself as one with the voice of a god (Acts 12:22). An angel of the Lord struck him down (with worms) because he did not give God the glory (Acts 12:23).
- ✠ During Paul's second missionary journey, it is recorded that after he landed at Caesarea, he greeted the church (Acts 18:22).
- ✠ During his third missionary journey, Paul visits Philip the evangelist, who had a house in Caesarea (Acts 21:8).

## Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ✠ The last mention of Caesarea in the New Testament comes in the long narrative of chapters 23 through 26, in which Paul appears before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa II (Acts 23:33–26:32). Paul makes his case before Festus, finally invoking his right as a Roman citizen and appealing to Caesar (Acts 25:11).
- ✠ The palace at Caesarea was likely used by Pontius Pilate while he was a Roman Governor before moving to Jerusalem. An inscription mentioning him was found in Caesarea, and there is a replica of this inscription on the palace site today.
- ✠ The synagogue at Caesarea was also where the Jewish revolt against the Romans began in 67 A.D.



Example of one of the sculptures found in Caesarea that are now located right outside the theater. All of them are headless as they were beheaded because Islam does not allow icons.



Theater of Caesarea, which is a half-circle (Full circle would be an amphitheater). Most of what is visible is original, but the seats have been restored.





Theater of Caesarea, which is a half-circle (Full circle would be an amphitheater). Most of what is visible is original, but the seats have been restored.



Wide angle view of same theater



Today the site contains many recovered column fragments and other items such as a sarcophagus. The marble and granite used in the construction of Caesarea were brought in from outside of Israel.





View of the Lower palace from Herodian times. This area included gardens, mosaics, a swimming pool, and the nearby hippodrome (this was built later). All of this was built right on the Mediterranean, and the views are stunning.





Ancient mosaics and the remains of a swimming pool (bath)



Inscription found at Caesarea - "Pontius Pilate, the prefect of of Judea, erected a building dedicated to the emperor Tiberius."

The palace at Caesarea was likely used by Pontius Pilate while he was a Roman Governor before moving to Jerusalem. An inscription mentioning him was found in Caesarea, and there is a replica of this inscription on the palace site today (the original is in the Israel Museum).



View of the upper palace.





Taken from the upper palace toward the remains of the harbor and city. Likely that Paul appeared before Felix, Festus, and Herod Agrippa II at this palace.



Remains of a Hippodrome beside the palace. Hippodrome literally means “circle of horses” and was a full amphitheater for chariot races. The Mediterranean side of the hippodrome is no longer there as it was consumed by the sea. Most of the buildings in Caesarea were structures of amusement.



View north from Hippodrome





Remains of a public toilet that are right outside the hippodrome.



Another view taken from the upper palace toward the remains of the harbor and city. This is pointing north.





To the north there are the remains of the ancient aqueduct at Caesarea. Aqueduct literally means “water carrier” in Latin.

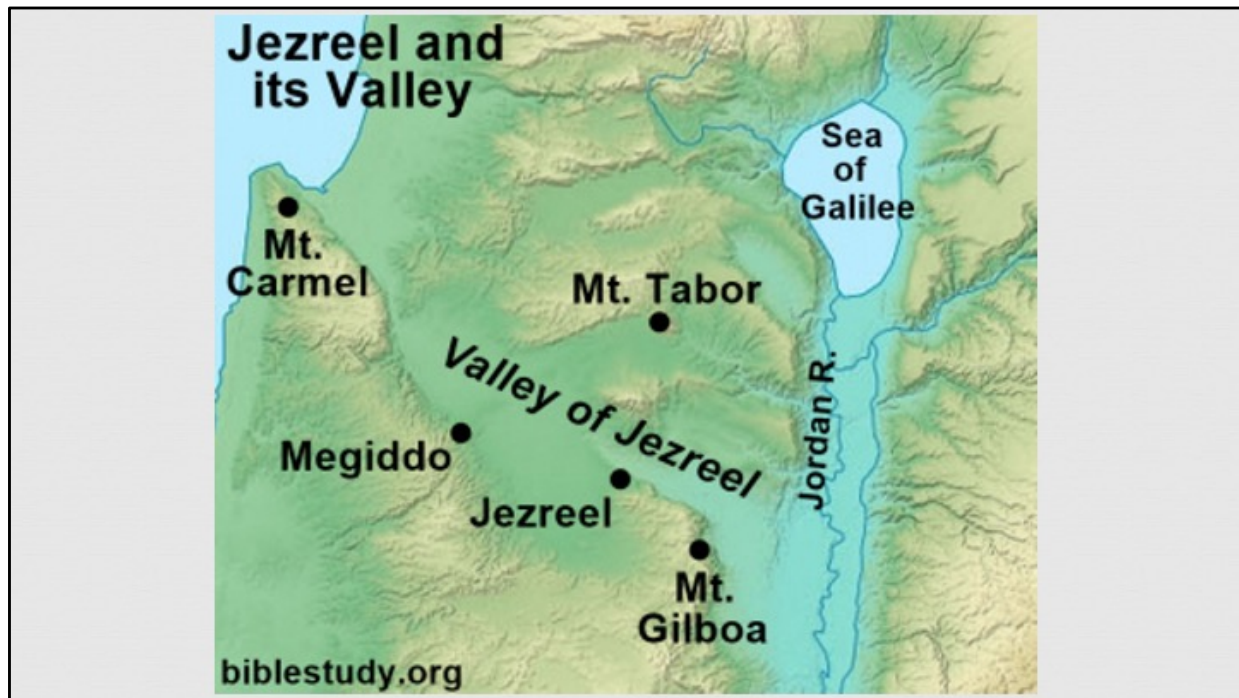


It was important for cities to have a source of fresh water, and this aqueduct was built by Herod the Great to carry water approximately 3 km from a spring on Mt. Carmel. This fresh water would have been used for daily consumption, ritual washings by the Jews, and fountains for the Romans.

# Jezreel Valley



Judges 4-7; 1 Samuel 31



# Jezreel Valley



- ✧ This valley is south of Galilee and north of the hill country of Ephraim.
- ✧ Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites in the Jezreel Valley (Judges 4–5).
- ✧ Gideon fought and defeated the Midianites on a hill in this valley with just 300 men (Judges 6–7).
- ✧ Saul camped at the spring of Jezreel before his final battle with the Philistines and his death on Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31).





View of Jezreel Valley from Megiddo



View of Jezreel Valley from Megiddo. Nazareth and Mt. Tabor are in the distance.



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor with Nazareth in the distance.



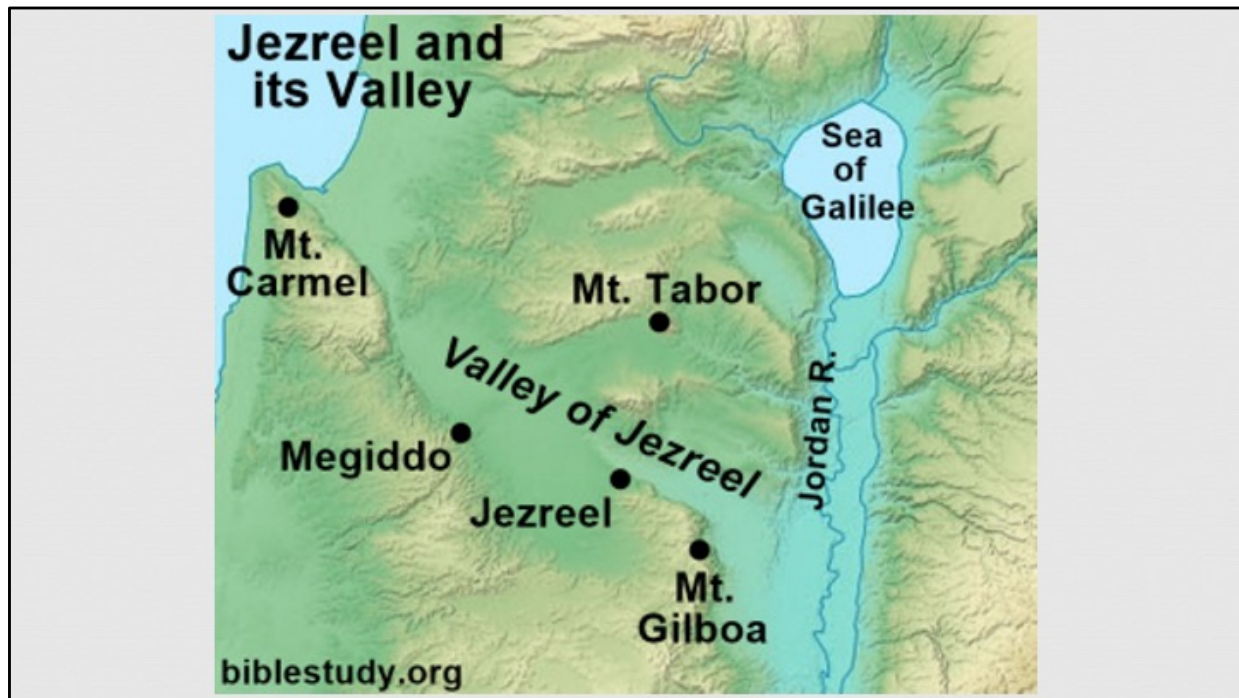


View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor.

# Tel Megiddo



Josh 12:21, 17:11; Judges 1:27, 5:19; 1 Kgs 4:12, 9:15; 2 Kgs 9:27, 23:29-30;  
1 Chronicles 7:29; 2 Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:11



# Tel Megiddo



- ✎ Megiddo is a fortress city that dates back to about 5,000 B.C., located on the southwest side of the Jezreel Valley at the foot of Mount Carmel.
- ✎ Megiddo was a city that was located on the Via Maris, an ancient trade route linking Egypt with the northern empires of Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Megiddo's location on this route showed that the city was very significant.
- ✎ This is also evidenced by the words of Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th century B.C.) of Egypt, "... for the capturing of Megiddo is the capturing of a thousand cities."

## Tel Megiddo (Cont.)



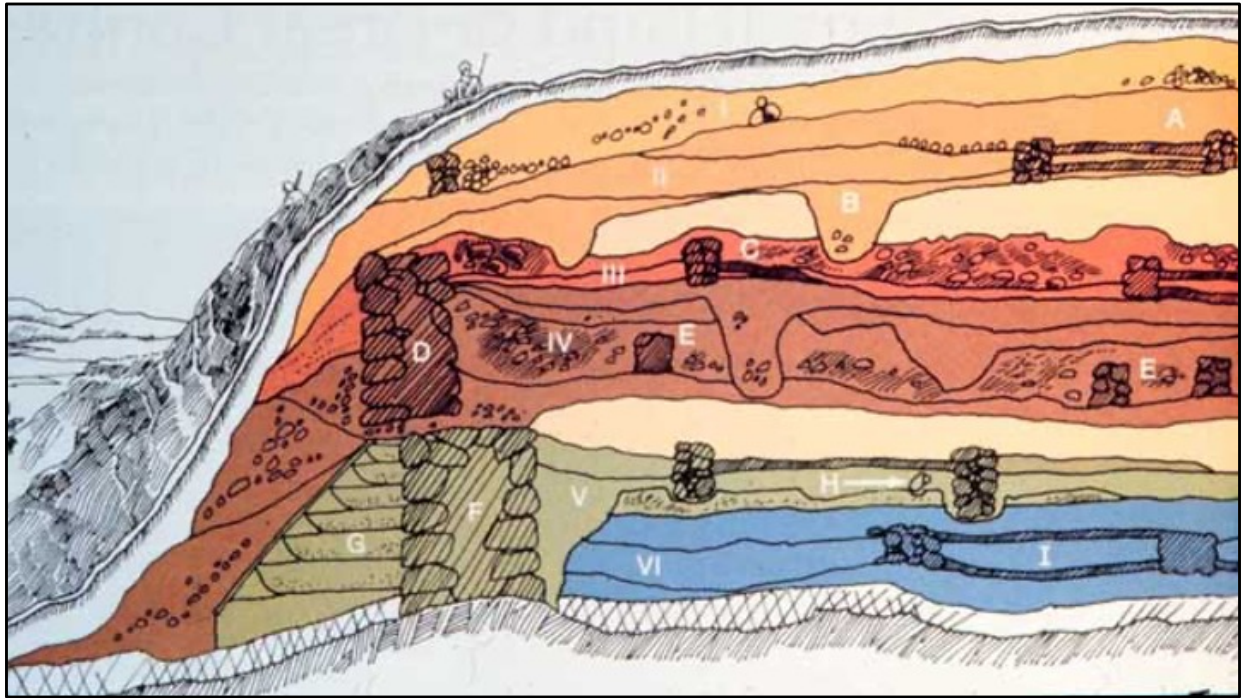
- ✧ Megiddo is referenced 12 times in the Old Testament.
- ✧ Megiddo is mentioned among the cities conquered by Joshua (Josh 12:21), though apparently they were unsuccessful at fully driving out the Canaanites (Josh 17:11).
- ✧ During the reign of Solomon, Megiddo was fortified along with Gezer and Hazor (1 Kgs 9:15).
- ✧ The city fell to Shishak (925 BC) and to Tiglath-pileser III in 733 BC.
- ✧ Josiah died at Megiddo in 609 BC in his confrontation with Pharaoh Neco (2 Kgs 23:29).

## Tel Megiddo (Cont.)



- ✧ Megiddo was destroyed 30 times by waves of conquerors, and this has resulted in 30 levels or strata that comprise the Tel.
- ✧ According to tradition this will be the site of Armageddon as described in Revelation 16
  - ✧ Most likely this association is symbolic





Representative diagram of a Tel (Tell) showing levels of strata from years of destruction and rebuilding.



View of Tel Megiddo





View of Tel Megiddo with walkway on the right.



Main gate of Megiddo from the 16th century B.C. (This means that it is 3500 years old). This was the only way in and out of city.



Wooden planks show line of what is original to the site, and what has been reconstructed.





Pathway to the top of Tel Megiddo



Gate from 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (time of Solomon). Partially destroyed getting to the lower gate from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.





View from the top of Tel Megiddo showing excavation through the various strata.  
Note the round altar to the right by the Northern Palace.



Remains of the Northern Palace. This palace was from the 10<sup>th</sup> (Solomon) or 9<sup>th</sup> (Ahab) centuries BC.



Remains of the Northern Stable from 9<sup>th</sup> (Ahab) or 10<sup>th</sup> (Solomon) century BC.





Grain Silo from time Jeroboam II (8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.)



Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)





Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)

# Water System at Megiddo

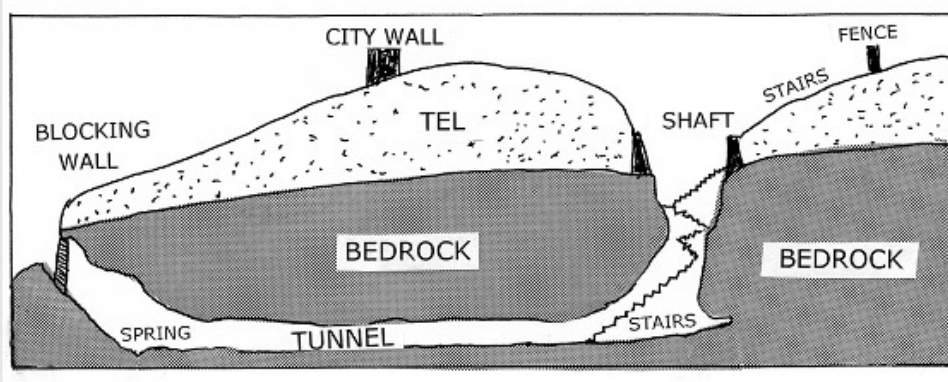


Diagram of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Entrance of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel. Notice the original steps to the right of the modern steps.





Tunnel leading down to the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Tunnel that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.





Spring that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.

