

New Testament Palestine

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CAESAREA



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- It is different from Caesarea Philippi.
- It was a garrison port of Rome, 65 miles from Jerusalem.
- It sits on the west side of Israel, along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.



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- An aqueduct brought water from springs located about 10 miles to the northeast.



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- The city is the location of the 1961 discovery of the Pilate Stone. This is the only archaeological item that mentions the Roman prefect Pontius Pilate. Many scholars believe that Pilate used Caesarea as a base, and he only went to Jerusalem as needed.



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- After preaching in Samaria, Philip the evangelist and his four virgin daughters took up residence (Acts 8:40; 21:8).



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- After Roman times, Caesarea fell into decay. The Arabs fell upon the coast, and the Crusaders were the only intruders to give attention to the port.

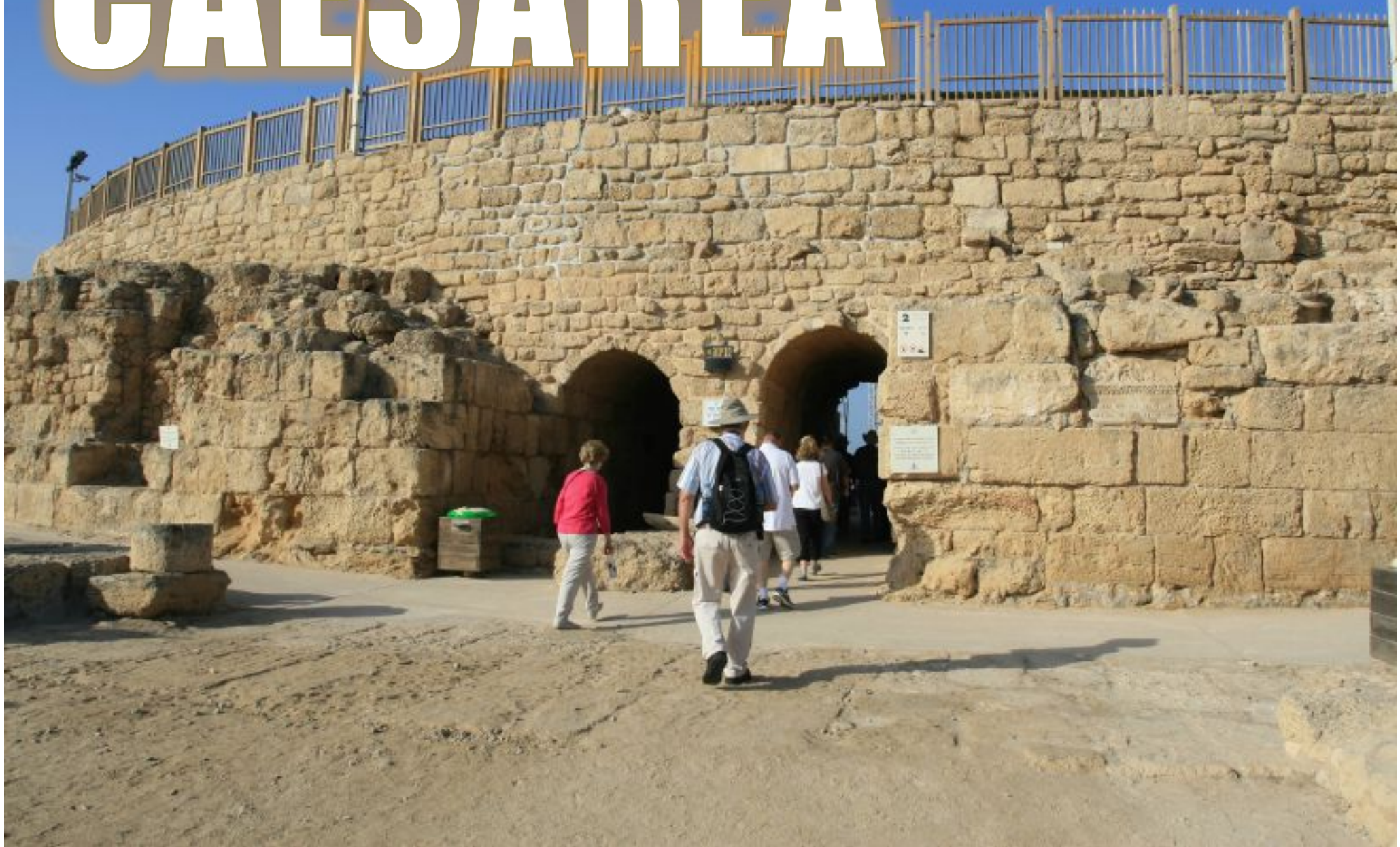
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HEROD'S THEATER

Herod's theater, built between 22-10 B.C., was the first of its kind in Israel. Throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods the building underwent several alterations. Sometime during the 3rd or 4th c. A.D., the orchestra was converted into a large basin for staging nautical games. Apparently offended by the licentious entertainment the theater offered, the Christian Byzantine rulers closed it down in the 5th c. A.D.

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Between 1959 and 1964 extensive excavations were carried out at the site. The restoration and reconstruction of the theater - the first large scale operation of this kind in Israel - have allowed the building to resume its original purpose. During the summer nights, the theater lends its unique setting to outdoor concerts, ballet and opera performances.

התיאטרון של הורדוס

התיאטרון שבנה הורדוס בשנים 10-22 לפני סה"נ היה הראשון מסוגו בארץ-ישראל. במרוצת השנים נעשו בו שינויים רבים. במאה השלישית או הרביעית לסה"נ נבנתה בו בריכה גדולה למסעי מים. נראה כי האופי הלא מכובד של המופעים בעינו הממסד הכנסייתי גרם לסגירת התיאטרון בידי השלטון הביזאנטי-נוצרי, במאה החמישית לסה"נ.



מסכת טרגדיה וקומדיה
היום מוזיאון רובינשטיין במוזיאון התיאטרון

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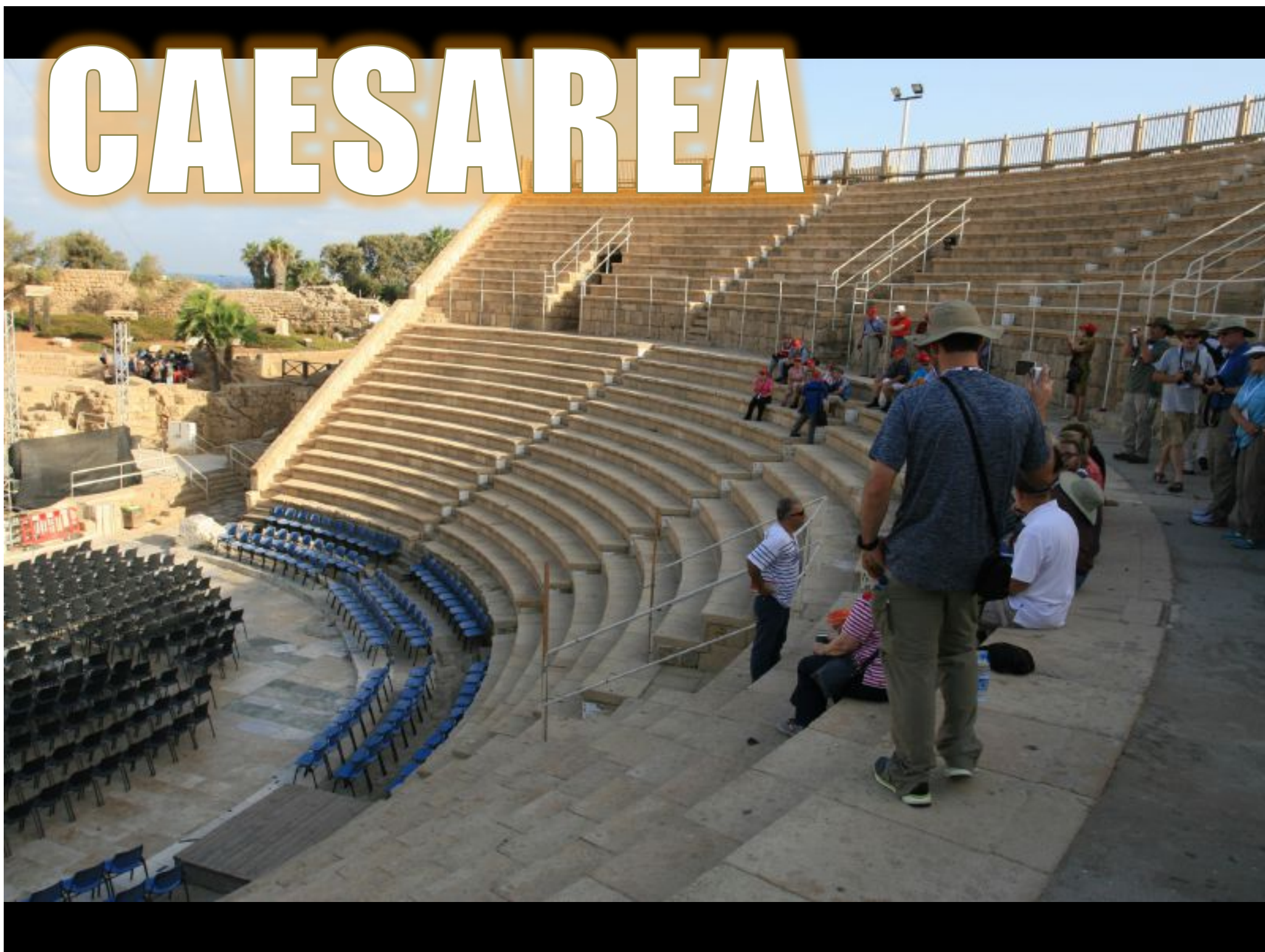
Masks of Tragedy and Comedy
details from a mosaic pavement in a Roman
villa near Caesarea.

Theaters were originally designed to host
tragedies, comedies and mime.

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