

Caesarea

- 60 miles NW of Jerusalem
- Provincial capital of Judea
- Home of Roman Governors like Pilate
- Before 23 BC it was called Strato’s Tower, but Herod the Great had it rebuilt 23-13 BC with 235 acres in city wall
- Built artificial harbor using underwater wood frames with new technology, concrete that hardened under water
- Palace of the coast in the Mediterranean Sea with fresh water swimming pool inside
- Roman style temples, theater, market, hippodrome, amphitheater
- Theater faced a stage that had the Mediterranean Sea as a background and seated 4,000
- Oval track inside the hippodrome that seated 30,000 faced the Mediterranean Sea
- Greek style streets straight , on grid running E-W and N-S
- Infrastructure include sewer and abundant fresh water from an engineered aqueduct that brought fresh mountain water from the north six miles away which included a quarter of a mile tunneled bored through a sandstone ridge
- Named after the reigning Caesar Augustus (ruled 27-14 AD) and included a temple to Caesar with a colossal statue of Caesar that was intended to rival the great statue of Zeus at Olympia (which was 42 feet tall from 430 BC)
- Paul would be imprisoned here from 58-60 AD, before being shipped to Rome to wait trial before Nero.
- At the start of the Jewish War in 66 AD the Gentiles in Caesarea massacred the Jews in Caesarea
- Origen lived here beginning in 232 AD and Eusebius, the church historian, was the bishop of Caesarea from 313-339

10:1 – Cornelius was stationed in Caesarea for a long time since he had a home there and his family was with him. He may have retired in Caesarea. Cornelius was wealthy and lived in a wealthy community. He had been generous to the Jewish community.

Cornelius was a Centurion (in charge of 80-100 troops) in the Italian Regiment (or, Italian Cohort)

Century	100 troops
Maniple	200 troops (2x Century)
Cohort	600 troops (3x Maniple)
Legion	6000 troops (10x Cohort)

COHORS II ITALICA VOLUNTARIORUM CIVIUM ROMANORUM

“Cohort Second Italian of Roman Citizens”

- This has been found in Latin Inscriptions
- This Cohort (Regiment) was present in Syria 66-70 AD
- This Cohort (Regiment) was comprised of men originally from Italy

The angel mentions two things that Cornelius has done to that got God’s attention:

- 1) Giving
- 2) Prayers

This is mentioned 4x in Luke’s narrative:

twice early in chapter 10 in verses 10:2, 10:4 and again in 10:22 by servants and 10:31 by Cornelius

Psalm 141:2 – “May my prayer be set before you like incense;

may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Romans 2:7-11 – “To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism. (Note “God does not show favoritism” is mentioned by Peter in 10:34)

Principle: Respond to the revelation you have and more will be given.

**Matthew 13:12** – “Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. (Mark 4:25)

**Matthew 25:29** - “For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

Joppa is 30 miles south of Caesarea

Cornelius has *horama* “vision” Peter has *ekstaris* “trance” or literally it means “to stand outside yourself”

Cornelius both heard from God while they were praying

What was the purpose of OT Law against unclean food? It may be health, but in 40 AD nothing changed to make food health standards better. Refrigerators were not introduced to the Middle East. Germs and the cause of disease were not discovered. The only thing that changed was the Gospel was being taken to the Gentiles. It was time for the Jews and the Gentiles become one in Christ.

Galatians 3:28 - “There is neither Jew nor Gentile ...for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”;

Ephesians 2:14 – “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

In Mark 7:15-16 Jesus had already declared all food clean

According to Jewish tradition Peter should not invite Gentiles into Simeon’s house:

*“And do thou, my son Jacob, remember my words,*

*And observe the commandments of Abraham, thy father:*

*Separate thyself from the nations, And eat not with them:*

*And do not according to their works, And become not their associate;*

*For their works are unclean, And all their ways are a Pollution and an abomination and uncleanness.*

*They offer their sacrifices to the dead . And they worship evil spirits, And they eat over the graves,*

*And all their works are vanity and nothingness.” Jewish ‘Book of Jubilees’ 22:16-17*

(Before the Dead Sea Scrolls only 4 complete texts from the 1400-1600 existed, but beginning in 1947 fifteen scrolls of Jubilees were found in 5 caves near Qumran. After the books of Psalms, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Exodus and Genesis the fifteen scrolls of Jubilees was the most found.)

The Mishnah forbids Jews from entering the house of a Gentile:

“The dwelling-places of Gentiles are unclean.” - Ohalot 18:7

There have already been Gentile’s saved in Acts - 6:5, Nicolas; 8:26, the Ethiopian; 8:40 Philip’s work in Samaria

**10:25** Cornelius falls on ground before Peter *proskyneo* which means “to designate the custom of prostrating before another, kissing feet, hem of garment and ground.” This was done before superior or king, but also a deity or divine messenger. Clearly, since Peter says, “I am only a man myself,” Cornelius was on his face before Peter because he consider Peter to have divine or immortal character traits.

**10:35** All men are acceptable to God if they:

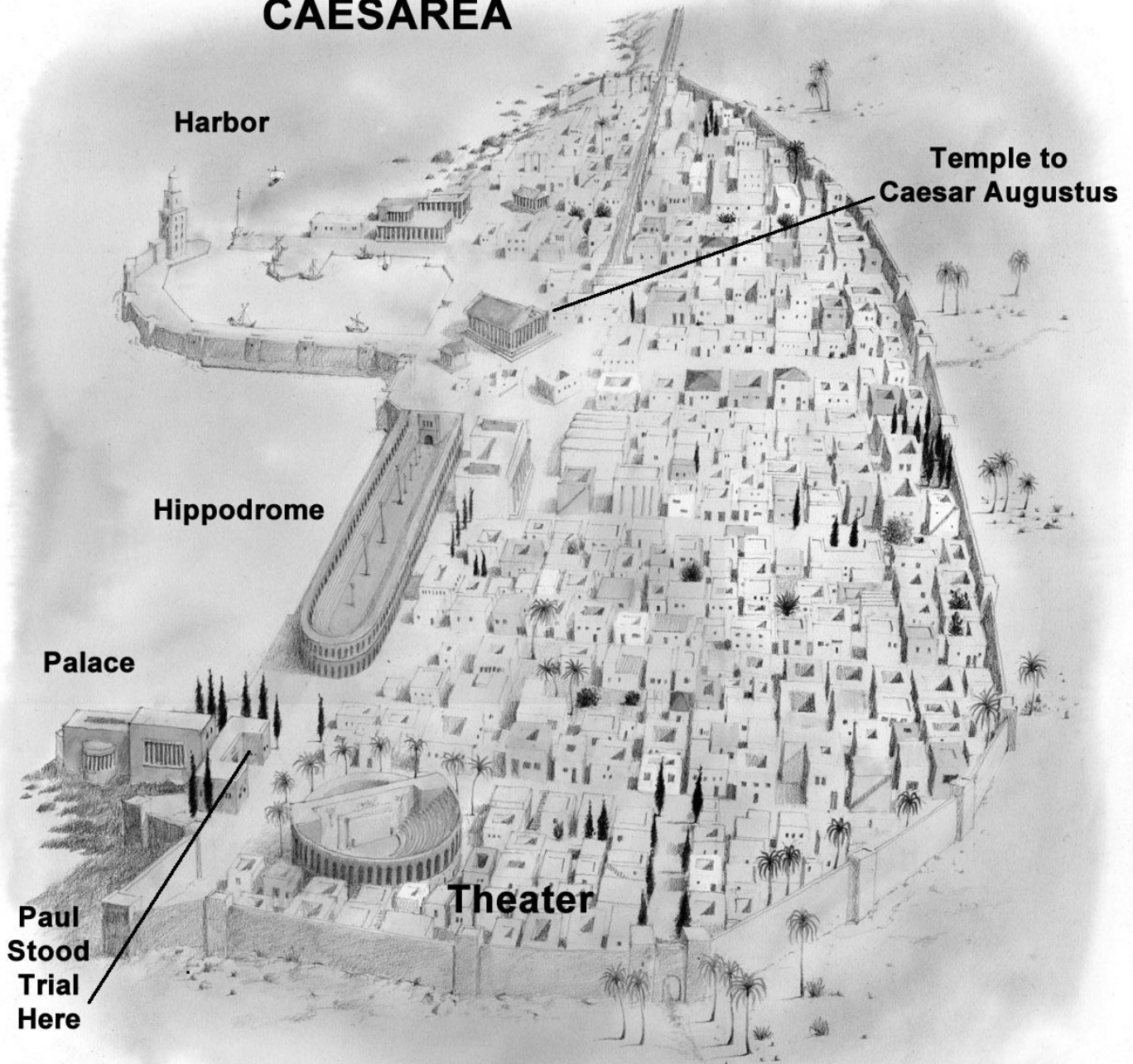
1. Fear God (an attitude or action towards God) ...10:35

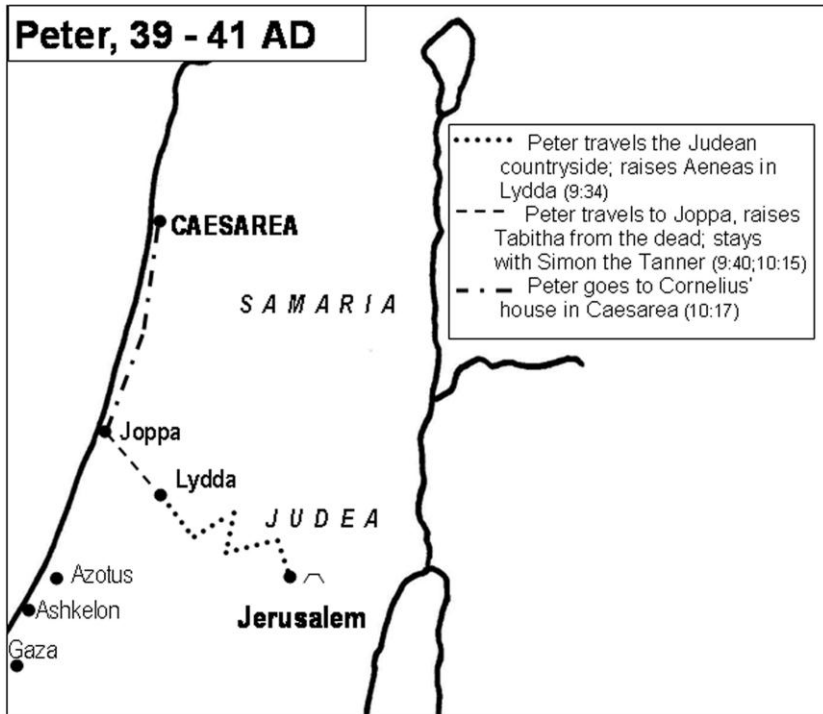
2. Do what is right (an attitude or action toward men) ...10:35

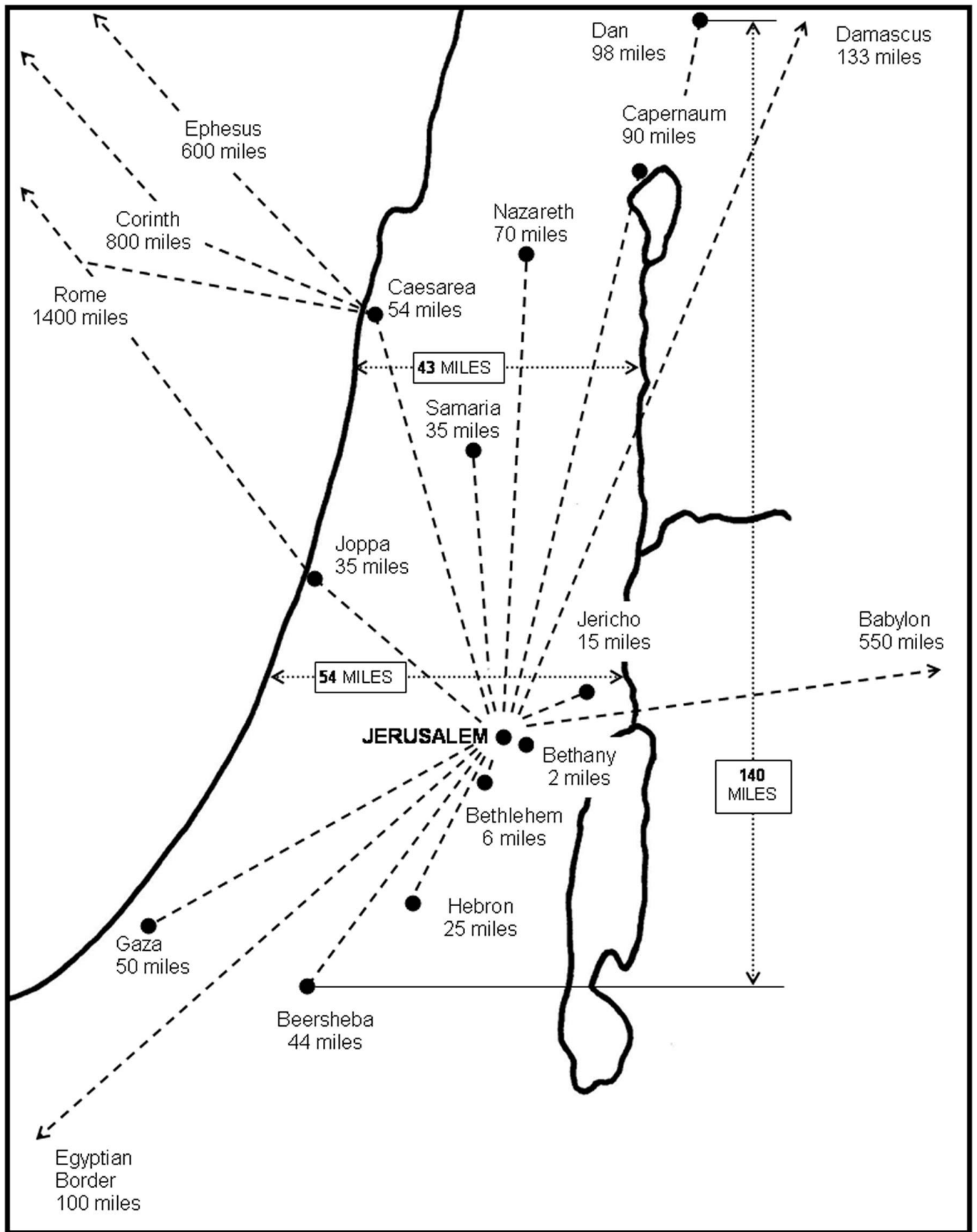
-BUT...all still have sin (someone who does not recognize their sin does not fear or recognize God or his nature)

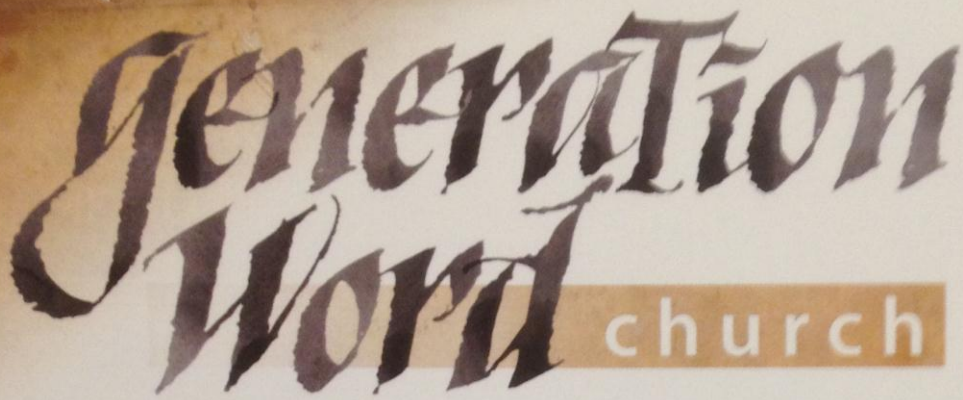
3. Everyone who believes in Jesus (this is salvation) ...10:43

# CAESAREA







The logo features the words "Generation" and "Word" in a large, black, calligraphic script. The word "Word" is partially overlaid by a horizontal orange bar. To the right of this bar, the word "church" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font.

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