

## Who Do You Think I Am?

Mark 8:27-30



## Jesus' Earthly Ministry

- 3 ½ years.
- From the summer of 26 AD to April of 30 AD
- The final section of His earthly life runs from Passover 29 AD – Passover 30 AD.
  - Length: 3rd full year of public ministry
  - Major Description:
    - End of the Galilean ministry (about first month)
    - Training of the Twelve (about 6 months)
    - In and out of Jerusalem for three feasts (about 6 months)
    - This final year is for the most part, a time of sinking popularity and constant avoiding Jewish areas.
- Mark 8:27-30 – about 10 months from the cross.
- Early summer of 29 AD

## Caesarea-Philippi

- Enlarged by Herod Philip
  - one of Herod's sons who was tetrarch over this region.
- Named after Caesar Augustus.
- *Philippi* was added to distinguish it from the coastal city that was just called Caesarea.
- "This was the Caesarea that Philip built."

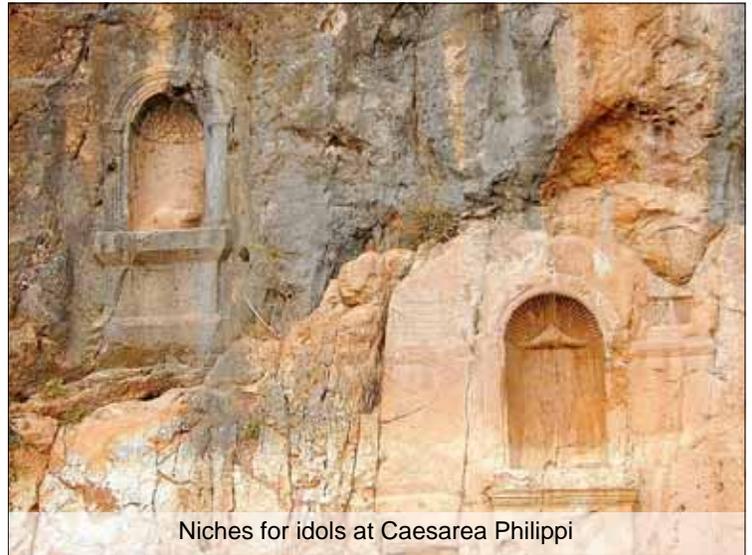
## The Flow

- I. The Intentional Setting for the Questions (27a)

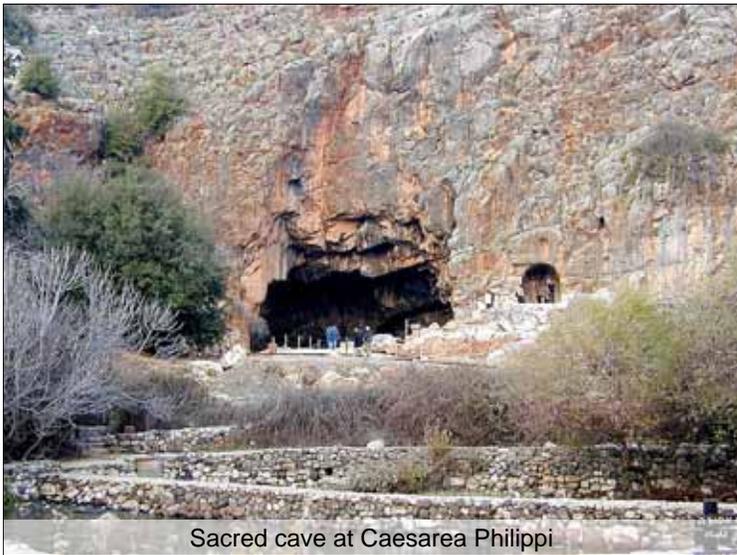




Caesarea Philippi area



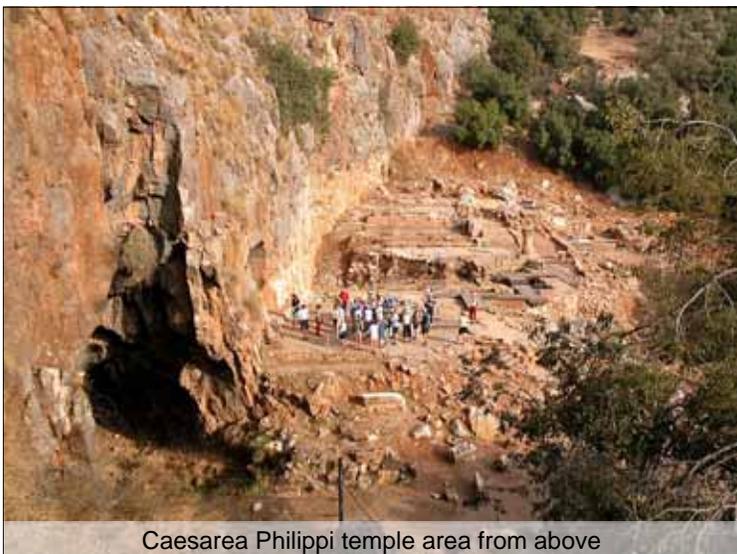
Niches for idols at Caesarea Philippi



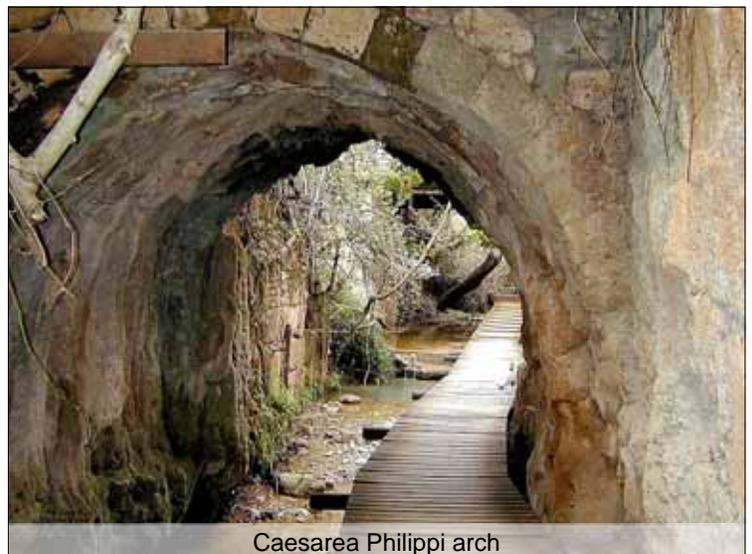
Sacred cave at Caesarea Philippi



Caesarea Philippi spring



Caesarea Philippi temple area from above



Caesarea Philippi arch

## The Flow

- I. The Intentional Setting for the Questions (27a)
- II. Two Absolutely Crucial Questions (27b-29)
  - A. Who Do People Say that I Am? (27b-28)

## Peter's Confession

- Cf. Matt. 16:16 - Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
  - 1) You are the Messiah that God promised would come in the Scripture.
    - A statement about Jesus' mission.
    - Cf. John 1:41 - He [Andrew] found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ).
  - 2) You are the Son of the Living God.
    - A statement about His nature.

## Who Do People Say that I Am?

- 1) John the Baptist
- 2) Elijah
- 3) One of the prophets
  - Matthew adds, "Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (Matt. 16:14).
    - Legend had it that Jeremiah had hidden the ark of the covenant and the altar of incense in a cave in his time (2 Macc. 2:4-8).
    - And when the time was right, he would return and reestablish true temple worship before Messiah came.
  - Luke adds, "others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again." (Luke 9:19)

## The Right Human or Angelic Response

- Acts 14:14-15 - But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.
- Cf. Rev. 22:8-9 - I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

## The Flow

- I. The Intentional Setting for the Questions (27a)
- II. Two Absolutely Crucial Questions (27b-29)
  - A. Who Do People Say that I Am? (27b-28)
  - B. Who Do You Say that I Am? (29)
    - 4:41 - They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"
- III. The Only Right Answer (29b-30)
  - 1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

## What Are the Implications?

- 1) For Jesus' Disciples
  - Cf. Mark 8:31-33
- 2) For Those who remain Undecided
  - Cf. Mark 8:34-38

## Why Caesarea Philippi?

*1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

- The first great declaration...
  - The Messiah
  - By a Jew
  - In a gentile area, outside a Roman city
  - 100 miles north of Jerusalem
- The second great declaration...
  - The Son of God.
  - By a Roman
  - Inside the heart of Israel
  - Just outside the city walls of Jerusalem