



**What is
the biggest
decision
we make?**





When Jesus came to the area
of Caesarea Philippi,

Matthew 16:13 (NET)

Jesus' Galilean Ministry



Jesus' Galilean Ministry

Heals Blind Man — Matthew 9

Feeds the 5,000 } Matthew 14

Calms the Storm }

Casts out Demons }

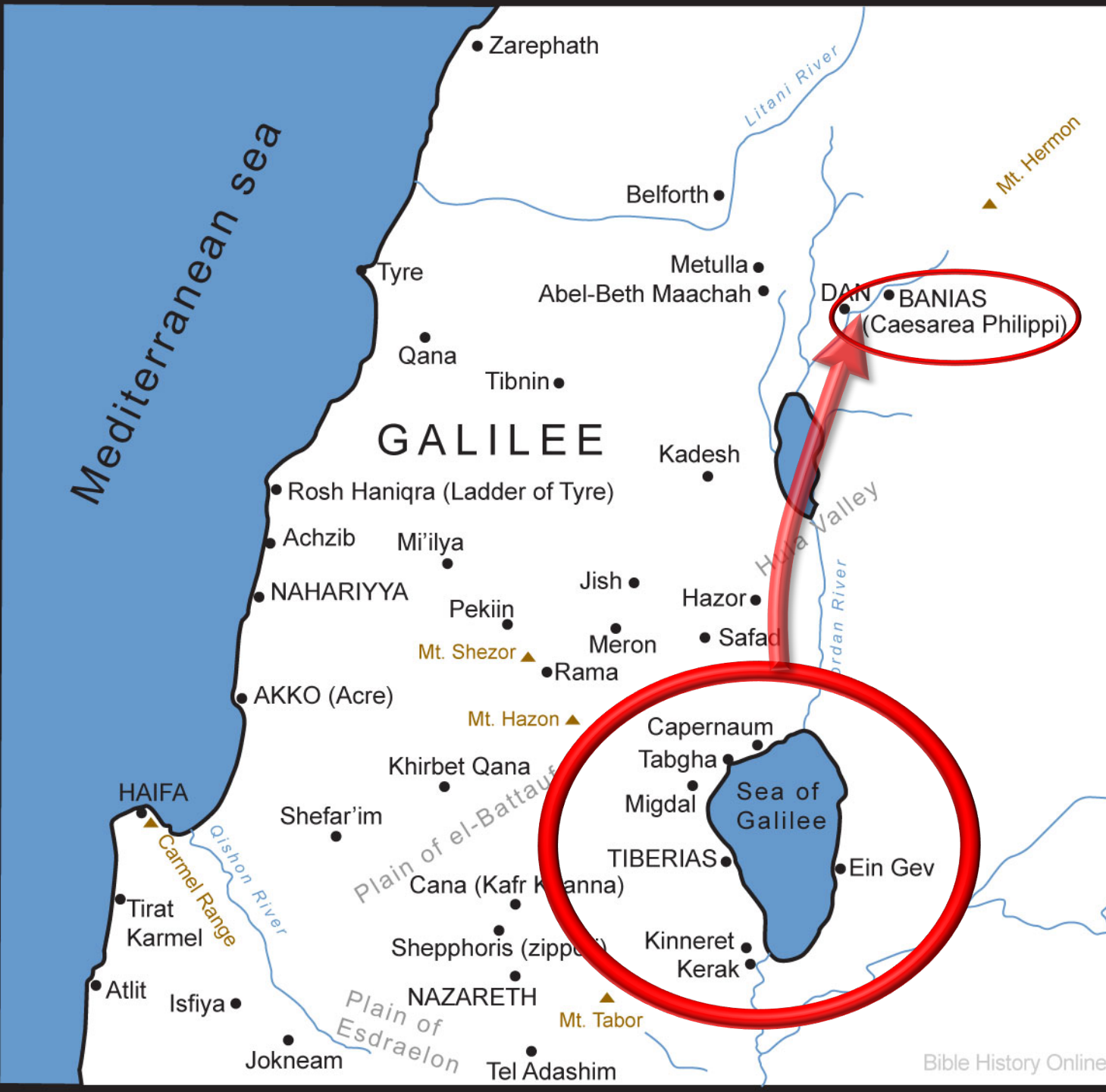
Heals in Decapolis } Matthew 15

Feeds the 4,000 }

Heals multitudes }

Then large crowds came to him bringing with them the lame, blind, crippled, mute, and many others. They laid them at his feet, and he healed them. As a result, the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they praised the God of Israel.

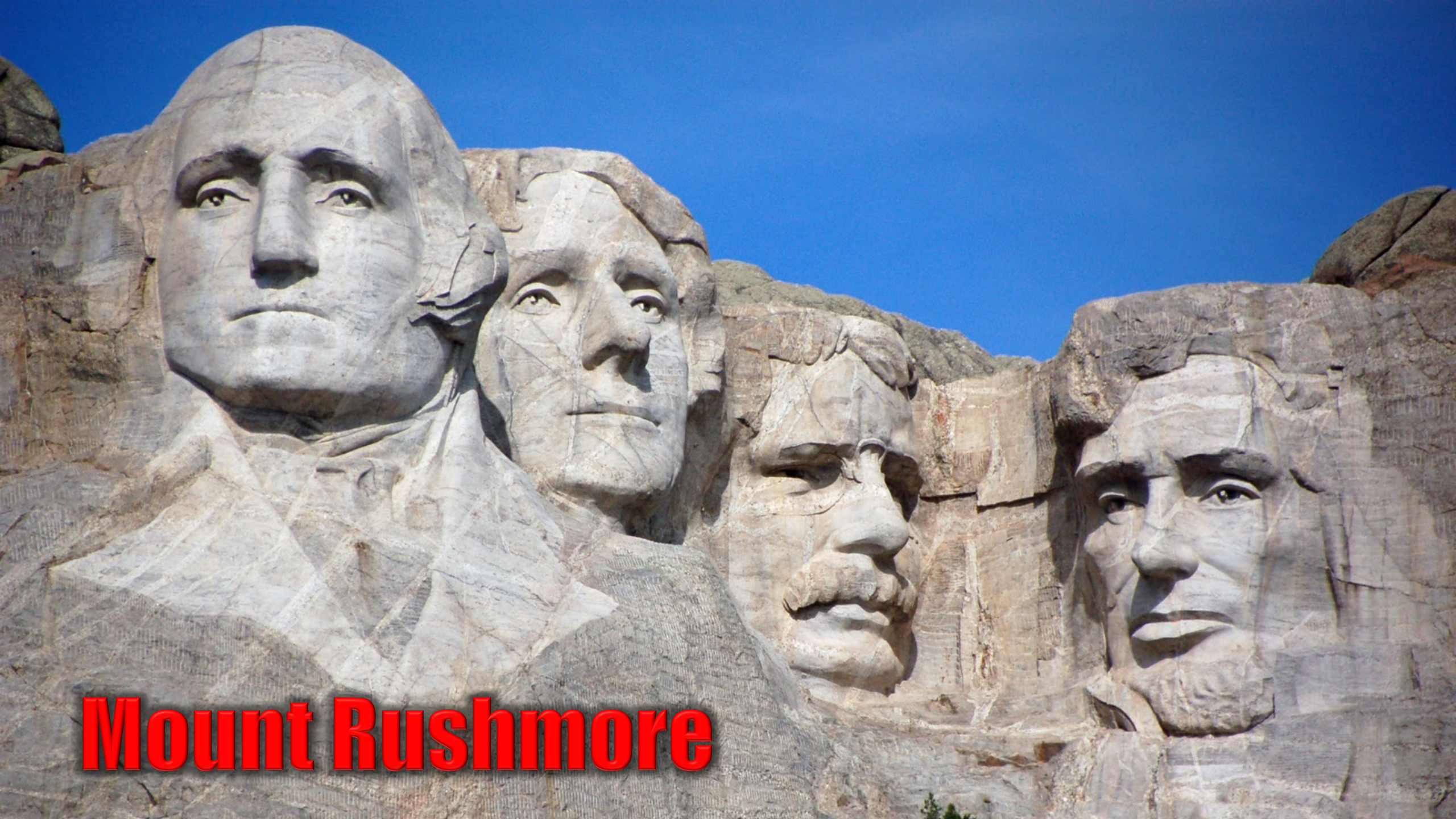
(Matthew 15:30-31 NET)



Caesarea Philippi

25 Miles away

WHY?



Mount Rushmore

Caesarea Philippi

“Mount Rushmore of ancient power”



Caesarea Philippi

“Gates of Hell”

One of three sources of the Jordan River





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Jordan River: **Power of Religion**

- **Crossed to enter Promised Land**
- **Elījah and Elisha**
- **Naaman**
- **Major water source**

Caesarea Philippi



**1) Sacred for
Judaism**

Caesarea Philippi

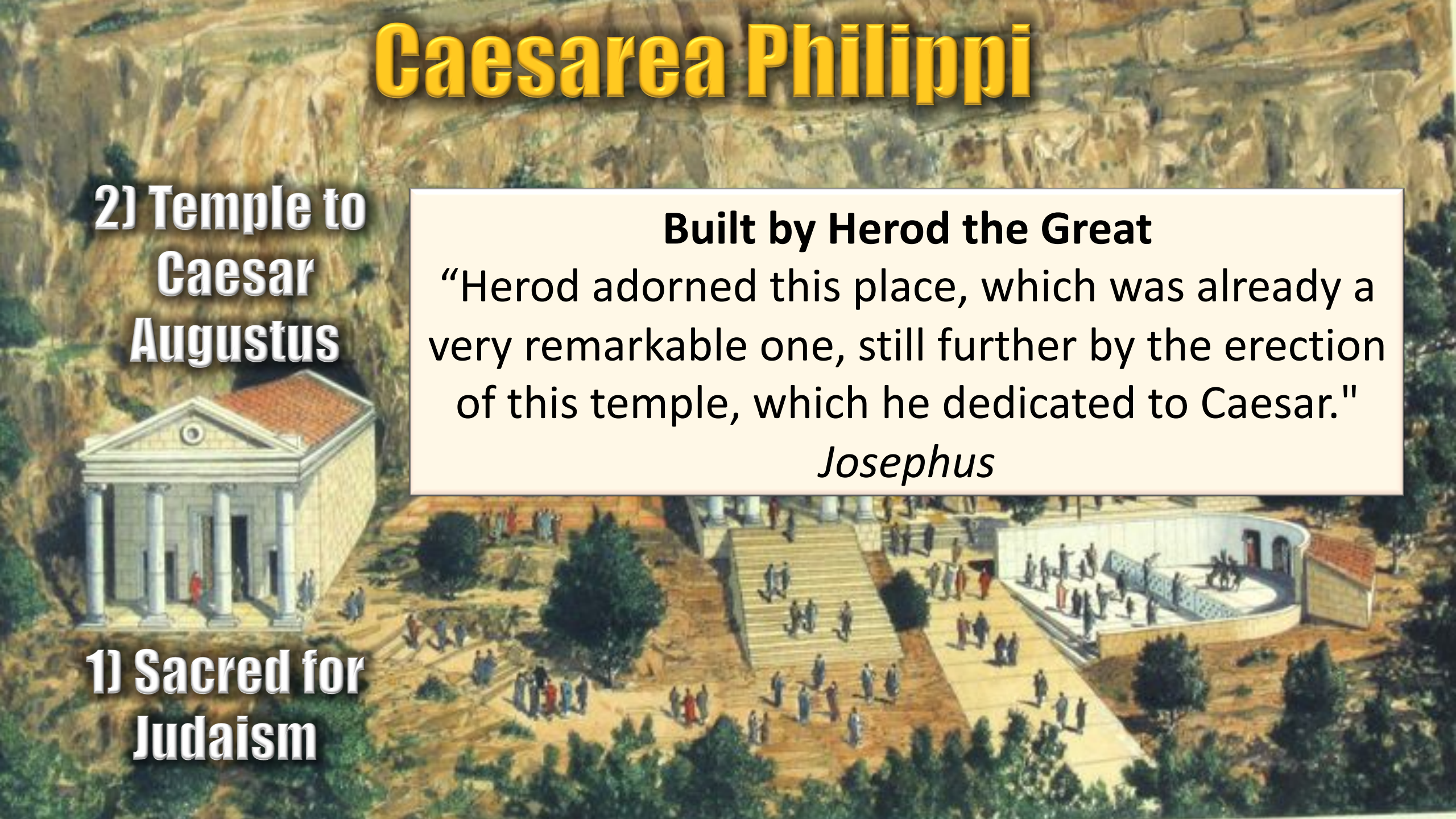
**2) Temple to
Caesar
Augustus**

Built by Herod the Great

“Herod adorned this place, which was already a very remarkable one, still further by the erection of this temple, which he dedicated to Caesar.”

Josephus

**1) Sacred for
Judaism**





Temple to Caesar Augustus— Power of **Government**

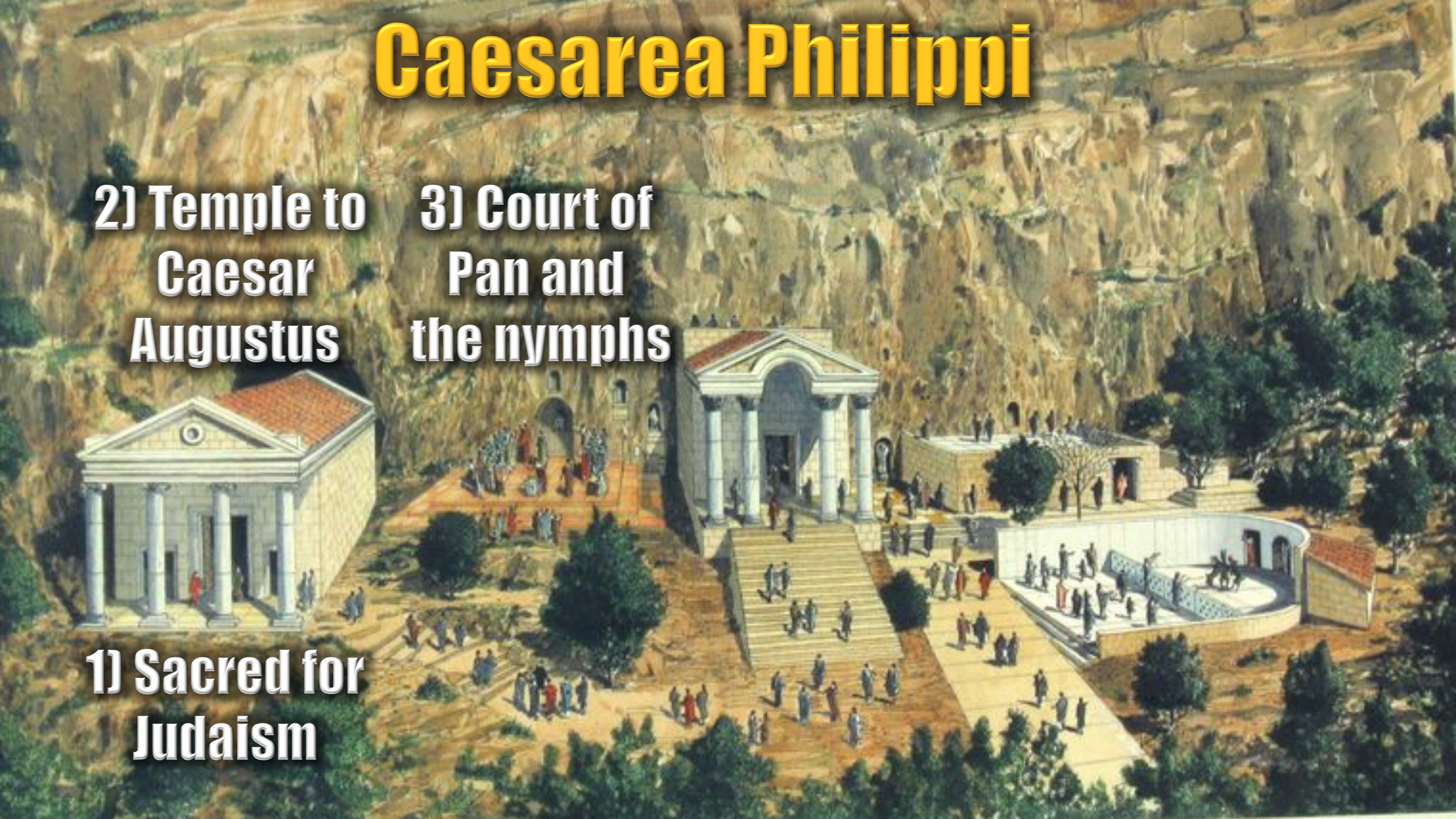
- Herod the Great ruled (39-4 B.C)
- Built temple – white marble
- After Herod's death, given to son Philip
- Renamed “Caesaria Philippi”

Caesarea Philippi

2) Temple to
Caesar
Augustus

3) Court of
Pan and
the nymphs

1) Sacred for
Judaism





Pan:

Power of **Sensuality**

- Greek god of the wild
- ½ human ½ goat
- “Panic”
- Seducer
- Chased nymphs
- Pan flute - Syrinx

מערת האל פֶּאן • THE GROTTO OF THE GOD PAN



This cave is the nucleus beside which the sacred sanctuary was built. In this "abode of the shepherd god," pagan cult began as early as the 3rd century BCE. The ritual sacrifices were cast into a natural abyss reaching the underground waters at the back of the cave. If the victims disappeared in the water, this was a sign that the god had accepted the offering. If, however, signs of blood appeared in the nearby springs, the sacrifice had been rejected.

מערה זו, הנקראת "משכן אל הרועים", היא הגרעין שלצדו נבנה המתחם המקודש כולו. החל מהמאה ה־3 לפסה"נ נערכו כאן פולחנות פגאניים. סבורים כי בעת הפולחן הושלכו הקרבנות אל בקיע טבעי ברצפה בקצה המערה, שהוליך אל מי תהום. אם נבלעו הקרבנות בבקיע, אות הוא שהקרבן היה לרצון לאל. אם הופיעו סימני דם במעיינות הסמוכים – סימן הוא שהקרבן נדחה.



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Caesarea Philippi

2) Temple to
Caesar
Augustus

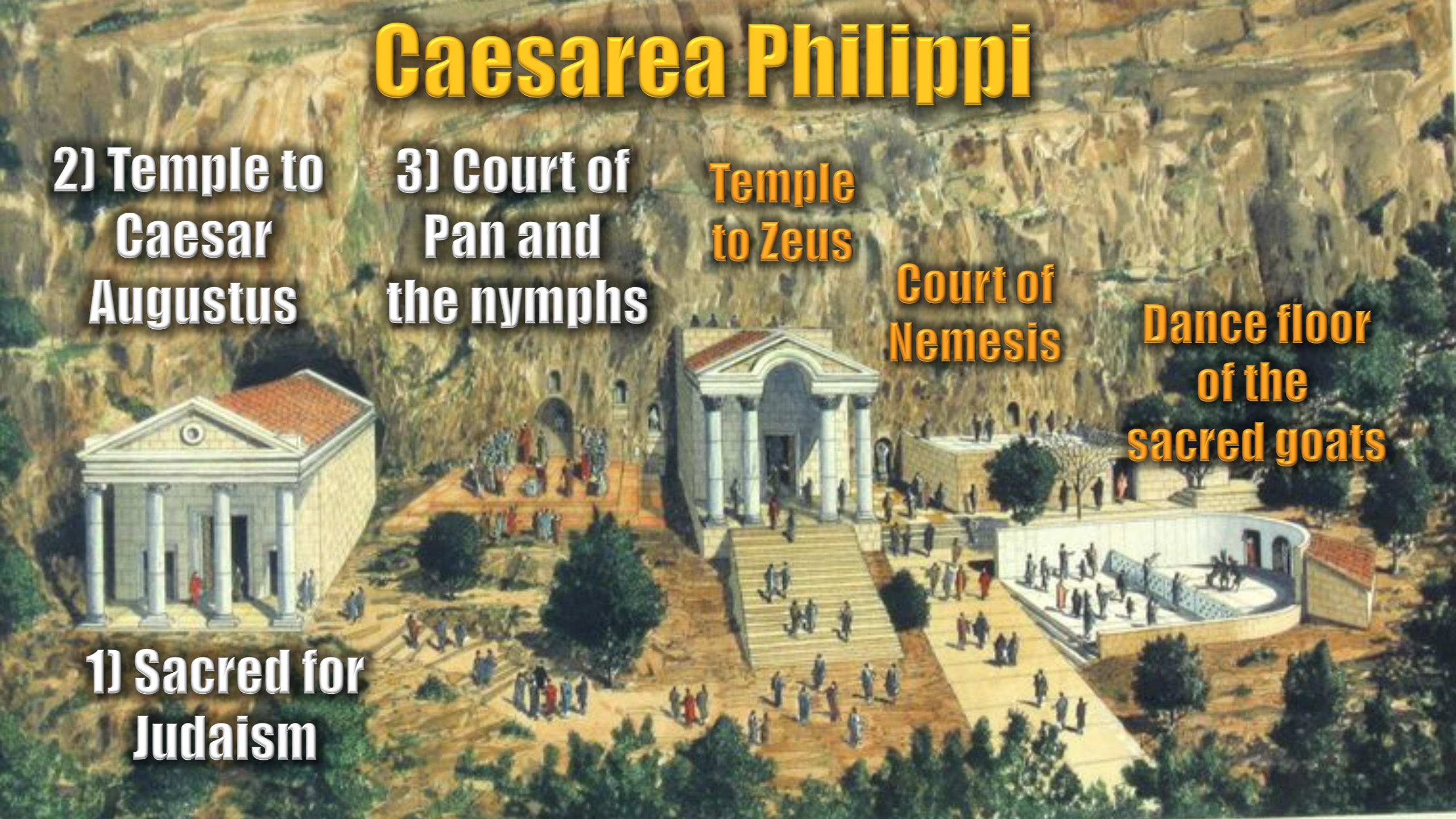
3) Court of
Pan and
the nymphs

Temple
to Zeus

Court of
Nemesis

Dance floor
of the
sacred goats

1) Sacred for
Judaism

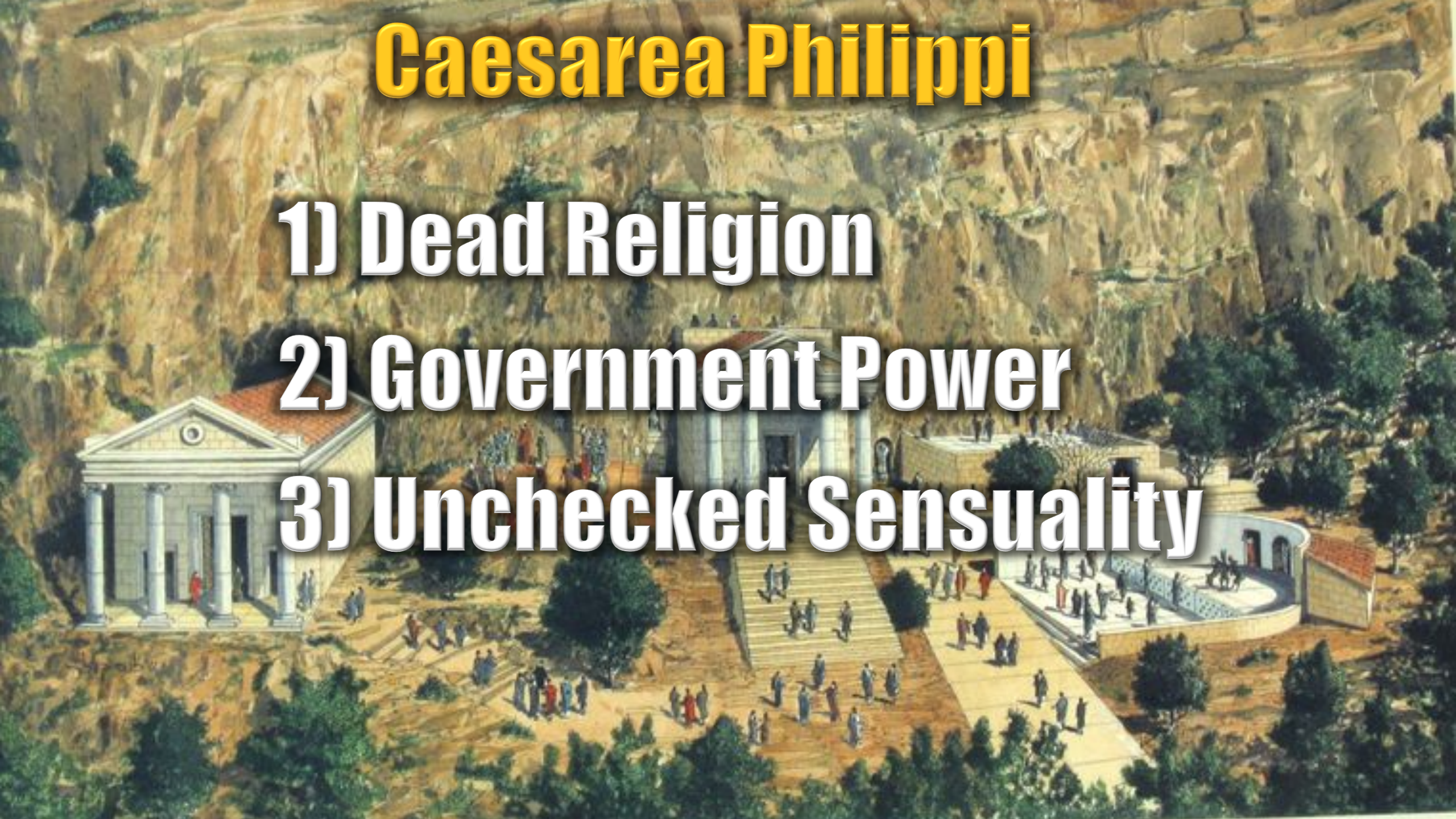


Caesarea Philippi

1) Dead Religion

2) Government Power

3) Unchecked Sensuality



“Caesarea Philippi” Today?

1) Dead Religion

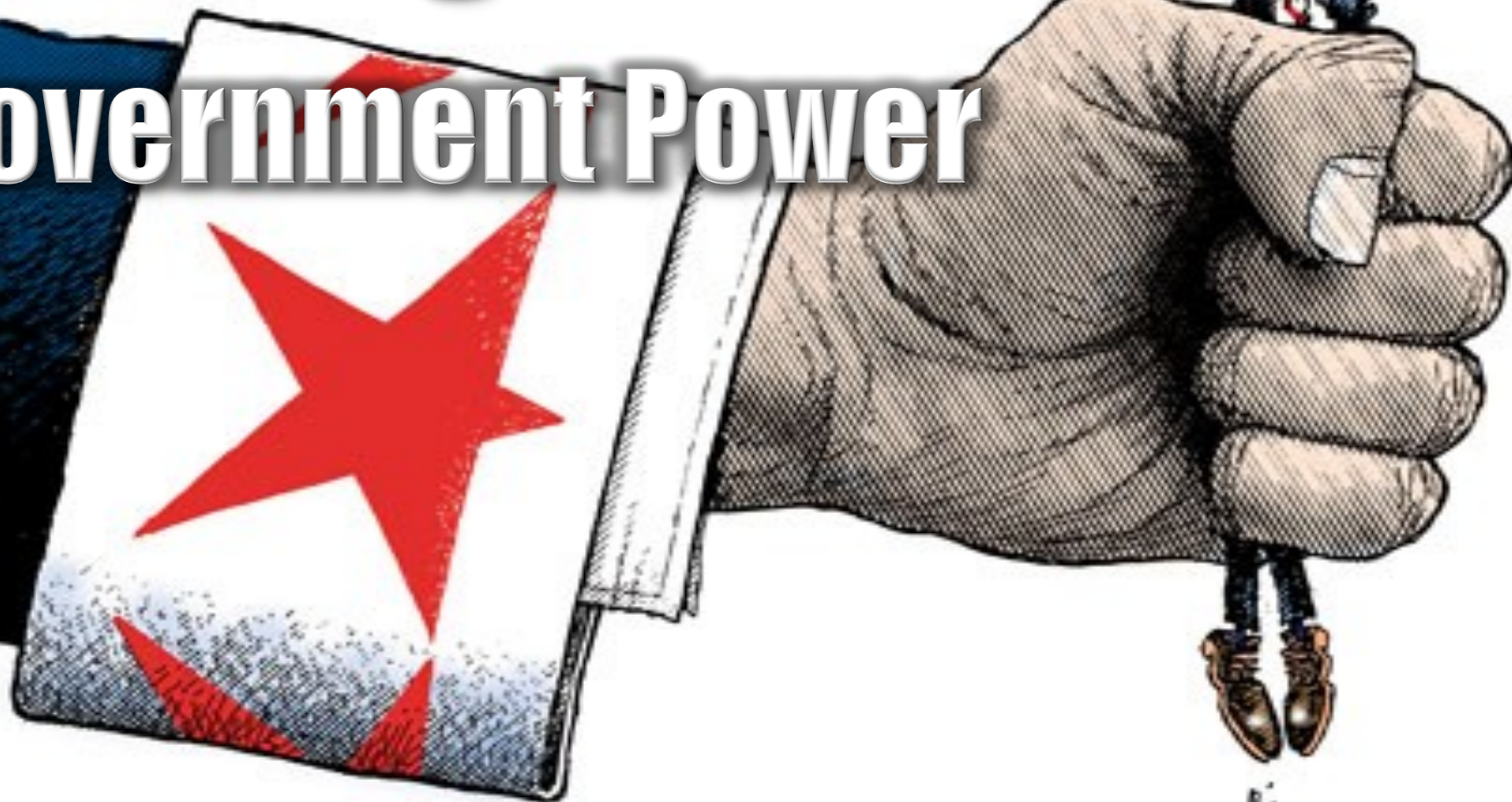


“Caesarea Philippi” Today?

1) Dead Religion

2) Government Power

**BIG
GOVT**



“Caesarea Philippi” Today?

1) Dead Religion

2) Government Power

3) Unchecked Sensuality

Caesarea Philippi

**With this backdrop,
Jesus asks the most
important question
we have to answer.**





"WHO
DO YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?"

"You are THE Christ,
THE Son of THE God,
THE Living One"

He said to them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:15-16 (NET)



"WHO
DO YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?"

"You are THE Christ"

"Petros" = Peter

"Petra" = testimony of Peter

And Jesus answered him, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven! And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Matthew 16:17-18 (NET)



"WHO
DO YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?"

"You are THE Christ,
THE Son of THE God,
THE Living One"

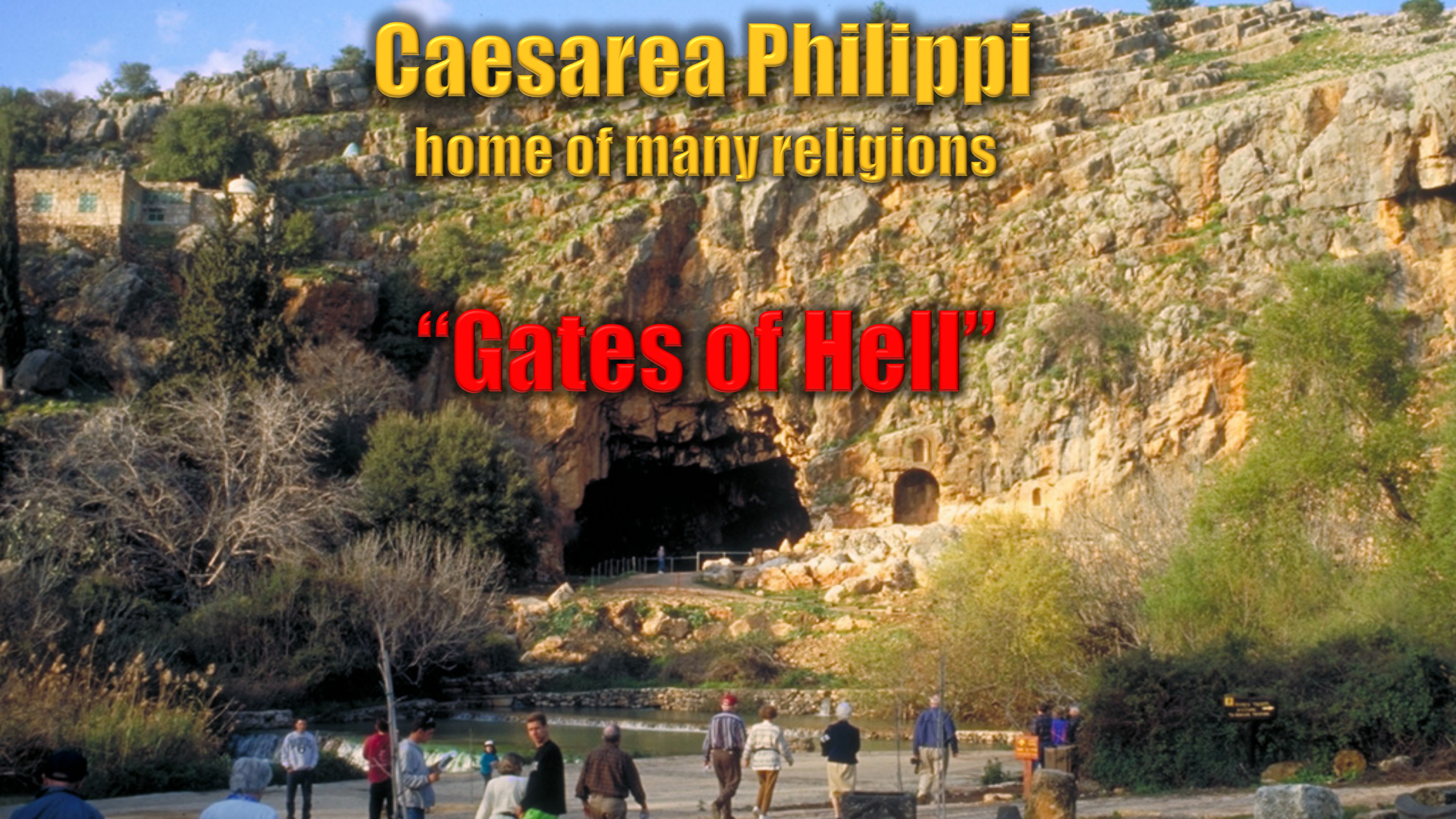
**"...and the gates of
Hades will not
overpower it."**

Matthew 16:18 (NET)

Caesarea Philippi

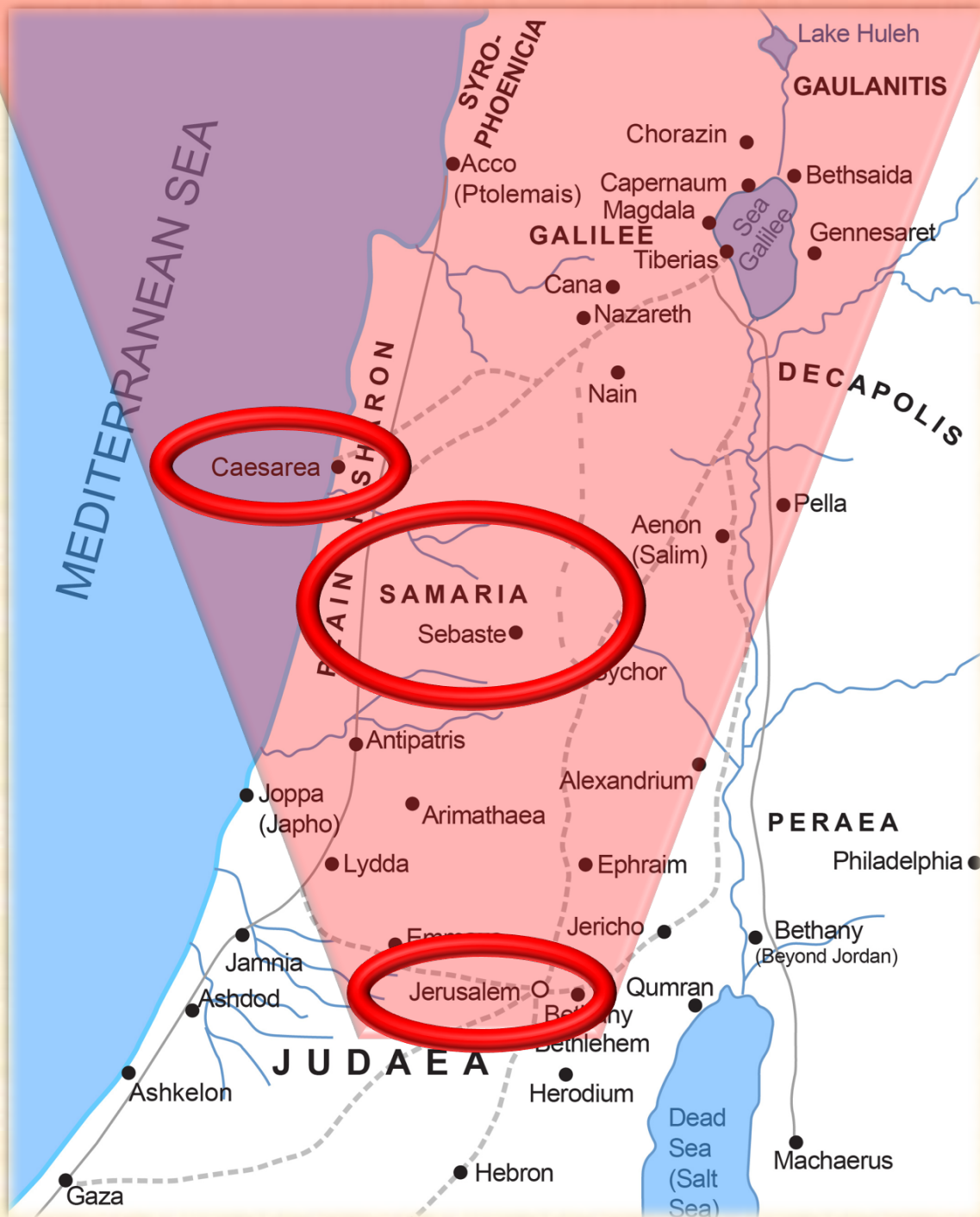
home of many religions

“Gates of Hell”



**“...and the gates of Hades
will not overpower it.”**





**“the gates of Hades
will not overpower it.”**

Acts 2 – the Jews

Acts 8 – the Samaritans

Acts 10 – The Gentiles

**“I will give you the keys
of the kingdom of heaven.”**



**Government
Power**

**Dead
Religion**

**Unchecked
Sensuality**

**Who Do You
Say That I Am?**

"You are
THE Christ,
THE Son
of THE God,
THE Living One"





DECISION ★ 2016



