

Caesarea Maritima Excavations in the Old City 1989-2003 Conducted by the University of Maryland and the University of Haifa, Final Reports

Volume 1: The Temple Platform (Area TP), Neighboring Quarters (Area TPS and Z), and the Inner Harbor Quays (Area I): Hellenistic Evidence, King Herods Harbor Temple, Intermediate Occupation, and the Octagonal Harbor Church

edited by Kenneth G. Holum

DESCRIPTION:

In this volume, Kenneth G. Holum, a professor at the University of Maryland, presents the results of the many years of excavation by the Combined Caesarea Expeditions, a joint project he and Avner Raban of the University of Haifa organized to explore the city and harbor of ancient Caesarea, built by the Jewish king, Herod the Great, at the end of the first century BCE. The volume publishes what they discovered on land, both on the Temple Platform, built by Herod for his magnificent harbor temple to Roma and Augustus, and in the Inner Harbor quays. Holum presents CCE's original research questions, the overall stratigraphy of the site, and the team's findings about Caesarea from the Hellenistic period to the end of antiquity in the seventh century CE. In so doing, the volume makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the transition from paganism to Christianity in Late Antiquity. It explores in depth King Herod's pagan temple, which existed until about 400 CE, when the now Christian authorities deliberately dismantled it, removing all but its deepest foundations, and let the site lose its holiness. A century later, in 500 CE, the authorities built a grand Octagonal Church in exactly the same spot and on the same alignment as Herod's temple, so that it functioned as a harbor church, visible from far at sea. In the Byzantine period, Caesarea prospered and reached its largest extent. This volume presents the archaeological evidence for these developments, paying careful attention to the foundations of the temple and church, fragments of the superstructure of both monumental buildings, the Herodian and Byzantine staircases that rose directly from the harbor to the temple and church, the pottery, coins, and other evidence, as well as of the vibrant city which surrounded these commanding religious structures.

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