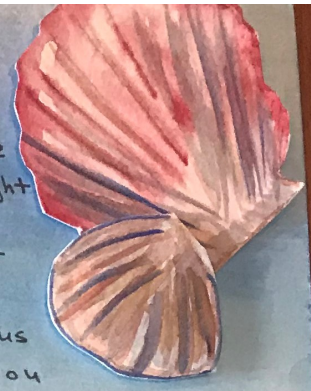


SHALOM



Welcome to one of the building wonders of Herod the Great. Close your eyes, can you feel the warm, brisk breeze whipping off of the Mediterranean Sea, ruffling your hair and tangling it into knots? The sunlight glares in reflection off of the sea and beats down on our sunbaked skin. Waves crash, pounding into the roman ruins stretched out along the beach. Let's take a walk around this interesting ancient town of Caesarea.

Turning south, with the sea on our right hand, we can see the idolatrous Roman temple laying in ruins followed by the remains of small homes... do you remember who lived here? Acts 21:8-9 tells us that Philip and his four daughters live here in this town. We stop for a moment and wonder which of these was where he lived and the prophet Agabus visited (Acts 21:10-11). Caesarea at the time of Paul was a mixed town of romans, jews and slaves. Continuing down the beach we come to a stop in front of a large retaining wall and part of the ancient rock dock that still thrusts stubbornly into the sea. From here is where Paul would have gotten on the illfated ship to travel towards Rome - except a shipwreck happened instead. The ships in the Roman Empire were largely based on Phoenician ships - did you know in 2010 a man built a replica of a Phoenician ship and sailed it around Africa? This man, Beale, proved that they could have sailed anywhere in the world dating back to the time before David was King!

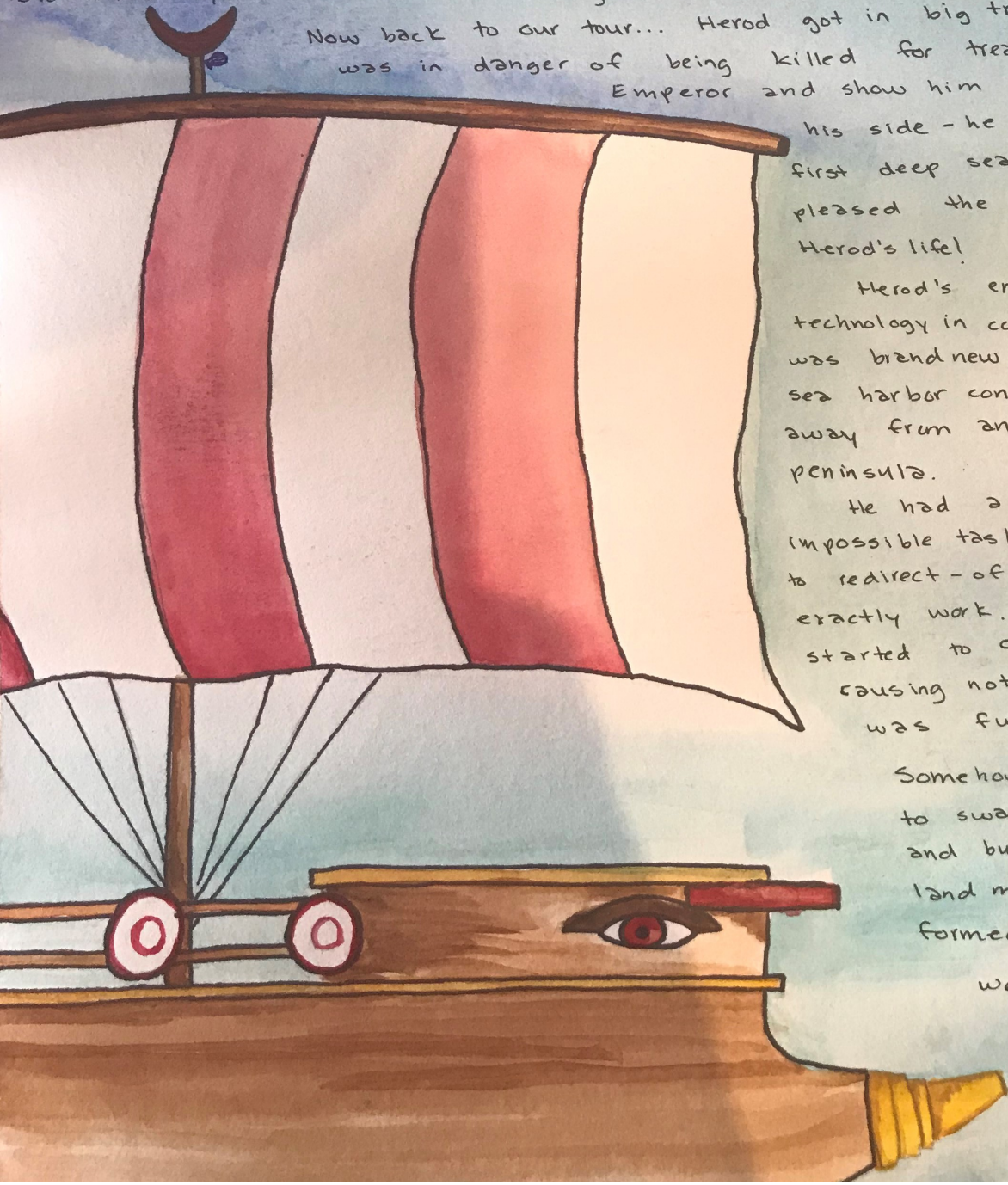
Now back to our tour... Herod got in big trouble with Rome and was in danger of being killed for treason - so to impress the Emperor and show him that Herod was on his side - he promised to build the first deep sea port. Caesarea not only pleased the Emperor but saved Herod's life!

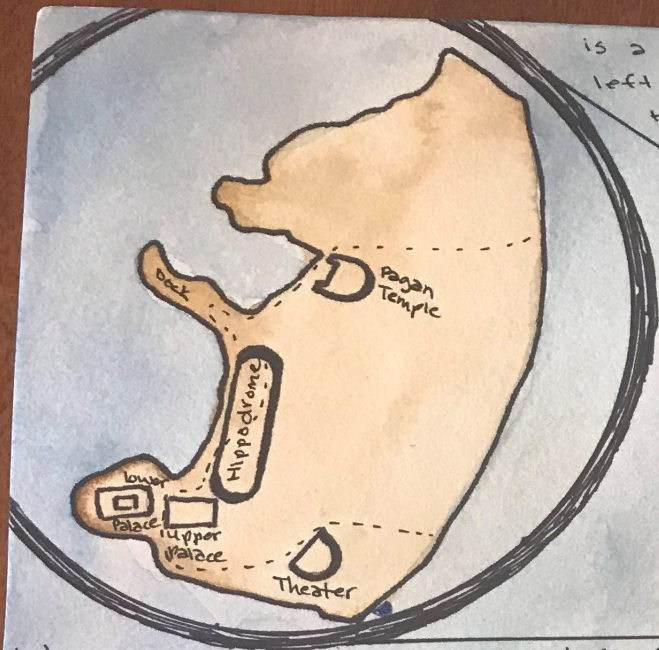
Herod's engineer used Roman technology in concrete construction, which was brand new, to build the first deep sea harbor constructed in the open sea away from any protective bay or peninsula.

He had a massive and almost impossible task - to convince the sea to redirect - of course this didn't exactly work. sand and sediment started to collect south of the port, causing not only alarm but Herod was furious - at the sea HA!

Somehow the engineer managed to sway Herod to change plans and build his palace on this new land mass the sea had formed...

We keep walking past many Roman Era vaults which are huge storage areas - some could easily fit inside each one. In front of us now





is a large flat oval area with rock hewn seats on the left and the sea to its right, welcome to the Hippodrome! Built in the middle of town this was for chariot racing - you can climb into the pretend metal one there for a picture. The hippodrome is 450m long and 90m wide, allowing for 30,000 people to watch. Not only did people race chariots here, sometimes to death, but also sadly where those who followed Jesus Christ were killed.

CAESAREA

later during riots. when Paul was here do you remember King Agrippa and his wife Bernice came I'm sure they would have watched a chariot race or two there and even gone to the theater for a play.

Finally we have reached the end of the expanse of sand that is the Hippodrome and stand in front of the ruins of Herod's Palace.

We are actually standing where Paul spent 2 years in jail and spoke his speech of defense, finishing in them saying he was innocent. Paul had appealed to Caesar so the rule was he had to go. Paul left Israel from this port in a ship to never return... but we know he will be there again after the resurrection to be in the Kingdom.

Do you know what the archaeologists found here? A very important stone (drawn below) called the "Pontius Pilate Inscription". It mentions that Pontius Pilate was the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea (from AD 26-36)... so in 1961 when they found it, it was another proof that the Bible is true!

Before we leave, we glance up at the theater where people are getting ready to put on a concert. If you sit on the one side and I on the other, we could hear them whispering.

make sure to pick up some shells to remember our trip, can you find 8? We've travelled from Jerusalem to the Elah Fortress and now to the edge of the Mediterranean sea, from King David to Paul....

where do you think we will go next month?

Hugs from
Crazy Auntie
Lindsay :)



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