

Site: Caesarea Philippi - Banias

Scripture References: Psalms 42:5-8; Matthew 16:13-20, 17:1; Mark 8:27

Historical Significance:

1. Head waters of Jordan come from here.
2. Named by Philip the Tetrarch to distinguish it from Caesarea by the Sea.
3. Located at the foot of Israel's highest mountain, Mt. Hermon.
4. Some people believe this is the site where Jesus asked His disciples "Whom do men say that I am?" It is also the place where Jesus began to explain to His disciples how He must go to Jerusalem to suffer and die.
5. Site of pagan worship.

Things to look for:

1. Niches in the rock that held statues to the Greek god Pan.
2. Massive stone cliff that is 230 feet long and 131 feet tall.
3. Large cave that is 66 feet wide and 49 feet tall. Believed by pagans to be the gateway to the underworld, Hades.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. We are challenged to take up our cross daily. Our cross represents the difficult obedience God requires daily.
2. Our time on earth is the only time we can glorify God in the midst of our struggles.
3. The ultimate reason for our hope is revealed by Jesus in this region.