

‘ Good Shepherd ’ Ring Discovered off the Coast of Caesarea

The Marine Archaeology Unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority discovered ancient treasures from two shipwrecks off the coast of Caesarea in Israel. According to Jacob Sharvit and Dror Planer of the Israel Antiquities Authority's Marine Archaeology Unit, "The ships were probably anchored nearby and were wrecked by a storm."

The artifacts included a special gold ring engraved with the figure of the good Shepherd. The theme of the good Shepherd is throughout the Bible; in the Old Testament, Isaiah 40:11 (NIV) says, "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart."

The image is also one of the earliest and oldest images used in Christianity for symbolizing Jesus as humanity's compassionate shepherd. Jesus even called himself a shepherd, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

The ring was discovered near the port of Caesarea, a site of great significance in Christian tradition as it was one of the earliest centers of Christianity and housed one of the first Christian communities. At first, only Jews belonged to this community, and it was here that the apostle Peter baptized the Roman centurion Cornelius in Caesarea Acts 10.

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