

Though Acco (Acre) is usually associated with the Crusader period, it had been a prominent port since Phoenician times (12th century B.C.E.) and perhaps earlier. A stone mold (left, with its cast plaque at right) for the god Helios is a relic of the Hellenistic period (332-63 B.C.E.), when the city was known as Ptolemais after the Greek kings of Egypt. The Ptolemys, successors to Alexander the Great, claimed Acco for themselves. During the late Hellenistic period (152-63 B.C.E.) the city belonged to the Seleucids, the other successors of Alexander, who ruled Syria. Helios is represented as a young man with curly hair and with the rays of the sun emanating from his head. Many other finds, including a Hellenistic city wall, testify to Acco's size and economic prominence in this epoch.

For other representations of Helios, see Slides 84 and 120.