



BETH SHAN

Oldest City in Palestine?



Same Place--- Many Names

Beth Shan

Beth Shean

Beit She'an

Sythopolis



IT HAS BEEN SAID:



“If the Garden of Eden is in the land of Israel,
then its gate is at Beth Shean.”

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The Fertile Crescent



At the juncture of the
Jezreel & Jordan Valleys
Fertile/Water/Main Trade Route

Decapolis 10 Cities

Beth Shan/ Scythopolis:

Only Decapolis City WEST
of the Jordan River

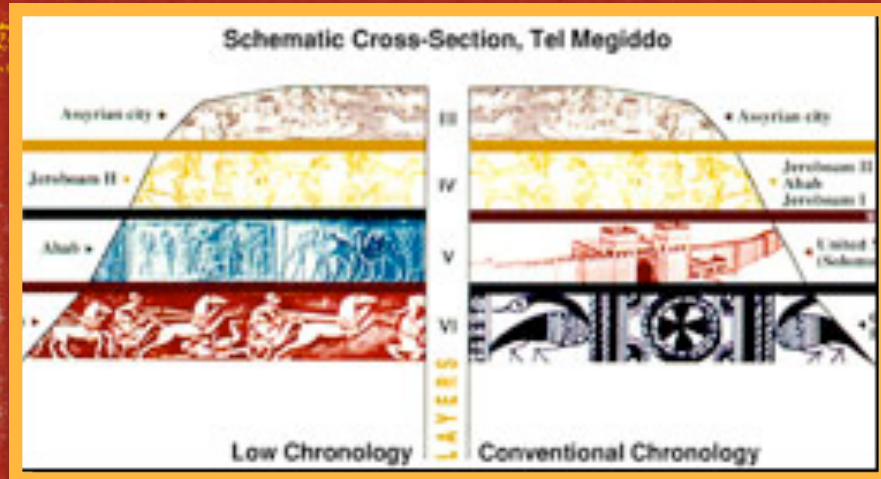
The Capital City



- City in the Decapolis
- 17 miles south of Sea of Galilee
- Tel is highest in Palestine - at 300 feet
- It has been an occupied city for approximately 3500 years
- It is where King Saul's body was fastened to the wall



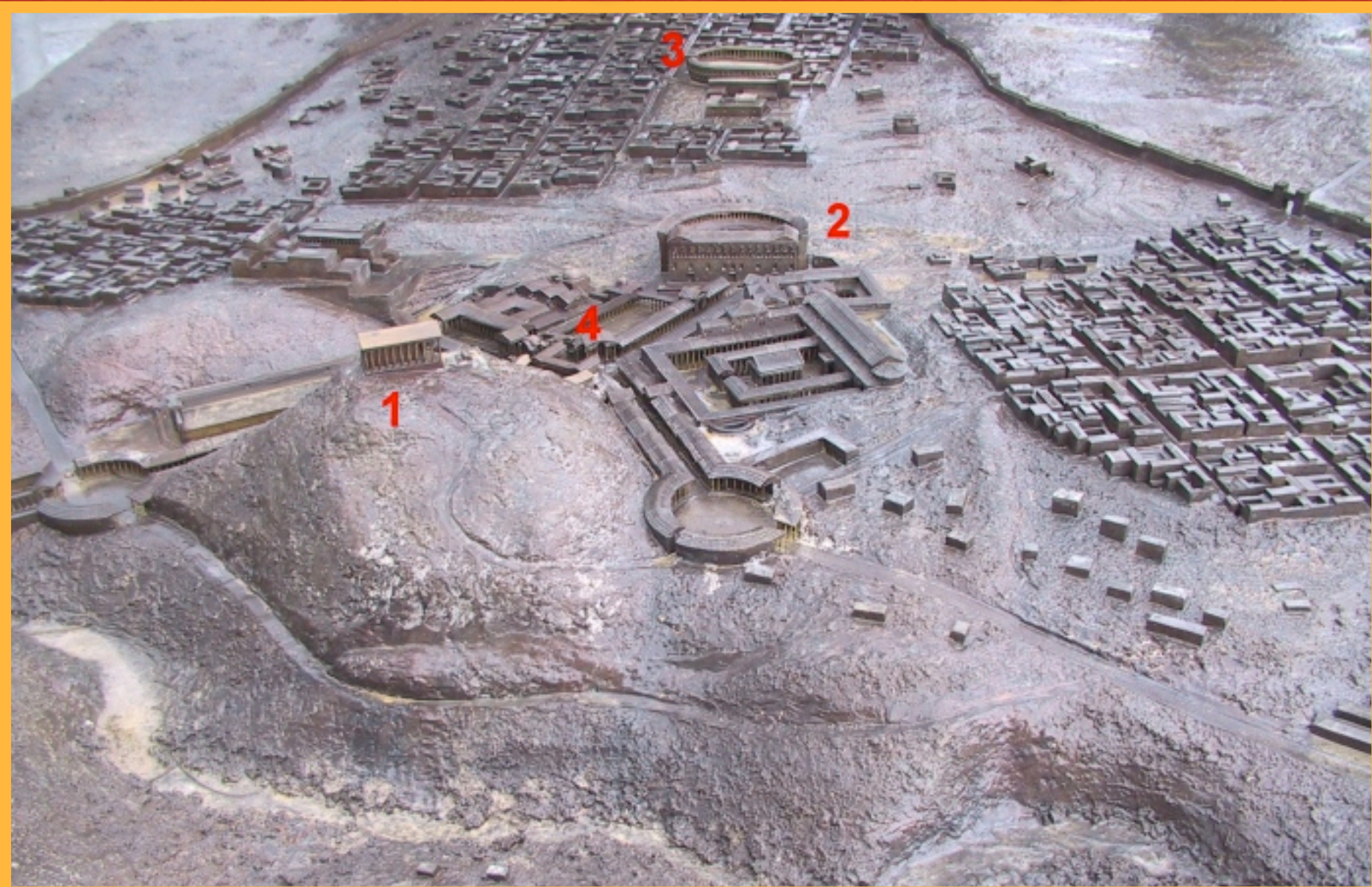
Beth Shan is Known to have 18 Stratum



Sample Stratum



City model built according to archaeological discoveries:



1. Heart of old City
& Pagan Temple

2. Amphitheater

3. Coliseum

4. Market/Shops (covered)

18 Different Layers of Occupation in Tel!

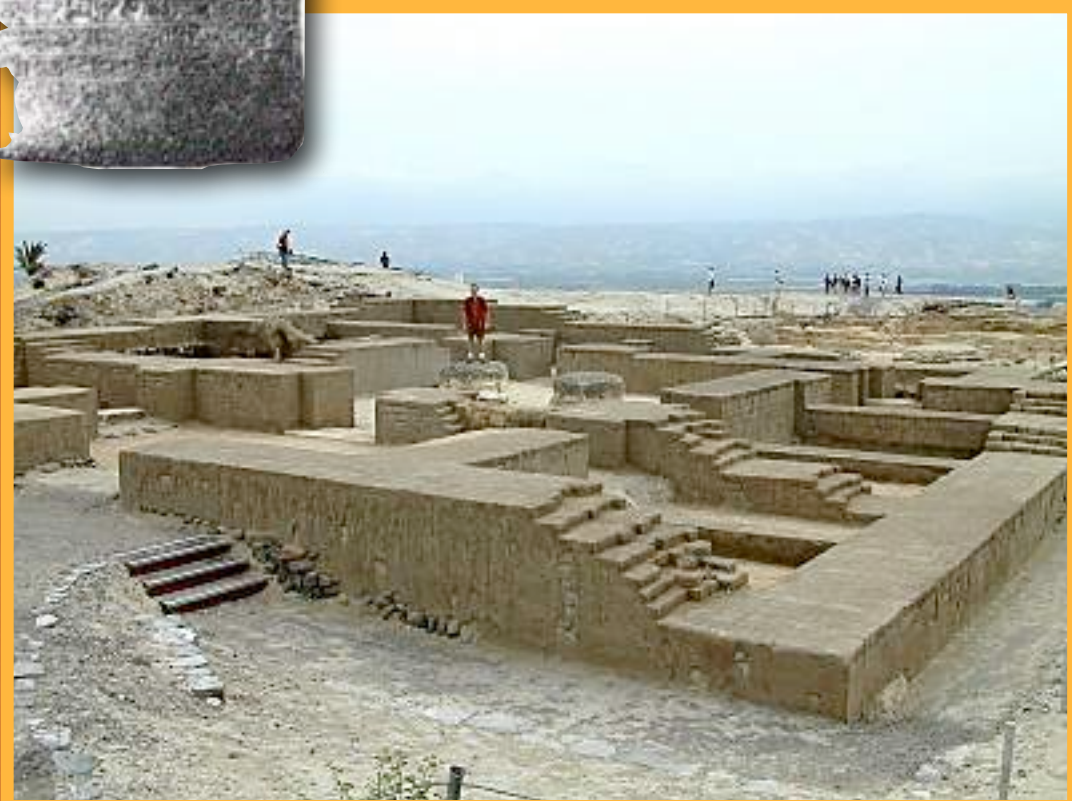


Philistines & Beth Shan



“The Sea People”

Egypt in Beth Shean



Rameses III & "Friend"

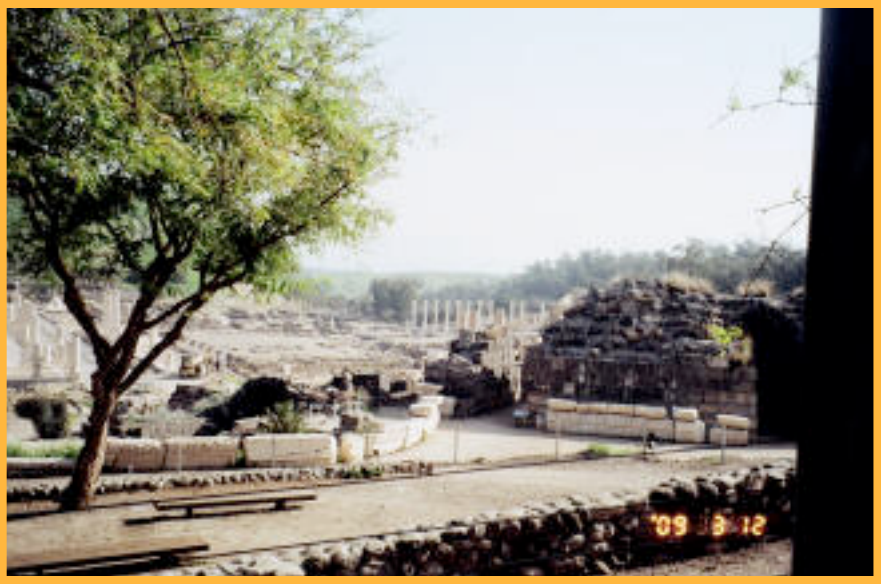
Earthquake Destruction



Romans Rebuilt the City
after an Earthquake



The Romans in Beth Shean



Race Track



Aqueducts



Hadrian

Rebuilding



The Master Builders

Archeologists are uncovering a very cosmopolitan city.



Roman Bath Houses



Partial Baths

Heating
System



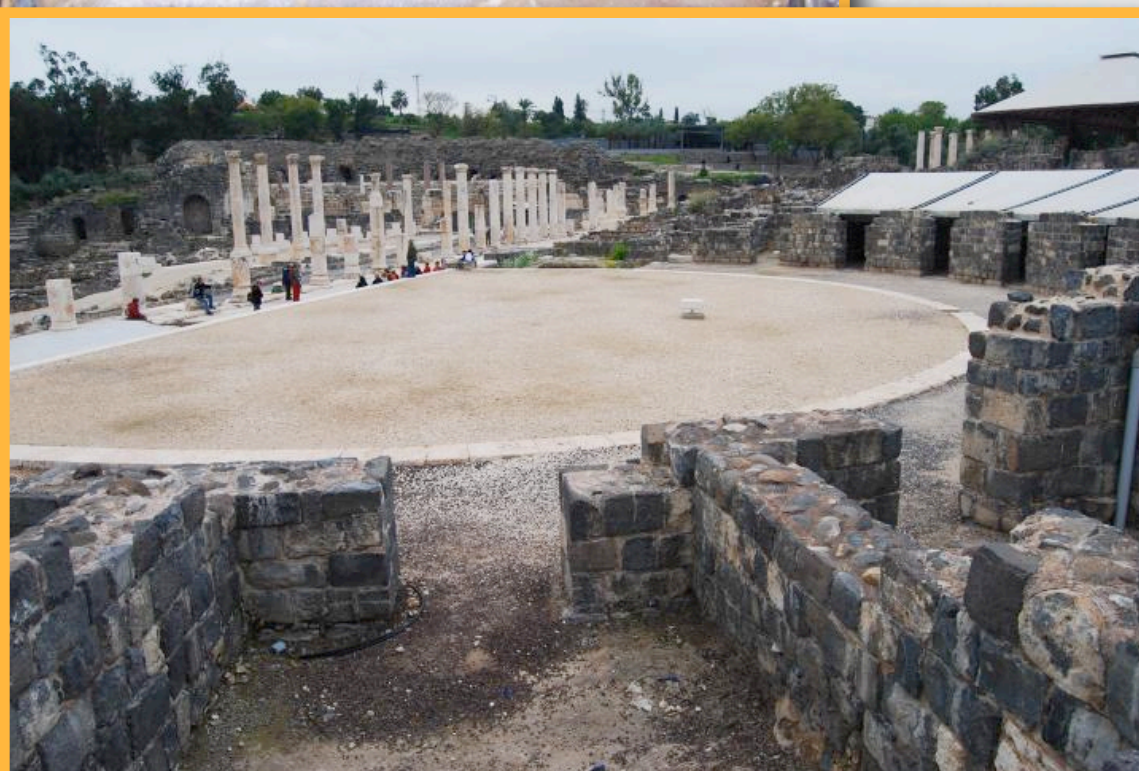


הסיגמה

THE SIGMA

בכתובת שנמצאה במקום מכונה רחבה זו בשם סיגמה.
חלק מהחדרים שמסביב לסטיו המקיף את הרחבה מרוצפים בפסיפסים עם
דגמים גיאומטריים וצמחים. המעניין שבהם הוא פסיפס המתאר את טיכה,
אלת העיר.
פסיפס זה, הינו העתק מהמקור, שנגנב מהאתר על ידי שודדי עתיקות.

An inscription found at this site refers to it as the Sigma. Some of the rooms surrounding the semicircular concourse are inlaid with mosaic floors decorated with geometric motifs and foliage. Most striking is the floor depicting Tyche, goddess of the city. The mosaic is a copy; the original was stolen.



What is the "Sigma?"

How does Beth Shan relate to the Bible?

- ◆ The land of Canaan was promised by God to Abraham & his descendants.
 - ◆ They grew into a nation in Egypt.
- ◆ Because of their sins they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before they could conquer the Promised Land.

God's Command & Israel's response:

...and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.

Deuteronomy 7:2

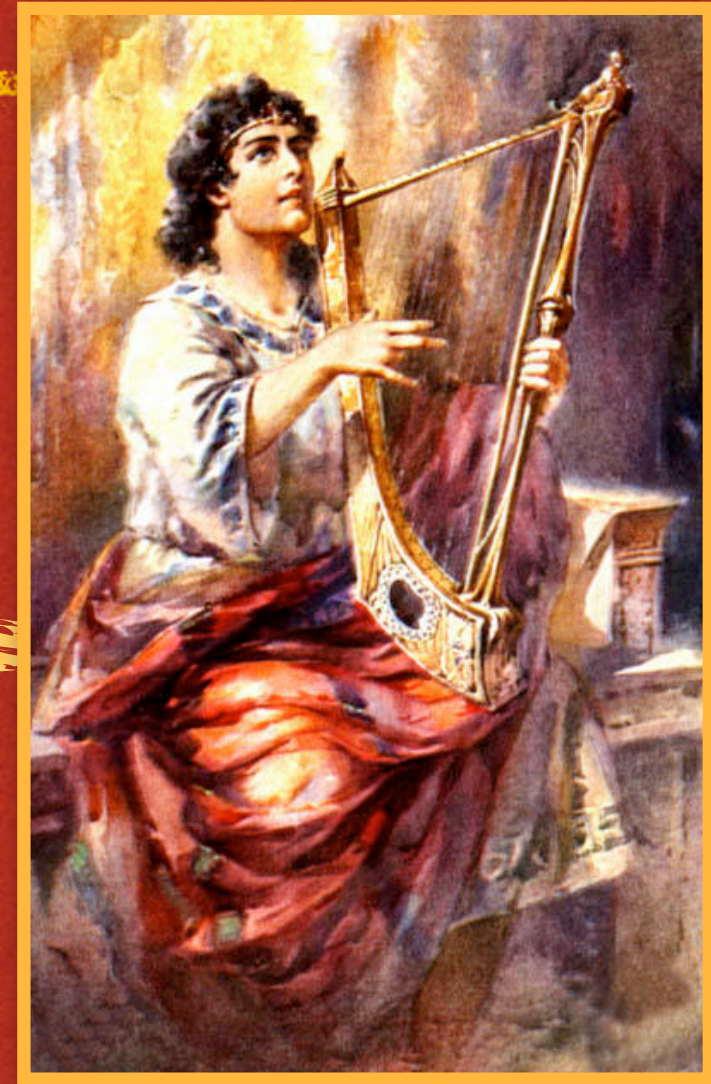


But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land.

Judges 1:27



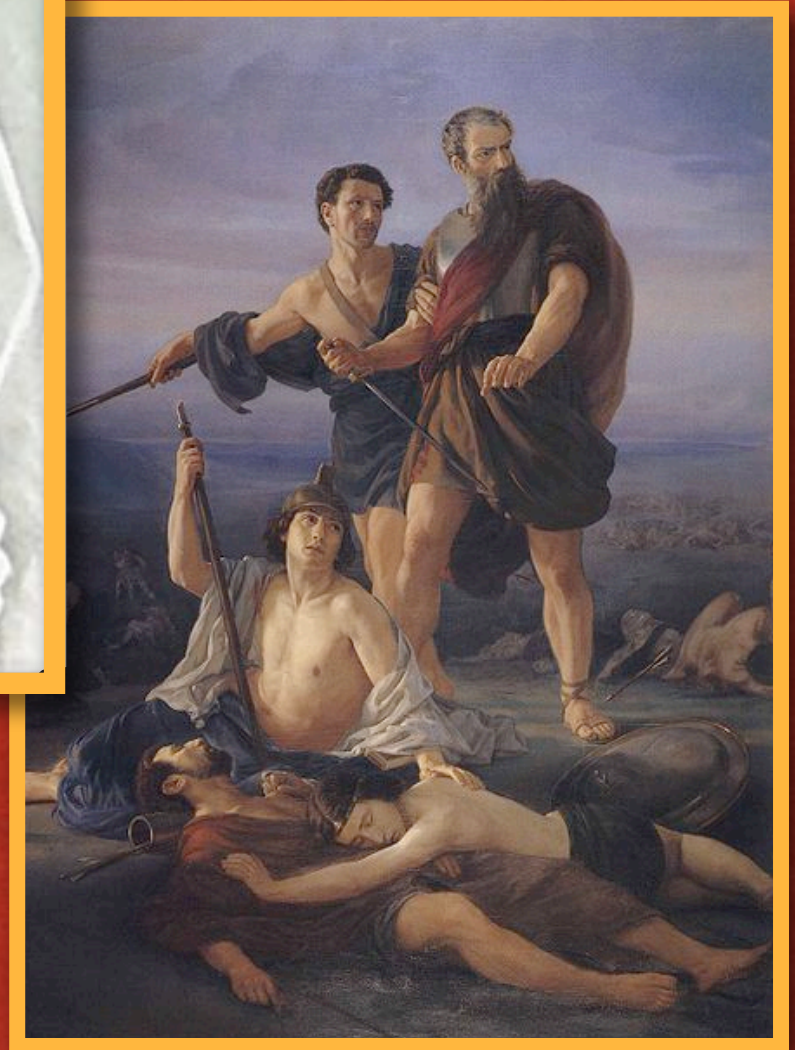
Saul, First King of Israel



&

David, a Man After God's Own Heart
Israel's Second King

Mount Gilboa & Beth Shan





Mt. Gilboa





When Saul's body was discovered the Philistines beheaded him & fastened his body to the walls of Beth Shean. They paraded his head all around the area to boast. The men of Jabesh Gilead traveled all night to retrieve Saul & his sons' bodies to give them a decent burial.



Scythopolis Today



The Old & the Modern Day
Cities---Side by Side

