

Decapolis



- Decapolis means “ten.”
- Originally established as Greek cities by the successors to Alexander the Great. The Roman general Pompey put Palestine under Roman control and reorganized these cities, making them among the most advanced cities in the Roman Empire.
- The historian Pliny listed the ten cities of the Decapolis as:
 - Scythopolis (Beth-Shean)
 - Hippos
 - Gadara
 - Pella
 - Philadelphia (Amman, Jordan)
 - Galasa (Gerasa - Jerash)
 - Dion
 - Kanatha
 - Damascus
 - Raphana
- Nine of the cities were located east of the Jordan River in the territory that once belonged to the tribe of Manasseh.
- The only city located west of the Jordan River was Scythopolis, today known as Beth-Shean.
- Decapolis is mentioned three times in the New Testament.
 - **Matthew 4:25** — Great crowds from the Decapolis began to follow Jesus.
 - **Mark 5:20** — The casting out of the demons into the 2,000 head of swine.
 - **Mark 7:31** — Jesus passed through the Decapolis upon returning from Tyre & Sidon where he had healed the daughter of the Syrophenician woman.
- The “country of the Gadarenes” referring to the town of Gadara some thirteen miles south of the Site where the demons were sent into the 2,000 head of swine that ran down the hill and drowned in the sea. **Mark 5:20**

■ Jerash ((Galasa - Gerasa)

- When Luke speaks of the “country of the Gergesenes, He is referring to the town of Gerasa, now known as Jerash. **Matthew 8:28** —“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.”
- Jerash is located some:
 - forty miles southwest of the site of Jesus’ miracle.
 - twenty-six miles north of Amman, Jordan.
- Protected by a wall ten feet thick and with a circumference of two miles.
- Probably the best preserved Roman ruins anywhere.
- 190 full columns still standing with at least that many partially broken off.
- There are remnants of:
 - 2 amphitheatres
 - A Basilica
 - A temple
 - Colonnades
 - Large private houses
 - Baths
 - Aqueduct System

