

Synagogues

- Synagogues arose during the time of captivity. With the temple destroyed and the nation scattered, there was need for places of instruction and worship wherever there were Jewish communities.
- After the captivity, synagogues were continued in the homeland as well as in Jewish communities.
- All larger towns had one or more synagogues.
- Jerusalem had the temple and a number of synagogues (Some say 480).
- Synagogues were presided over by a board of elders, or rulers.”
- Jews met in the synagogues on the Sabbath.
- Placed on the highest hill available so would be facing Jerusalem when they prayed.
- Women and children had to sit in a separate section or balcony from the men.
- Services included mainly prayers and the reading and explaining of Old Testament passages.

