

Site: Beit Shen/Beth Shean

Scripture References: Judges 1:27; Mark 7:31; 1 Samuel 31:8-13; 1 Kings 4:12

Historical Significance:

1. Important crossroad of commerce and military control.
2. Front door to all west bound traffic from Jordan Valley to Jezreel Valley.
3. The city was inherited by the tribe of Manasseh but they were never able to subdue the Canaanites.
4. The heads of King Saul and his sons were hung on the walls in the square of the city.
5. Was called Scythopolis during the time of Jesus.
6. 18 levels of occupation have been revealed through excavation of the tel.
7. One of the 10 Decapolis cities
8. These are the largest and best preserved ruins in Israel.

Things to look for:

1. Tel rises 260 feet behind the Roman city. You can climb to the top of the tel by using a set of stairs
2. Agora (marketplace)
3. Mosaics at bathhouse
4. Colanade that was along the original Byzantine Street (500' long)
5. Theater that originally could seat 6500-7000 people.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. When the blessings God gives us are challenging it doesn't mean we should abandon them.
2. God's blessings show us how dependent we are on God and drive us to a closer relationship with Him.