

The catacombs at Beth Shearim generally have courtyards or corridors from which entrances open into the burial halls. Catacomb 13, shown here, was comprised of 12 halls cut into the bedrock at four levels. This view of the outdoor courtyard to the south shows doorways into four of the halls. Each hall contains many places for burial and reburial, often with the names of the deceased painted or scratched above the burial place. The inscriptions are most often in Greek, but some are in Hebrew. This is not the most elaborate catacomb, but it gives some idea of the extent of the cuttings in the bedrock. The stone doors turn on hinges and are provided with working keyholes and locks.