

In 1984 archaeologists Ilan and Damati discovered a portion of a destroyed mosaic floor in the synagogue of Meroth. The mosaic, which dates to about 450 C.E., portrays a young man wearing a long-sleeved tunic with two emblems. A red cape is fastened over his right shoulder. Above him dangles a short sword with Greek-style shoulder strap. A helmet is to his right, and he appears to be sitting on a shield. To his left an inscription in Hebrew reads "Yodan bar Shim'on Mani." This may be the name of the man who donated the money for the mosaic, or the artist who created it. It has been speculated that this mosaic shows the young David, just after his battle with Goliath.