

Steps lead upward from the colonnaded street (seen in Slide 73) to a temple or other public building of ancient Scythopolis. The population of Scythopolis was mainly pagan Roman but also included a substantial number of Jews. Coins of the city depict a temple to Zeus and a temple to a city-goddess; other gods on coins of the city include Dionysus himself (who grew up in the city), Nike (Victory), Nysa as a city-goddess and an anonymous river god. The official name of the city on its coins throughout the Roman period was "Nysa which is also called Scythopolis." After the Arab conquest, the city was known as Beisan after its original Semitic name.