

One of the most surprising features of the Hammath Tiberias synagogue is this prominent representation of the zodiac. The figures are familiar from other zodiacs in the ancient world. The names of the figures are in Hebrew. Reading counterclockwise, at bottom one sees written "lion," "virgin" and "scales." These correspond to our Leo, Virgo and Libra. Scorpio can be seen to the right, disappearing into the later wall which bisects the panel. Zodiacs are known from other synagogues of the period. Some modern interpreters see them as ancient calendars rather than astrological symbols.