

Qatzrin, or Qisrin, is an ancient Jewish village, about five miles east of the Jordan River, on the Golan Heights (ancient Gaulanitis). Qatzrin is mentioned in the Talmud many times. A salvage excavation was carried out at Qatzrin in 1971 and 1972 by Dan Urman on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities. The synagogue measured 54 feet by 46 feet and featured an ornately carved portal and a double row of columns in the interior, visible in this slide. The building was constructed in the late fourth or early fifth century C.E. and was used as a synagogue until the mid-eighth century, when it was probably destroyed in the earthquake of 747. Subsequent excavations from 1982 to 1984 on behalf of the Department of Antiquities directed by Zvi Ma'oz showed that the site was occupied before 1200 B.C.E. and had been continuously occupied from the Hellenistic period (fourth century B.C.E.) to the mid-eighth century C.E.