

Kedesh was a well-known Canaanite city which belonged to the tribe of Naphtali. It is near the traditional border with ancient Syria (modern Lebanon). The city appeared in the lists of conquests by Thutmose III in 1468 B.C.E. and in the el-Amarna letters of the 14th century B.C.E. Kedesh was conquered by Joshua (Joshua 12:22), was given to the Levites and was a city of refuge (Joshua 21:32). In 734-732 B.C.E., the city fell before the siege of Tiglath-pileser III, who deported its inhabitants (2 Kings 15:29).

By the Roman period, Kedesh had shrunk to a small village, then known as Cadasa, in the territory of the city of Tyre. This view of the Roman temple at Cadasa, excavated since 1981 under the direction of Israel Roll of Tel Aviv University, testifies to the continued importance of Cadasa as a cult center long after it had lost its status as a city of refuge. A Greek inscription from the temple states that the temple was dedicated in the year 117/118 C.E., during the reign of the Roman emperor Hadrian.

This view shows the facade as seen from inside the temple. The central portal has collapsed, but one doorpost, about twice the height of a person, still stands. On the bottom of the lintel, not visible in the slide, a handsome eagle is carved. To the right and left of the huge central portal, one can see the upper parts of the two pedestrian entrances. In the foreground lie architectural elements of the building, including a column, a paved floor and a capital.