

be identified with en-Na'ūra (1873.2244), which is not connected with the biblical and rabbinic Naaran.

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Naaran

Naaran (MT *Na'ārān*, "watermill") located at Tell el-Jisr (1903.1445) is a site with a synagogue that can be dated to the 6th century CE on the basis of architectural and art historical comparisons as well as historical considerations. The relation of Tell el-Jisr to biblical Naarah/Naaran is disputed, since there are only later remains on there. The synagogue of Naaran has a courtyard including a walled space with square pool north of the synagogue building and a loggia in the northwestern corner. The synagogue has a narthex paved with white mosaics in a black frame, a menorah, geometric motifs and an Aramaic inscription. The basilica-shaped hall has three doorways from the narthex. The nave is separated from the aisles by two rows of six columns. The structure was oriented to the south, roughly in the direction of Jerusalem. There may have been an apse in the southern wall. The entire hall was paved with well-preserved mosaics. The northern half of the nave's floor is subdivided with hexagons and circles decorated with fruits and animals. The southern half of the nave is divided into two parts. The northern part has a rounded zodiac in a square frame with the four seasons in the corners and the sun god Helios in the center. The southern part features an ark of the Law flanked by two menorahs above the biblical scene of Daniel in the lions' den and inscriptions. The figurines were deliberately defaced at a later date maybe due to strict local iconoclasm. Domestic structures have been found east of the synagogue dating from the Byzantine period to the 8th century CE. According to *Kaṭtor wa-ferah* of Estori ha-Parḥi, there is another place called Ne'oran in Issachar (bHul 5a; bSot 46b). According to Estori ha-Parḥi this site is called Ne'ūra and is located at the foot of a hill an hour (5 km) south-west of Mt. Tabor (Edelman: 47b). Rabbinic Ne'oran can