



**VIEW NORTHWEST:** THE TOP OF SUSSITA ON JANUARY 2, 2022. THE PHOTO ON PAGE 285 WAS TAKEN THE DAY BEFORE, WHICH WAS A RAINY DAY. YOU CAN SEE KIBBUTZ EN GEV (UPPER LEFT) AND THE SEA OF GALILEE (TOP).

**BELOW (VIEW WEST):** THE CANYON ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SUSSITA (TOP RIGHT) LOOKING DOWN ON EN GEV AND THE SEA OF GALILEE. ACROSS THE LAKE, YOU CAN SEE TIBERIAS (TOP CENTER).





**VIEW EAST:** SUSSITA WAS A CITY OF THE DECAPOLIS IN JESUS'S DAY. THE NATIONAL PARK OF SUSSITA OPENED IN 2023. YOU CAN SEE THE CITY FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY SPOT AROUND THE LAKE.

## SUSSITA (HIPPOS)

(SEE MAP ON PAGE 151)

The Decapolis consisted of ten Greco-Roman cities scattered east and south of the Sea of Galilee. Sussita (Hebrew name), or Hippos (Greek name), was one of those cities. Although Sussita isn't mentioned by name in the New Testament, the text refers to the Decapolis several times. For example, Matthew recorded, "And there followed [Jesus] great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judæa, and from beyond Jordan" (Matt. 4:25).

After the miracle of the swine, the man "possessed with the devil" followed Jesus to the shore "that he might be with him." Mark described what happened next:

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel. (Mark 5:18–20)

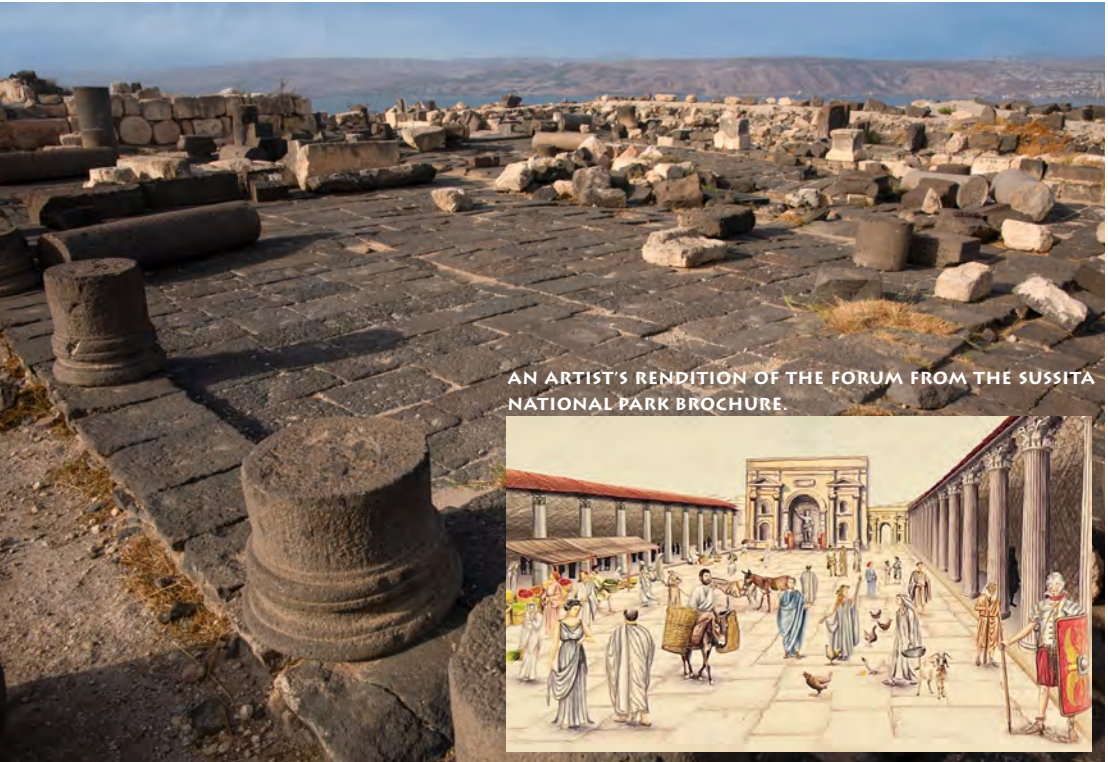
Mark also tells us that after Jesus returned from "the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis" (Mark 7:31). He performed miracles, such as healing a man who was deaf and dumb (Mark 7:32–37). Shortly after this Jesus fed the four thousand from seven loaves and a few small fish (Mark 8:1–9), which is why many believe the miracle may have taken place on the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee in the region of the Decapolis.





**VIEW NORTHWEST:** THE CANYON ON THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF SUSSITA. THE PEAK (TOP LEFT) IS THE SAME PEAK IN THE TOP PHOTO ON PAGE 284.

**BELOW (VIEW SOUTHWEST):** THE MAIN URBAN PLAZA, CALLED THE FORUM, SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. THE COLUMNS WERE 16.5 FEET (5 METERS) TALL. EVERY FIFTH PAVING STONE HAS A MASON'S MARK (GREEK LETTER).



AN ARTIST'S RENDITION OF THE FORUM FROM THE SUSSITA NATIONAL PARK BROCHURE.





**VIEW WEST:** THE AUTHOR ON THE TRAIL TO SUSSITA THAT APPROACHES FROM THE WEST, WITH KIBBUTZ EN GEV AND THE SEA OF GALILEE BELOW. I STOPPED TO TAKE A PICTURE FOR SOME FOLKS, AND THEY INSISTED ON TAKING ONE OF ME.

**BELOW (VIEW EAST):** THE TRAIL TO SUSSITA NEAR THE TOP. IF YOU HAVE A CAR, YOU CAN DRIVE TO THE ANCIENT CITY FROM EN GEV (SEE THE PHOTOS ON PAGE 284).

