

Table of Contents

Preface	V
Abbreviations, Versions, Translations and Place Names	XI
<i>Chapter 1: Introduction</i>	1
A Method for Determining the Extent of Ancient Synagogue Worship ...	6
Seating Capacities in Recent Scholarship	8
Synagogue Seating Capacities: The Goals of this Book	11
Methodological Approach to the Study of Ancient Synagogues	14
An Exercise in Ancient Demography	16
Outline of Chapters	23
<i>Chapter 2: The Seating Capacity Methodology: Defining Ancient Synagogue Worship</i>	25
Defining Synagogue Worship	26
Synagogue Worship Activities	31
Scriptural Readings and Targumim	32
Preaching	33
Prayers and Blessings	33
Prostration	35
Giving and Receiving Charity	36
Festival Worship	36
Unknown Worship Activities	37
Synagogue Furnishings and their Relationships to Worship Activities	38
Seating Furniture: Benches, Chairs, Floor Seating	38
Raised Platforms and Tables	42
Storage: Niches, Aediculae and Arks	44
Balconies	47
Partitions and Chancel Screens	48

<i>Chapter 3: The Seating Capacity Methodology: Coefficients</i>	51
Anthropometrics and Seating Capacities	52
The Coefficients	53
Rule-of-Thumb General Coefficient	53
Permanent Stone Benches	55
Portable Benches	57
Shallow Tiered Benches	59
Individual Chairs	60
Floor Seating	61
Standing	62
Applying the Coefficients	62
Determining Orientations	63
Empty Space around Architectural Features	65
Area for Worship Activities and Leaders	66
Choosing Seating Plans and Methods	66
Tables	67
 <i>Chapter 4: Case Study: Applying the Methodology to a Single Synagogue</i>	 75
Introduction	75
Case Study: Gamla	75
The Building	76
Worship Activities and Orientation	78
Calculating Seating Capacities	80
Demographic Data	83
Analysis	84
 <i>Chapter 5: Case Study: Applying the Methodology to Contemporaneous Synagogues in Tetracomia</i>	 91
Introduction	91
Nabratein	91
The Building	92
Worship Activities and Orientation	93
Calculating Seating Capacities	94
Demographic Data	98
Analysis	100
Khirbet Shema ^c	101
The Building	102
Worship Activities and Orientation	104
Calculating Seating Capacities	105
Demographic Data	109
Analysis	112

Meiron	113
The Building	113
Worship Activities and Orientation	115
Calculating Seating Capacities	115
Demographic Data	116
Analysis	119
Gush Halav	119
The Building	120
Worship Activities and Orientation	123
Calculating Seating Capacities	124
Demographic Data	127
Analysis	129
Conclusion	130

Chapter 6: Catalog of Seating Capacities for Synagogues in Ancient Palestine

Introduction	141
Arbel	143
Assaliyeh	149
Bar'am (Central Synagogue)	150
Bar'am (North Synagogue)	152
Beth Alpha	154
Beth She'an Kyrios Leontis (Scythopolis)	159
Beth She'an North (Scythopolis)	162
Beth She'arim	165
Beth Yerah (Khirbet el-Kerak; Philoteria)	169
Caesarea	171
Capernaum	173
Chorazin	177
Dabiyeh	181
Deir 'Aziz	185
ed-Dikkeh	188
'En Nashut	191
el-Khirbe	194
En-Gedi	198
Eshtemoa	204
Gamla	207
Gaza (Aza)	208
Gush Halav	211
Hammat Gader	212
Hammath-Tiberias (Severos, Stratum II)	215
Hammath-Tiberias (Stratum I)	223
Hammath-Tiberias North	227
Horvat 'Ammudim	230
Horvat 'Anim	233
Horvat Kanaf	236

Horvat Ma'on (in Judea)	239
Horvat Natur	244
Horvat Rimmon	244
Khirbet Shema'	247
Horvat Sumaqa	248
Husifah ('Isfiya)	252
Japhia	253
Jericho	255
Kefar Hananya	258
Kafr Mişr	260
Khirbet Samara	264
Ma'on (Nirim)	268
Ma'oz Hayyim	272
Meiron	276
Meroth	276
Na'aran	281
Nabratein (Phase I and II)	285
Nabratein (Phase III)	285
Qaşrin	288
Qiryat Sefer	293
Reḥob	297
Sasa	301
Sepphoris	303
Susiya, Khirbet	309
Tiberias	314
Umm el-Qanatir	316
Wadi Hamam	320
Yesud ha-Ma'ala	323
Tables	326
<i>Chapter 7: Conclusions</i>	339
The Seating Capacity Methodology and its Limits	339
Analysis of the Seating Capacity Data	343
Limits of Analyzing Seating Capacities: Ancient Demography and Chronology	343
General Observations about Synagogue Seating Capacities	345
Did Most Jews Participate in Regular Synagogue Worship?	346
Why Some Jews may not have Participated in Regular Synagogue Worship ...	350
House Synagogues as a Source of Additional Worship Space	355
Explaining Architectural Changes to Synagogues	357
Concluding Words	358
Bibliography	359
Index of Sources	381
Index of Authors	389
Subject Index	394