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ASHER OVADIAH GREEK DEITIES IN THE DECAPOLIS ART AND CULT

This publication aims to present those Greek/Roman deities that were the object of veneration and worship in the Roman cities of the Decapolis, as well as engage with the interrelationship between the visual arts and the pagan cults. The examination is based on architecture, sculpture, epigraphy numismatics, glyptic items, etc. and scattered literary sources. These archaeological and artistic vehicles were created and used for the practice of idolatry, in order to enhance religious belief. The cults and their practice, which are undoubtedly visually expressed or reflected in the works of art, enhance our understanding and perception of the rituals. It may be assumed that emperors, governors, magistrates and priests, as well as both public officials and individuals, were the catalysts and patrons of these means. Such works of art and archaeological findings also appear to have been used as vehicles for religious and political propaganda, and to disseminate the cults of the gods and goddesses.

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Tyche, mosaic pavement from Skythopolis, 4th-5th cent. CE.