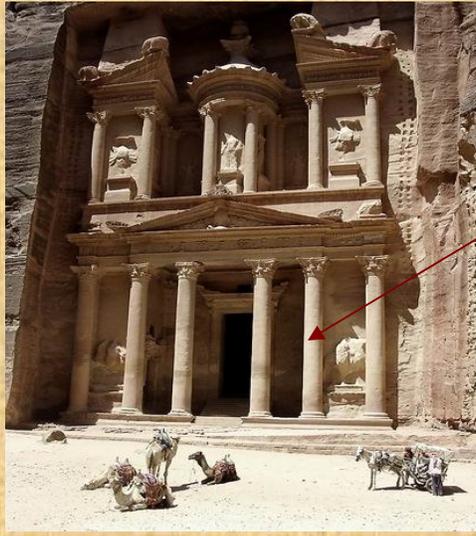# Petra

For the purpose of perspective, the **Corinthian Columns** are 50 feet high. The whole Treasury Building is 130 ft. high and 92 ft. wide.

- "The city of Rock"
- "The Rose Red City"
- Dean Burgon, a cleric of the 19th century described Petra as the "Red-rose city, half as old as time."
- Located about 100 miles below the southern end of the Dead Sea in what is now Jordan. About a three to four hour drive from Amman.
- Was the home of the ancient Nabataeans. Little is know about the history of the Nabataeans, but they may be the people referred to by Obadiah in his condemnation of the Edoniites (**Obadiah 5**). These people grew rich by plundering passing caravans. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, brother of Jacob.
- Some believe that Petra was known in the Bible as "Sela" (the rock).
- Petra was lost to the world for close to a thousand years when in 1912 John L. Burckhardt, a Swiss explorer, rediscovered it during his travels in the Middle East. The national importance of Petra ceased around 106 B.C.
- Petra seems to have housed 18,000 to 20,000 people, with the suburbs totaling as many as 30,000.
- Entrance to Petra is by foot or horseback through a ravine about one mile long and some 300 to 700
- feet high. The farther one goes the narrower and darker the entrance becomes. Some places are as wide as 20 feet while others are close enough to almost enable one to touch both walls at the same time. A few men could hold off an entire army.
- Once the city is reached, the famous treasury building appears. 92 feet wide and 130 feet high.

- The city is carved out of the different colored rocks of the cliffs. There are rockhewn dwellings, tombs, and temples. The main street is about one mile long. In places it is almost two-thirds of a mile broad. People still live there.
- Carved crosses on some of the walls evidence Christianity.
- One of the temples carved in the rocks is 154 feet wide and 132 feet tall with a door 26 feet high.
- Roman theatre with 33 rows would seat 3,000 people at once.