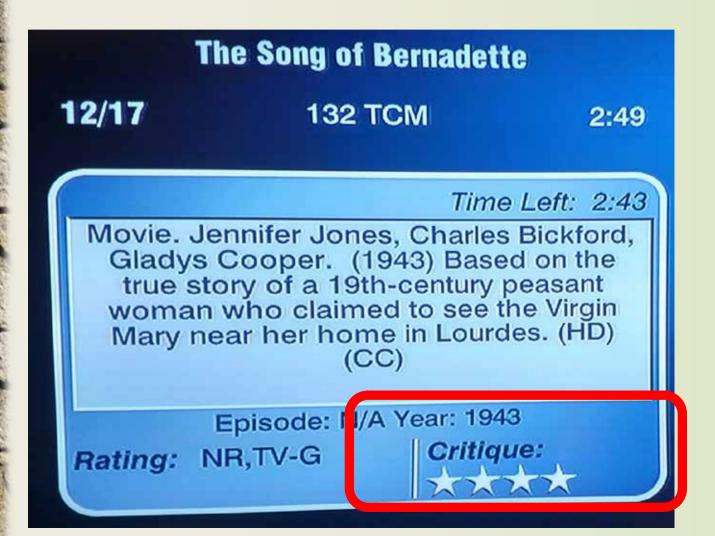


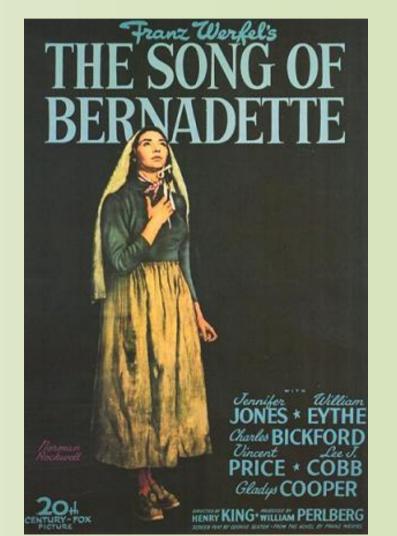
Conquest and Challenges of Israel's Settlement

- 1. Dec 4 Commissioned Joshua 1 Lord Calls Joshua
- 2. Dec 11 Conquest Joshua 6 Jericho Walls Doy
- 3. Dec 10 Commitment Kept Joshua 10 "Sun, Stand Still!
- Dec 18 Savior Announced Luke 1 Angel Gabriel to Mary
- 5. Dec 25 no Sunday School ... Merrrry Christmas
- 6. Jan 1 Settled Joshua 22 Dah Plan—God or Else
- 7. Jan 15 Value All Prov. 24 & Mark 10 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 8. Jan 22 Rebellion's Cycle Judges 2 Return to God to Live
- 9. Jan 29 Willing Servants Judges 4 Deborah Lifts Barak
- 10. Feb 5 Timid Warrior Judges 6 Angel Charges Gideon
- 11. Feb 12 Compromised Potential Judges 16 Samson & Delilah
- 12. Feb 19 Faith Through Trials Ruth 1 Ruth Helps Naomi
- 13. Feb 13 Redeemed & Secure Ruth 3-4 Noble Ruth Wins

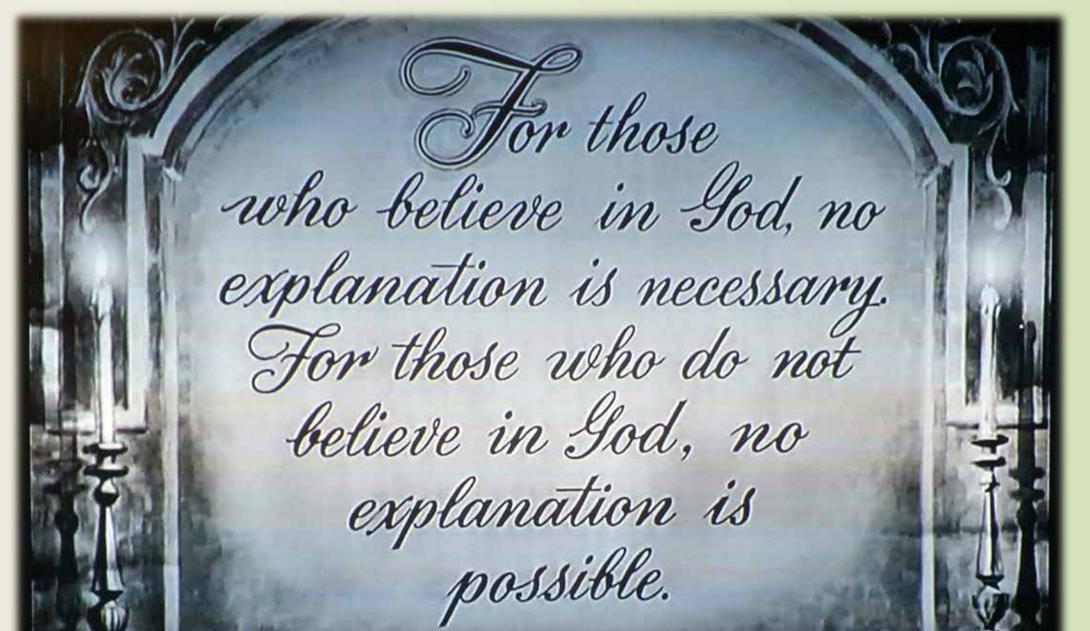
Saw an extraordinary movie ... *The Song of Bernadette*, 1943

Takes place in France in the 1800s ... got Four Stars ... *good movie!*A young girl sees the Virgin Mary in a grotto in the city dump ...





At the start, this quote struck me ... so true ... so much more true today



4

Lesson Author's Theme

God intervened in history, sending His Son to be the Savior

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Luke 1
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- 1:1-25 Angel to Zechariah . . .
- 1:26-29 A Message Sent Angel to Mary, "Rejoice, Favored Woman"
- 1:30-33 A Message Delivered Don't Be Afraid—Son of the Most High
- 1:34-37 Questions Answered How Can This Be?—Son of God
- 1:38 Willing Submission "I am the Lord's Slave"
- **Luke 2:17-19 Shepherds Come Mary Treasures in Her Heart**



Key Verse Luke 2:19

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her HEART.





There Be Angels in Town

All Around a Very Precious Heart

Nazareth, 1842
Painting by David Roberts in his *The Holy Land Book*His famous trip to Egypt, Nubia, the Sinai,
the Holy Land, Jordan and Syria 1838-1840

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town

in Galilee called Nazareth

Gabriel comes to Mary

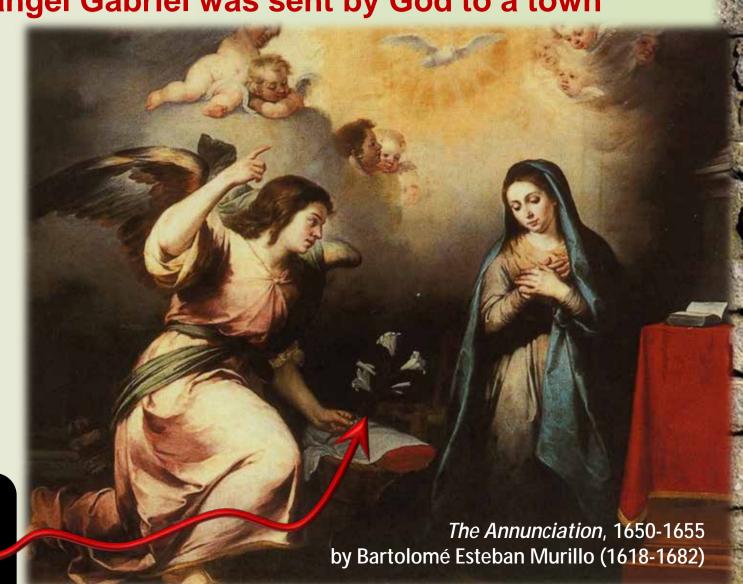
Sent by God ...

Matthew 1-2 tells us more about Joseph

Luke 1-2 tells us more about precious Mary

Sure are a lot of Angels doing God's business in Nazareth & Bethlehem

White Lilies represent PURITY of Mary



Called the "Annunciation" from Latin Angel Gabriel—sent by God to young Mary Gabriel told Mary to name her son Jesus What if ...

What if . . .

if the Annunciation had happened today! What if . . .

Digital Nativity on YouTube ... so cute

Nearly 13 millions "Likes" so far too large to post online

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkHNNPM7pJA

It goes pretty fast ... just 3 minutes

Angel Gabriel Googles
"Story of the Nativity"

Then Angel Gabriel emails Mary, "You're going to give birth to the Son of God"

Mary emails Joseph ... Joseph Googles for "Stable"

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town

in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.

Virgin's name was Mary.

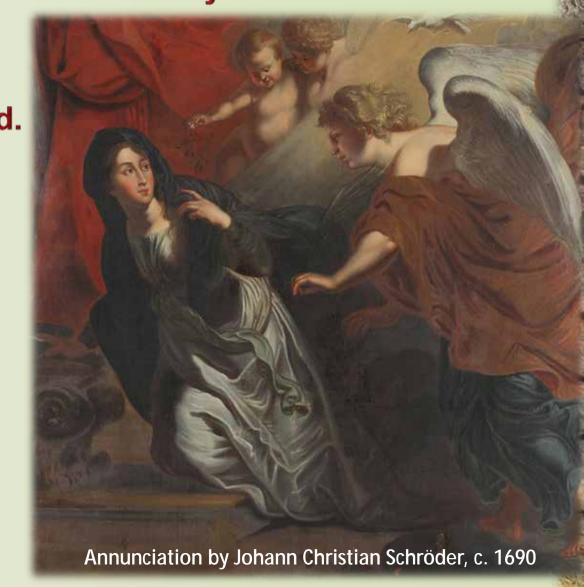
An ANGEL . . . sent by God . . .

to a wee young lady ...

girl ... woman ... virgin

Probably a far stretch for us to reach way back to the time

when we were INNOCENT



Virgin's name was Mary.

An ANGEL . . . sent by God . . .

a virgin - not any question about that

Certainly kind, gentle, sweet ...

Innocent in many things ... sheltered

Truly OUTSIDE the great Synagogue teachings

Truly shielded from the worst of the world

She was "betrothed" ... given in marriage to a man named Joseph ...

Apple of the eyes of her mother and father

NOW – HIGHLY FAVORED by God!



The Annunciation by El Greco, c. 1590–1603 in Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan

Outline of Angel Visits – Lot of Visits

Luke 1 - Angel Gabriel Appears

Zechariah in temple told of birth of John the Southern Baptist Mary in Nazareth told of birth of Jesus, Son of Most High Gabriel tells Mary ... Mary questions ... "Spirit will come" Gabriel tells Mary of Elizabeth – 6 months along Somehow, Elizabeth knows of Mary's birth (Angel too?) Mary spends time with Elizabeth

Matthew 1 – Mary pregnant ... don't know why ... Joseph discreet Angel Appears to Joseph, who forgoes divorce, 1:20-23 apparently, Mary did not tell Joseph of Gabriel ??

Luke 2 – Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem ... No Room in the Inn Angel appears to Shepherds in field ... Good News Heavenly Host appear to Shepherds ... they see Jesus, tell ALL

Matthew 2 – Magi see star ... then see Herod ... (Angels?) warn Magi in Dream ... skedaddle to their country Angel warns Joseph ... off to Egypt the Holy Family goes Angel tells Joseph of Herod's death ... they go home

Matthew & Luke ... something is *MISSING*Conspicuous in his absence ... **No Satan!**No where to be found ...

Reason ... we suppose is easy ...

Of ALL the times in human & universe history

No Devil was going to mess with Mary, the most favored woman of ALL TIME

And ... during THIS birth ... there would be No Complications ...

not even a termite in the cradle ...

I suppose it was even a cool evening!



Fall of Satan in Illustrated of Milton's Paradise Lost Gustave Doré (1832-83)

William Ross Wallace (1819-1881) wrote a poem—the refrain the most famous line & title

BLESSINGS on the hand of women!

Angels guard its strength and grace.
In the palace, cottage, hovel,
Oh, no matter where the place;

Would that never storms assailed it,
Rainbows ever gently curled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Woman, how divine your mission, Here upon our natal sod; Keep—oh, keep the young heart open Always to the breath of God!

Truly. . . the hand that rocks the cradle Is the hand that rules the world.



Song of the Angels, 1881 by William-Adolphe Bouguereau (1825-1905)

26 the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth

Gabriel ... the angel ...

Luke 1:19 – Angel to Zechariah, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news."

Gabriel—one of three Archangels with Michael and Raphael

Comes to little Nazareth

Nazareth?!?!?!?

John 1, "In the beginning was the WORD, ... all things MADE through him ...

John the Southern Baptist cries out ...



Annunciation by Gabriel, c. 1500 by Bernardino di Betto called "Pinturicchio" (1454–1513)

John 1, in the next couple of days
The disciples find Nathaniel ...
Ohh *GOOOD* news

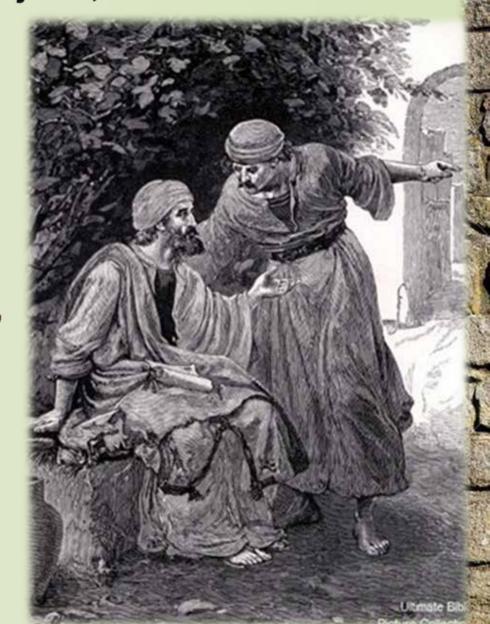
1:45, Philip told Nathanael, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph."

Nathanael isn't buying any of it

1:46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Philip says, "Come and see!"

Marvelous words ...



26 the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth

Lot of Angel Work going on in Nazareth ...

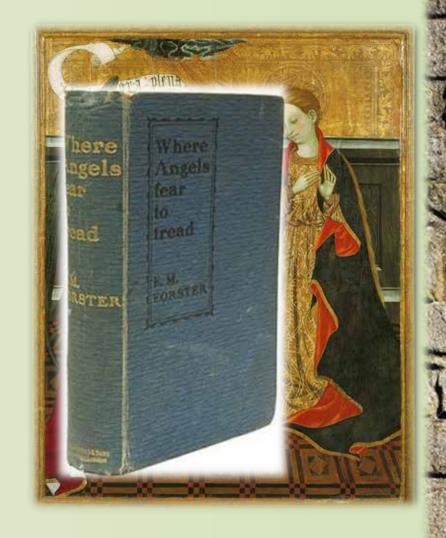
Nazareth - town NOT so good reputation

No matter ... the Angels were NOT scared

"Where Angels fear to tread" - really?

WHERE ... WHERE is that place they fear?

Where Angels Fear to Tread
a 1909 novel by E. M. Foster
a story of a fight for love ... kind of sad



Annunciation, by unknown artist, c. 1420 in Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona

"Where Angels fear to tread" - really?

WHERE ... WHERE is that place?

Alexander Pope (1688–1744) in one of the first major poems written in English, titled, "An Essay on Criticism" 1709—he coined

"For fools rush in where Angels fear to tread"

In exquisite poetic verse, Pope says that bad criticism does greater harm than bad writing

Even the Church is not safe from bad critics CRITICISM—the only place Angels fear to tread



Essay on Criticism, 1722 version Frontispiece for Alexander Pope's poem



26 the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth

Lot of Angel Work going on in Nazareth ...

Perhaps you've seen the movie Ben Hur

The classic novel by Lew Wallace

said to be the MOST read & sold book of the 19th century except the Bible

At the very beginning of the first chapter, Wallace includes a couple of stanzas from Milton's poem on Christ's majestic nativity



Annunciation, by unknown artist, c. 1420 in Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona

"See how from far upon the eastern road the star-led wisards haste with ordous sweet.

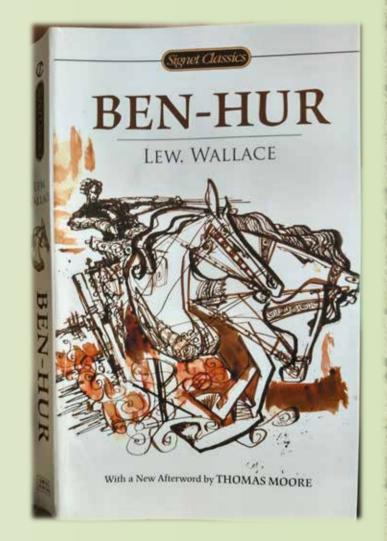
clipped from Stanza IV

But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon earth began;

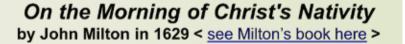
The winds with wonder whist Smoothly the waters kist, Whispering new joys to the mild ocean—

Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the
charmed wave."

clipped from Stanza V



Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ First published in 1880





1:26-29 A Message Sent – Angel to Mary, "Re

the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth

Gabriel ... the Angel ...

Lot of Angel Work going on in Nazareth ...

Now the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem is about 70 miles as the bird flies ...

About 90 miles by sandal foot & donkey

Even to Jericho ... then West and up towards & through Jerusalem ...

Then to Bethlehem . . .

aaahhhh ... but we are way ahead even 9 months ahead of ourselves



Zechariah sees Gabriel

Luke 1 – Zechariah the priest was doing his duty in Temple

Angel Gabriel comes to Zechariah

Do not be afraid, your wife's with child

Zechariah is speechless

Elizabeth remains in seclusion

At Eliizabeth's six months ...

Gabriel comes to precious Mary



Visit of the Angel to Zechariah by Luis Paret y Alcazar (1746-99)

Mary goes to Elizabeth

A "relative of Mary" ... a cousin

From all the context, Elizabeth is an older cousin ... like a good aunt

Trusted cousin & aunt to precious Mary

Elizabeth will be the mother of John the Southern Baptist

Oh ... what a family ...

What a family is this ...

Angels EVERYWHERE

Notice that the Annunciation to Mary is *usually* celebrated in March ... 9 months to ... you know what!



Mary Visits Elizabeth by Philippe de Champaigne (1602-74)

Nazareth

West of the Sea of Galilee

From Jerusalem, just a few miles to the southwest in the Central Hill Country

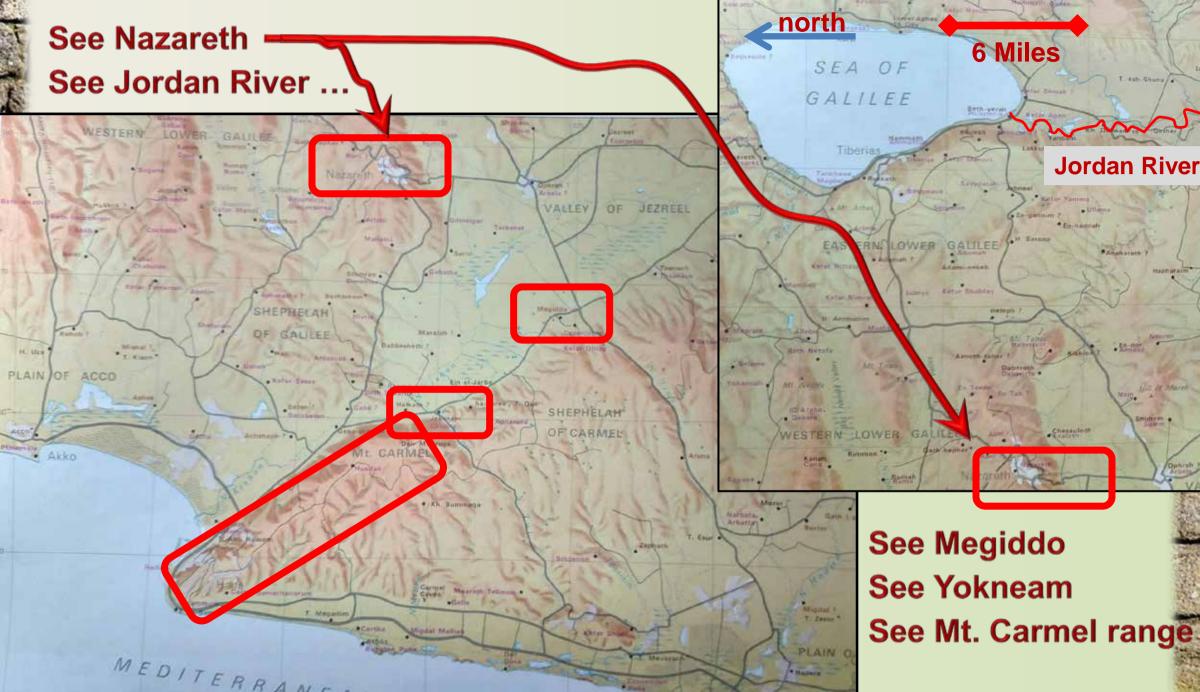
Bethlehem

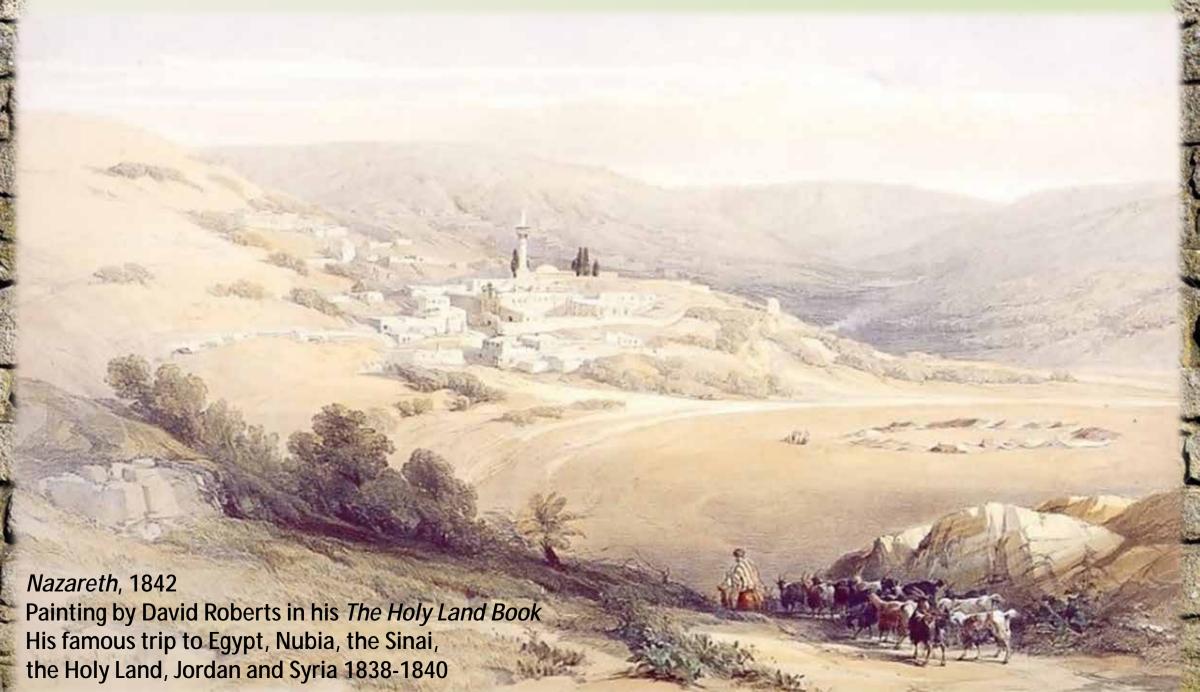
Again, Bethlehem is about 70 miles as the bird flies from Nazareth

NOT an easy trip back then

Let's look at the Nazareth and the area a little closer





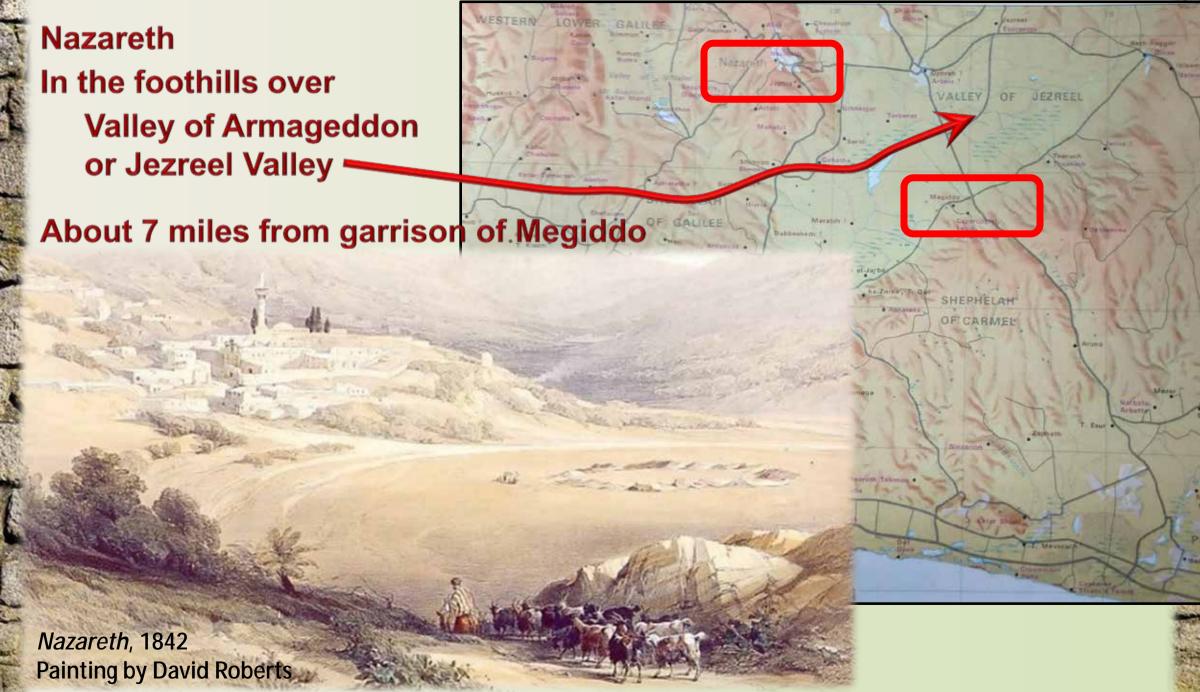


See Nazareth FROM Megiddo



Megiddo – vast garrison fortified by King Herod Guard valley traffic in Jezreel Valley, or Valley of Armageddon Valley of Har-Megiddo





²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you."

Angel Gabriel visits ...

To her, no doubts ... and shocking



Annunciation by Paolo de Matteis, 1712 in the Saint Louis Art Museum

²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

Shocking indeed ... I suspect ...

Whole world had waited for this

This moment—All the prophets looked

From Adam and Eve's Fall ... to here

The beginning of redemption ...

No, no, the Angel Gabriel dare NOT tell all ... just enough ...

Yet, there is a back story ...



Annunciation by Paolo de Matteis, 1712 in the Saint Louis Art Museum

Before / After Mary, another Angel comes

Aaahhh ... Joseph sees Mary with child ... well ... aahh ... VERY concerned

Matthew 1:20 ... he considered this, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a DREAM, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

He is to name the child "Jesus"

Matt. 2, After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem

Magi see star and come to Jerusalem



Joseph's Dream, c. 1790 by Gaetano Gandolfi (1734-1802)

Magi are NOT named

Tradition from the 5th century names:

Caspar – Indian Wiseman or King of India

Melchior – Persian Wiseman or King of Persia

Balthazar – Arabian Wiseman or King of Arabia



Matt. 2:1 ... Magi ask in Jerusalem

King Herod wants to know too

Priests & Wolves in Sheep clothes tell Herod the prophecy of Bethlehem

Star leads Magi to Jesus in Bethlehem who give Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh.

We GUESS three Magi

Magi are WARNED in a dream ...

They do NOT return to Herod but skedaddle out of town for home



Magi in the House of Herod by James Tissot (1836-1902)

Wisemen came to represent ...

- 3 Ages of Adulthood,
- 3 Cultural or geographic areas

Caspar - old, white beard, gives gold, from land of merchants, first to kneel to Christ

Melchior - middle-aged, gave frankincense

Balthazar - young, increasingly darker skinned, gave myrrh

Ages 60, 40 and 20 respectively



Adoración de los Reyes Magos, c. 1568 by El Greco in Museo Soumaya, Mexico City

1:26-29 A Message Sent

Matt. 2:1, Magi ask in Jerusalem

They go and see Jesus

Weee little infant ... Savior of the world

ALL moms relish admiration for their sons!

His precious mother, Mary ...

Mary, wondering at all this ...

Mary, cherishing all this in her HEART

Joseph, of the House of David, wonders too ... gold is nice

Likely, the Wisemen told Joseph that King Herod was curious too!



Adorazione dei Magi, c. 1655 by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio

1:26-29 A Message Sent – Angel to Mary, "Rejoice, Favored Woman"

Matt. 2:13, Angel sees Joseph in another DREAM ...

Get ye your hides to Egypt!

During the night, they saddle up and head for Egypt

Herod explodes ...

ALL children < 2 yrs KILLED in Bethlehem & vicinity

After Herod's death ...

Angel again appears to Joseph in DREAM ...

Okay to go home



Holy Family Flight to Egypt by Jacob Jordaens the elder (Flemish, 1593-1678)

1:26-29 A Message Sent – Angel to Mary, "Rejoice, Favored Woman"

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

In this day & time, she was elevated high!

Likely the LAST thing she wanted!



The Annunciation by Murillo, 1655–1660 Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg

1:30-33 A Message Delivered – Don't Be A

³⁰ Then the angel told her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

EASY for YOU to say ... you're the Holy Angel Gabriel!

31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.



The Annunciation by Salomon Koninck, 1655 in Hallwyl Museum, Stockholm

Sweet, kindly, sheltered, virginal Holy Mary ...



1:34-37 Questions Answered - Ho

What is this angel saying?

Jesus—my son—will be great!

Jesus—my son—called what?

Son of the Most High!

I don't know of ANY woman who doesn't want their son to be Gooood & Greaaat

Lord God of Creation will what?

Jesus—my son—Throne of David!

Of MY SON's kingdom—No END!

34 Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"



Annunciation, c. 1470, by Leonardo da Vinci painted for a nunnery in Florence

1:34-37 Questions Answered - How Can This B

Holy Angel Gabriel nearly gives
Sweet Mary a sermon!

35 The angel replied to her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.



1:34-37 Questions Answered – How Can T

And then ...
as to quell any further doubts ...
Angel Gabriel says:

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.

KJV 37 For with God nothingshall be impossible.

NIV 37 For no word from God will ever fail.



38 "I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Mary skedaddles to her dear cousin-like-a-good-aunt Elizabeth

To Elizabeth, Mary gives a song that is cherished by nearly the whole church

Called her Magnificat - Mary's Hymn or Song of Mary or Canticle of May

Luke 1:46-55 ... Wikipedia says it is 1 of 8 of the most Ancient Hymns

Frequently & REGULARLY sung in Catholic, **Anglicans & Orthodox churches**

All over the world



by Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1834-90

The Magnificat – most extensive piece of work on God by any woman in the Bible

The Magnificat – FIRST piece on Christ in the N.T. by the youngest in the Bible

The Magnificat – by the MOST favored woman in of ALL of history for ALL time

Luke 1:46-55, Mary said to Elizabeth:

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—Holy is his name.



Mary Visits Elizabeth by Philippe de Champaigne (1602-74)

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

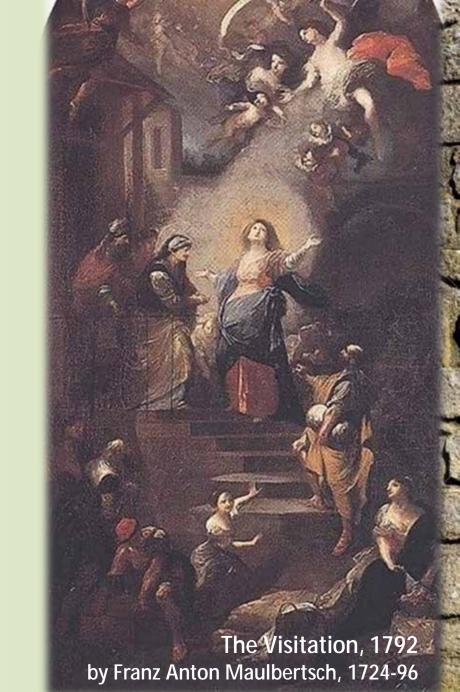
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."







Luke 2:9-16 - In Bethlehem

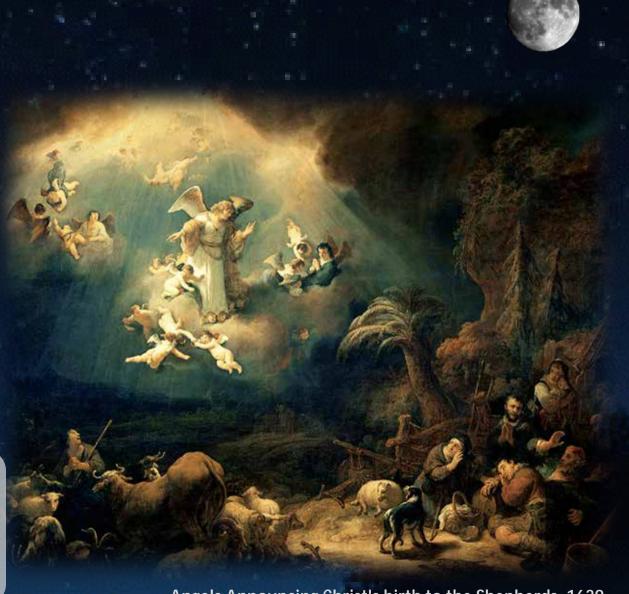
Shepherds saw a great Angel

⁹ The glory of the Lord shone round about them ... they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ Angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you Good Tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Great host appeared, singing

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



Luke 2:16 - The Shepherds found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17When they saw, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.



Mary ... sweet Mary

New mother ... 3 Kings & Shepherds.

Then the Bible reveals ... perhaps

One of the most precious sentiments in all of Christendom

Luke 2:19

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her HEART.



Pondered in her precious HEART

