

# ***Diamonds in the Dust 9***

## ***Nazareth: Then and Now***

### **Jesus' Major Travels**

*See last page for map*

- Angelic annunciation in Nazareth
- Mary Visits Elizabeth near Jerusalem
- Jesus Born in Bethlehem
- Jesus Naming/Dedication in Jerusalem
- Escape to Egypt
- Returns to Nazareth
- 12ish – goes to Jerusalem – “lost” in Temple (likely went to Jerusalem every year)
- Age 3ish to 30ish lived in Nazareth
- Baptized in Judean Wilderness
- Moves to Capernaum and the Gospel triangle in the Galilee
- Rejected in Nazareth in synagogue
- Ministers to people in Decapolis, Samaria, and Syro-Phoenicia
- Makes periodic trips to Jerusalem
- Sets eyes toward Jerusalem
- Holy Week in Jerusalem
- Heaven
- 40 days around Jerusalem as the Risen Christ
- Ascends from Galilee? Jerusalem?

Matthew 28:16-20

Mark 16:19

Luke 24:50-51

Acts 1:12

## What is Jesus' Hometown?

- Bethlehem?
- Nazareth?
- Capernaum?

## Nazareth Today



- "the Arab capital of Israel" (note: Nazareth is in Israel, not the Palestinian West Bank)
- population -- 77,445//210,000 in Greater Nazareth
- 2/3 Arab Muslim; 1/3 Arab Christian
- Israeli Jewish settlement right next door.
- Economy
  - high-tech companies, software development. the "Silicon Valley of the Arab community"
  - Was once a center of wood furniture manufacturing
  - Israel Military employs "some 300" people in Nazareth manufacturing munitions.

### Nazareth Then:

- “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” -- Phillip
- Josephus doesn’t list it as important; not mentioned in OT
- Had a synagogue
- Population estimates – 400-500 people
- Important neighbors: Sefhora/Zippori

### He’s not called Jesus of Bethlehem...

- Naming:
  - Around Nazareth he was known as “Joseph’s son” as in isn’t this “the carpenter’s son” (Mt:13:55)
  - Outside of Nazareth he was know by where he came from: Nazareth
  - Christians are most concerned with the Bethlehem connection – ties Jesus to David as the Messiah.

- Adjacent words

Nazarene/Nazarite –

Matt 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city. called Nazareth: that it might be. fulfilled which was spoken by the. prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

We haven’t found such prophecy in OT or elsewhere.

Was not a Nazarite: No haircut, no dead, no wine. Broke at least 2 out of 3

Netzerite – one who springs forth (as in “out of the stump of Jesse”

“The netzer was a promise of hope. The prophets, in speaking about the destruction and re-emergence of Israel, used the metaphor of Israel being like a tree that had been cut down, but which would sprout up once again. Israel would be led by a messianic figure called “the branch,” so Isaiah 11:1-4—

*A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;*

*a branch will sprout from his roots.  
The LORD 's spirit will rest upon him,  
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
a spirit of planning and strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.  
He will delight in fearing the LORD.  
He won't judge by appearances,  
nor decide by hearsay.  
He will judge the needy with righteousness,  
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. ...  
[And in those days] the wolf will live with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
the calf and the young lion will feed together,  
and a little child will lead them.*

*Isaiah 61: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...  
For as the earth brings forth **its shoots**,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.*

INRI

Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews

Jesus Nazareth Rex Judah

**“Isn't this the the tekton's son?”**

- tekton – Greek -- craftsman in stone and wood – a “builder”

similar to our word "technician"

Sum: Jesus is physically stronger and intellectually smarter than we imagine.

*So the carpenter (tektōn) encouraged the goldsmith, and he  
that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil,  
saying, — Isaiah 41:7*

## Jesus's Life and Nazareth

- Annunciation in Nazareth

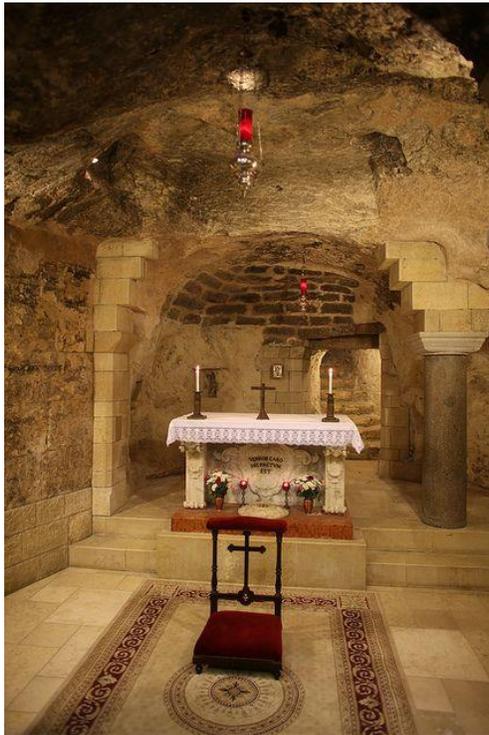
Mary's well



Church of the Annunciation







## Recreation of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Synagogue



A typical synagogue contains an **ark** (where the scrolls of the Law are kept), an “eternal **light**” burning before the ark, two candelabra, pews, and a raised platform (**bimah**), said to remind people of the Temple since its destruction.

**Moses’ seat** – Chorazin – A carved stone chair reserved for a visitor of for the most distinguished elder of a synagogue. This one is from Chorazin, one of the three towns Jesus inveighed against for their citizens’ hypocrisy.

“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat” (Mt. 23.2)



*Luke 4: 14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee [From where he had been tempted in the Judean wilderness by the Holy Spirit], and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

*16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

*20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

*22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' 23He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' 24And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. 25But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' 28When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

## Mount of Precipice



### Why was Jesus rejected in Nazareth?

- Claiming Biblical status
- Ministry to outsiders: Sidonian/Syrian

### Nazareth's Neighbor: Zippori/Sepphoris

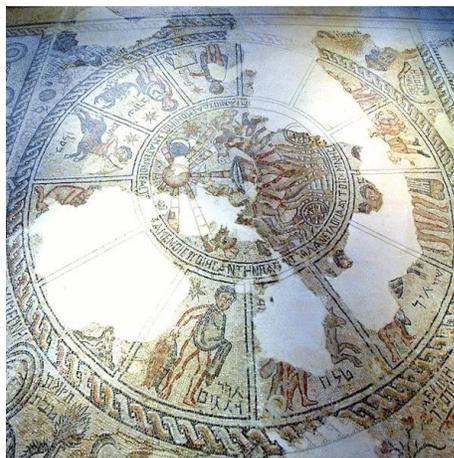
- 6.5km (4 miles) northwest of Nazareth
- dates from the era of the Maccabees in the 2nd century b.c.
- enormous expansion and building in the a.d. 1st century
- "the ornament of the Galilee," according to Flavius Josephus
  - Hellenistic pagans and Jews



4,000-seat Roman amphitheater

Dionysian mosaic floor of a villa that includes the “Mona Lisa of the Galilee”,

5<sup>th</sup> century Synagogue -- The mosaic floor of the ancient synagogue was discovered in 1993 – floor had a Zodiac design





Mona Lisa of the Galilee



