

B is for BETHLEHEM

Selected Scripture

Central Idea: *Understanding the background of the Christmas story gives us an appreciation of what God is doing in the details of our lives – often in ways we do not know or understand.*

- Bethlehem A.D. 2023

- Bethlehem c. 5/4 B.C. – JESUS (*Bread*)
Micah 5.2; Luke 2.1-7; John 6.35

- Bethlehem c. 1040 B.C. – DAVID (*Thirst*)
2 Samuel 23.13-17; John 4.13; Revelation 22.17

- Bethlehem c. 1200 B.C. – RUTH (*Love*)
Ruth 1-4, esp. 1.8, 2.20, 3.10

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

1. Where were you born and raised? Was it a small town where everyone knew each other or a large metropolitan city? How did this impact you during your growing up years?
2. Consider each of the three accounts of Bethlehem: Jesus, David and Ruth. Read the passages of Scripture and consider how the people involved and the circumstances of their lives pointed to Jesus Christ.
3. God is working in the details of our lives as well. How is the background of the Christmas story and God's oversight of all the details an encouragement to you as you face the circumstances of your own life?

Community Bible Church
Charles Tschetter, Lead Pastor

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *B is for Bethlehem* is the second message in a Christmas series called *C is for Christmas*. This message can be listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org. You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from itunes or google play.



C

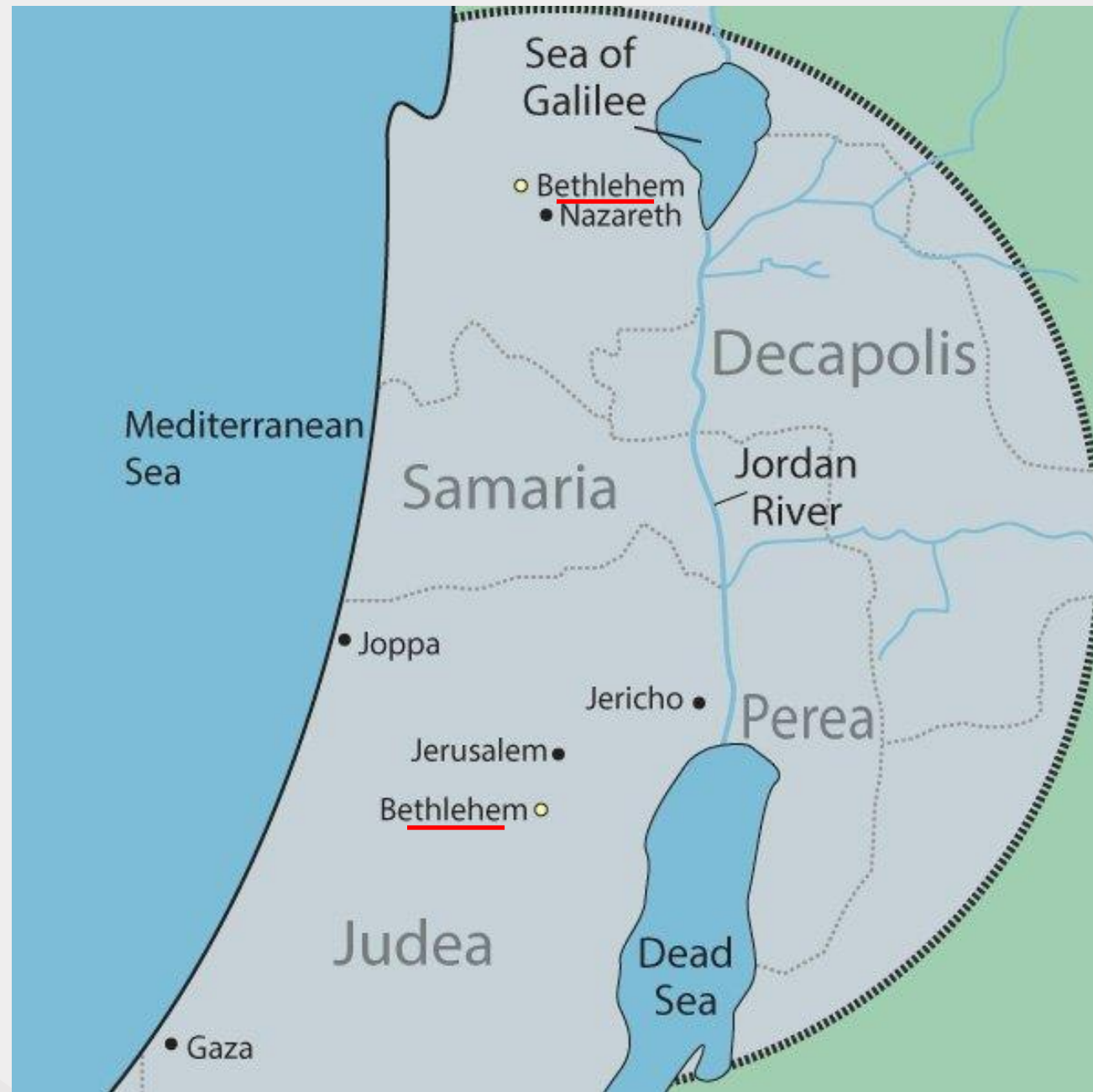
IS FOR

Christmas



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Bethlehem
A.D. 2023









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Bethlehem
c. 5/4 B.C.

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Jesus



But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

JERUSALEM
•
BETHLEHEM •

The image is a composite of three elements. The top portion shows a dark blue night sky filled with stars, with a prominent, bright, multi-pointed star in the upper left. The middle-right portion is a map of the Middle East, with the landmass highlighted in a light blue color against a dark background. Two specific locations are marked with white dots and labeled: 'JERUSALEM' and 'BETHLEHEM'. The bottom portion shows a dark silhouette of a landscape. On the left, there are silhouettes of trees and a caravan of people riding camels. In the center, there is a silhouette of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, blacks, and whites, with the bright star and map labels providing contrast.

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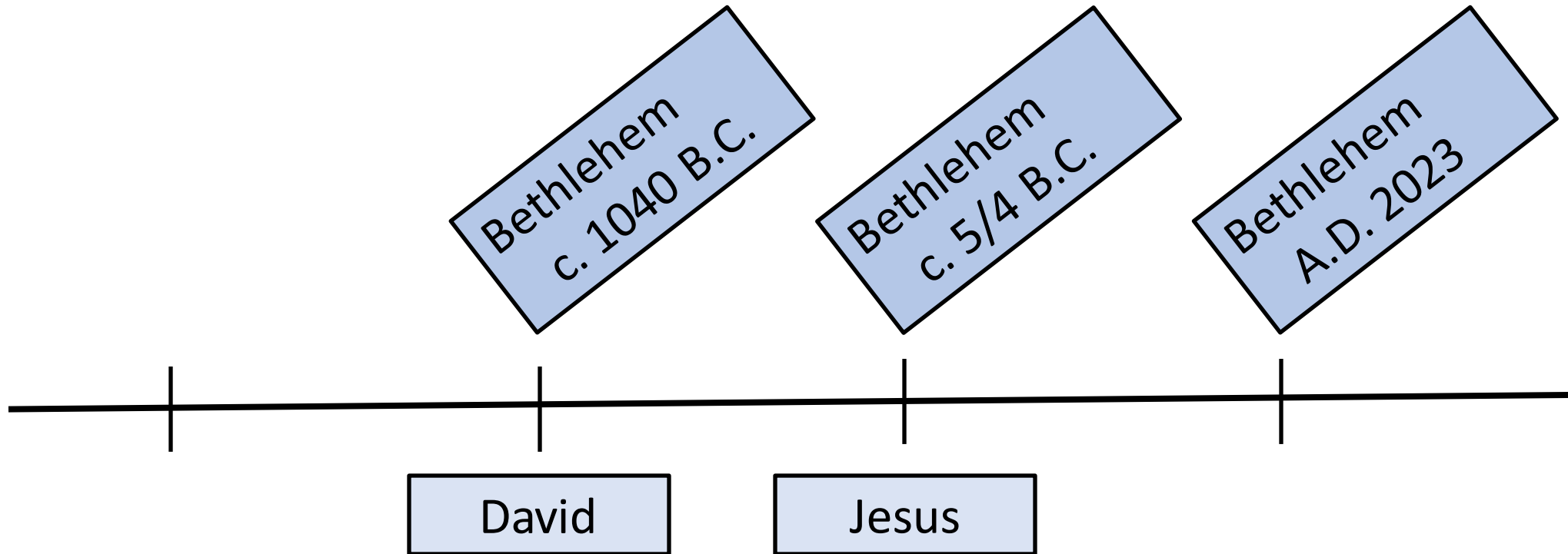
Bethlehem
c. 5/4 B.C.

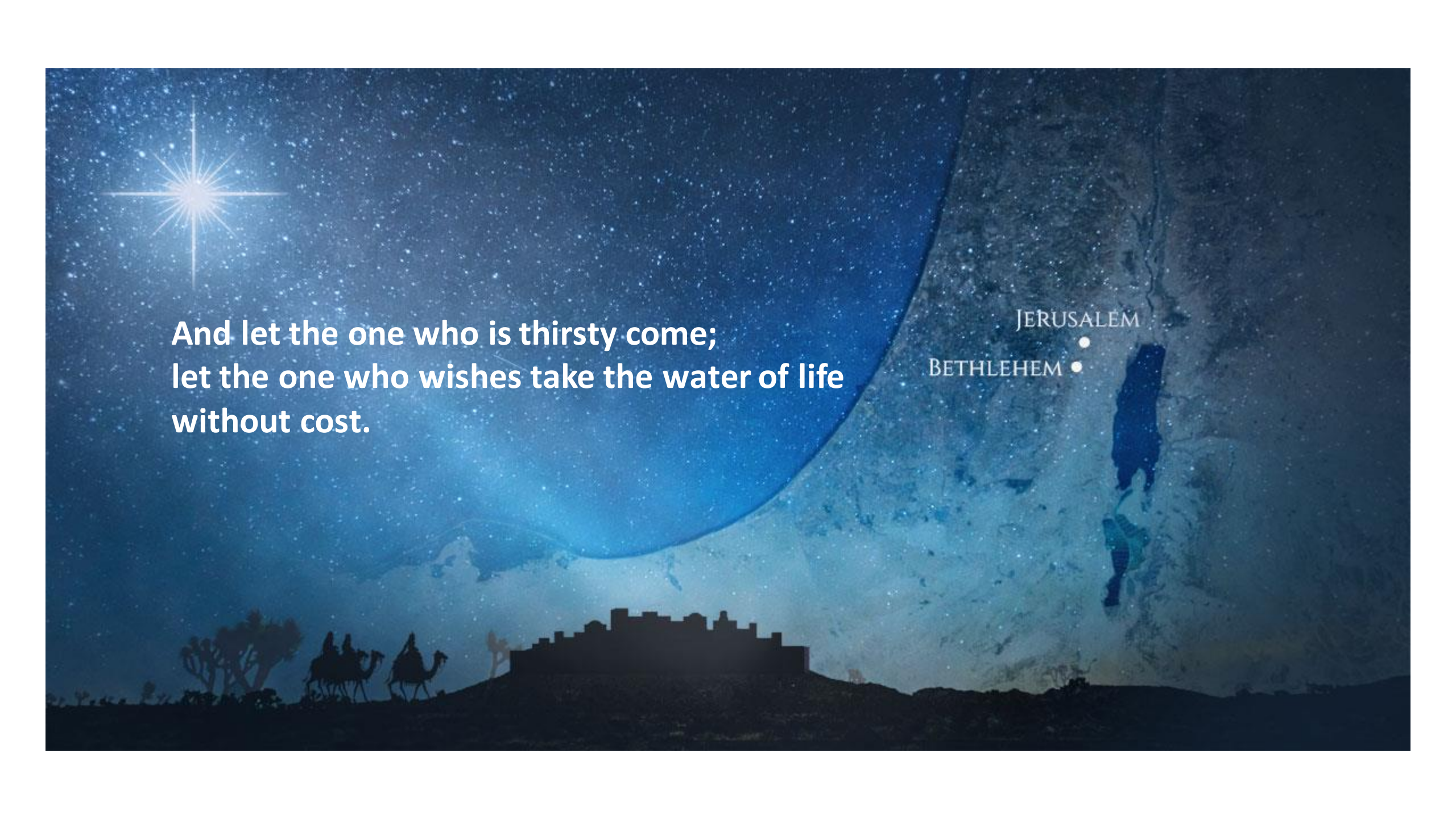
Bethlehem
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Jesus

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**And let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who wishes take the water of life
without cost.**

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