



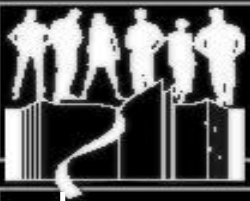
Journeys of Christmas: Joseph and Mary

Luke 2:1-7



Luke 2:1-7

Luk 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary,



Luke 2:1-7

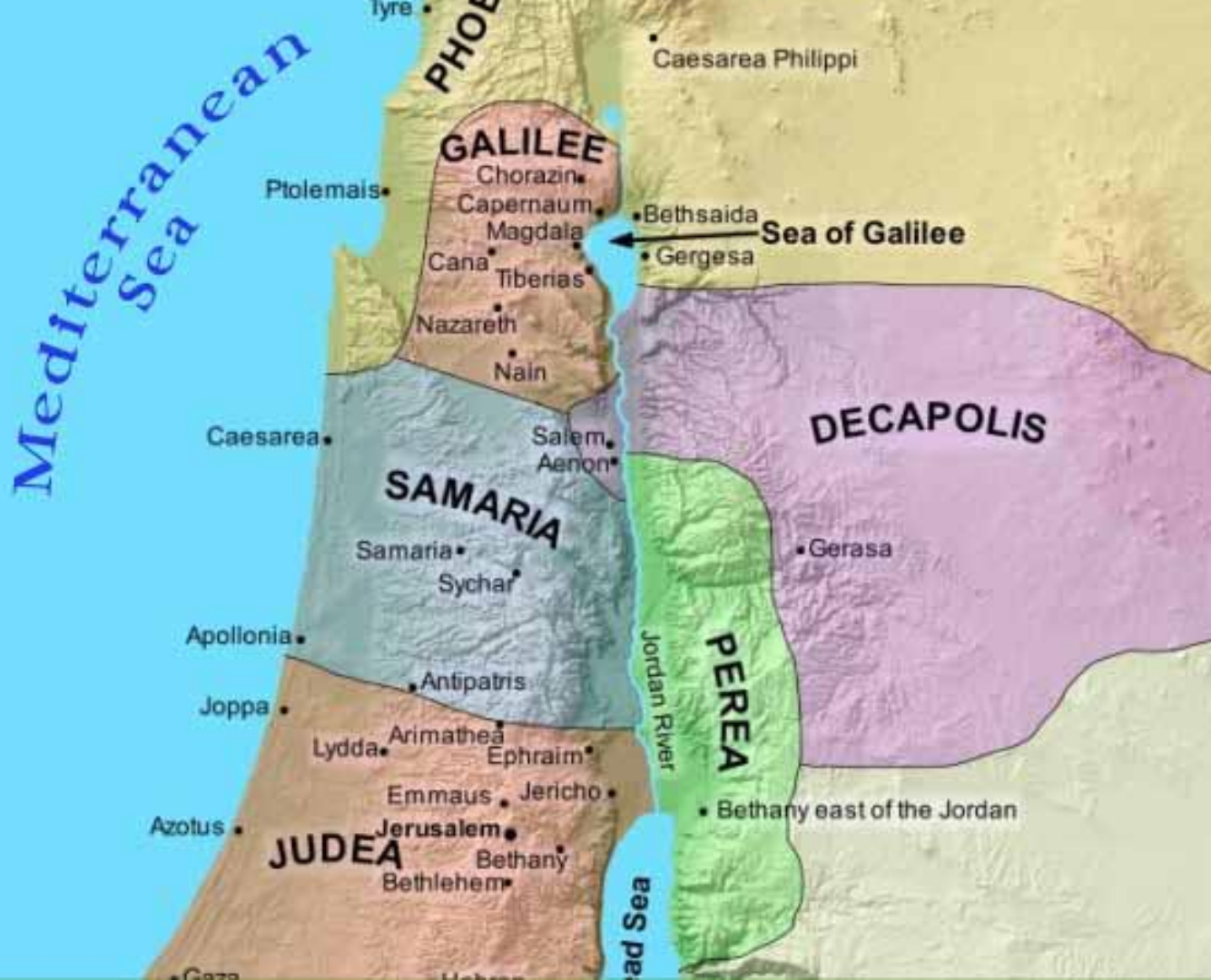
who was engaged to him, and was with child. 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Law of the Land

- Rome has expanded to its largest influence
- No other kingdom was its equal
- The height of Rome's military might
- The height of Rome's political power
- To this time and place, God sends our Christ

A Census

- Political maneuvering, pride, taxes—a Census!
- Not of the *entire* world but of the Roman world
- Registration by heritage was the Jewish method
- Jews clinging to now-vanished tribal relation
- 80 miles from Galilee to Bethlehem
- God uses it all for His plans and purpose!





Micah 5:2

Mic 5:2 "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."

BIBLE

Foretold and Forepromised

- God takes that which is small and raises it
- God remembers and fulfills his promises
- God is not limited by man's machinations or sin
- God can turn ANY situation around for his glory!
- His plan is greater than any you could imagine!
- It has all been planned from the beginning!

The Journey of Faith

- Mary trusting the Lord's plan
- Joseph trusting the Lord's plan
- Taking the next right step
- Fulfilling prophecy knowingly or otherwise!
- 80 mile walk while Mary is pregnant

God at Work

- God has used Ceasar to move the world
- God has used Israel's religiosity to move Joseph
- God has used Joseph's piety to move Mary
- God has used all this to get Jesus to Bethlehem
- The same God who orchestrated all this...