

Part 2

God is in the House

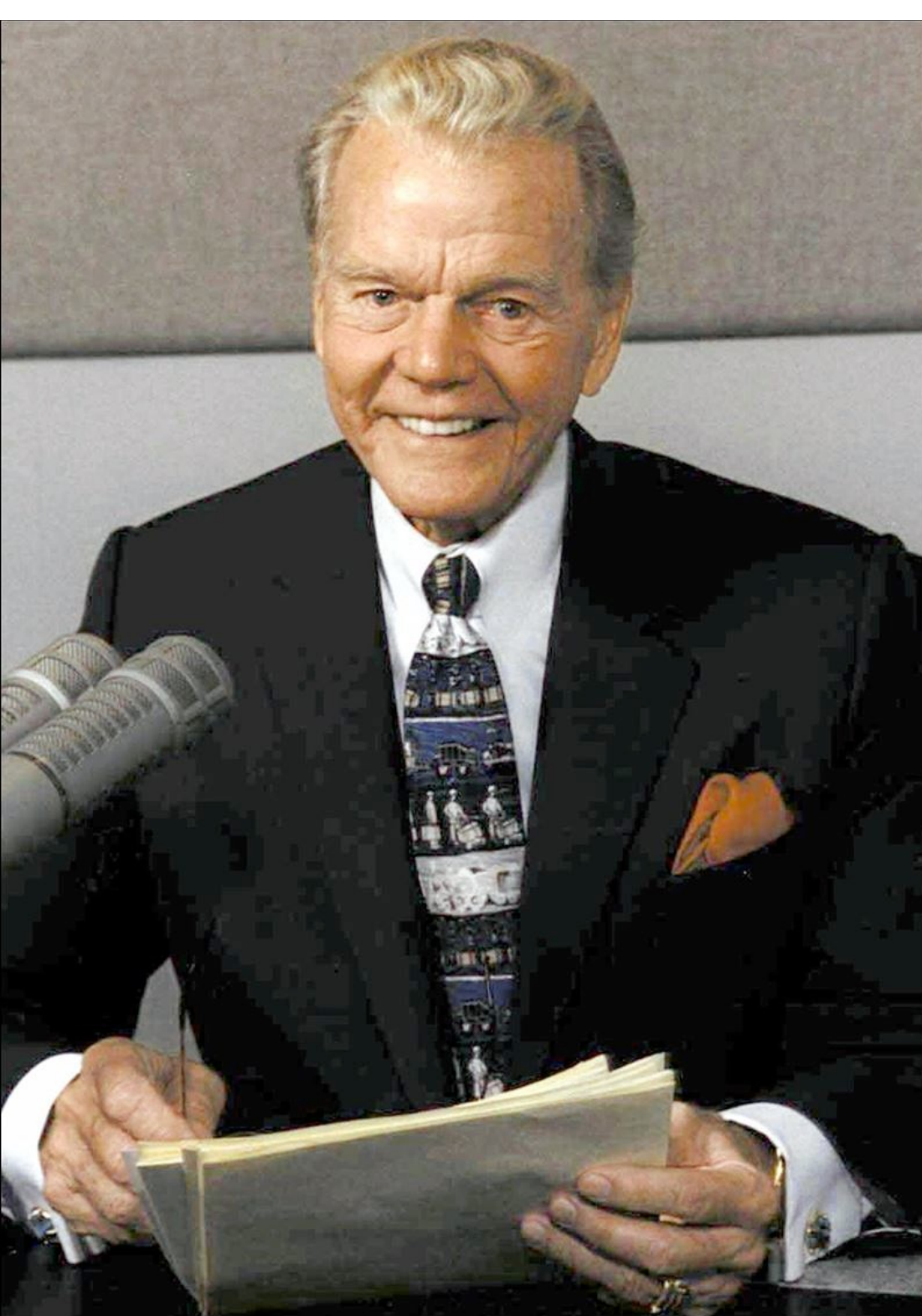
Luke 2:1 - 20

The Christmas

JOURNEY

The word "JOURNEY" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. To the right of the word, there are black silhouettes of three camels and their riders, walking from left to right. The background is a gradient from light blue at the top to dark grey at the bottom, with several small white stars scattered across the sky. A large, bright yellow star is positioned behind the letter 'O' in "JOURNEY".

Remembering the *Reason* for the season.



Paul Harvey,
The Rest of the Story

Part 2

God is in the House

Luke 2:1 - 20

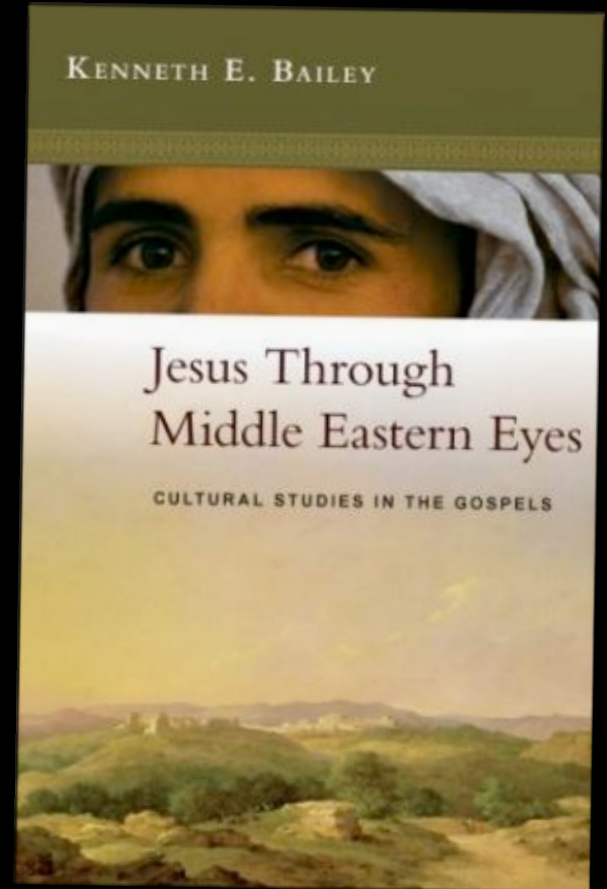
The Christmas

JOURNEY

The word "JOURNEY" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. A bright yellow star is positioned above the letter 'O'. To the right of the word, there are black silhouettes of three camels and their riders, carrying gifts, walking across a dark landscape. The background is a gradient from light blue to dark grey, with several small white stars scattered across the sky.

Remembering the *Reason* for the season.

A diamond ring is admired and worn with pride, but with the passing of time, it needs to be taken to a jeweler to be cleaned to restore its original brilliance. The more the ring is worn, the greater the need for occasional cleaning. The more familiar we are with a biblical story, the more difficult it is to view it outside of the way it has always been understood.



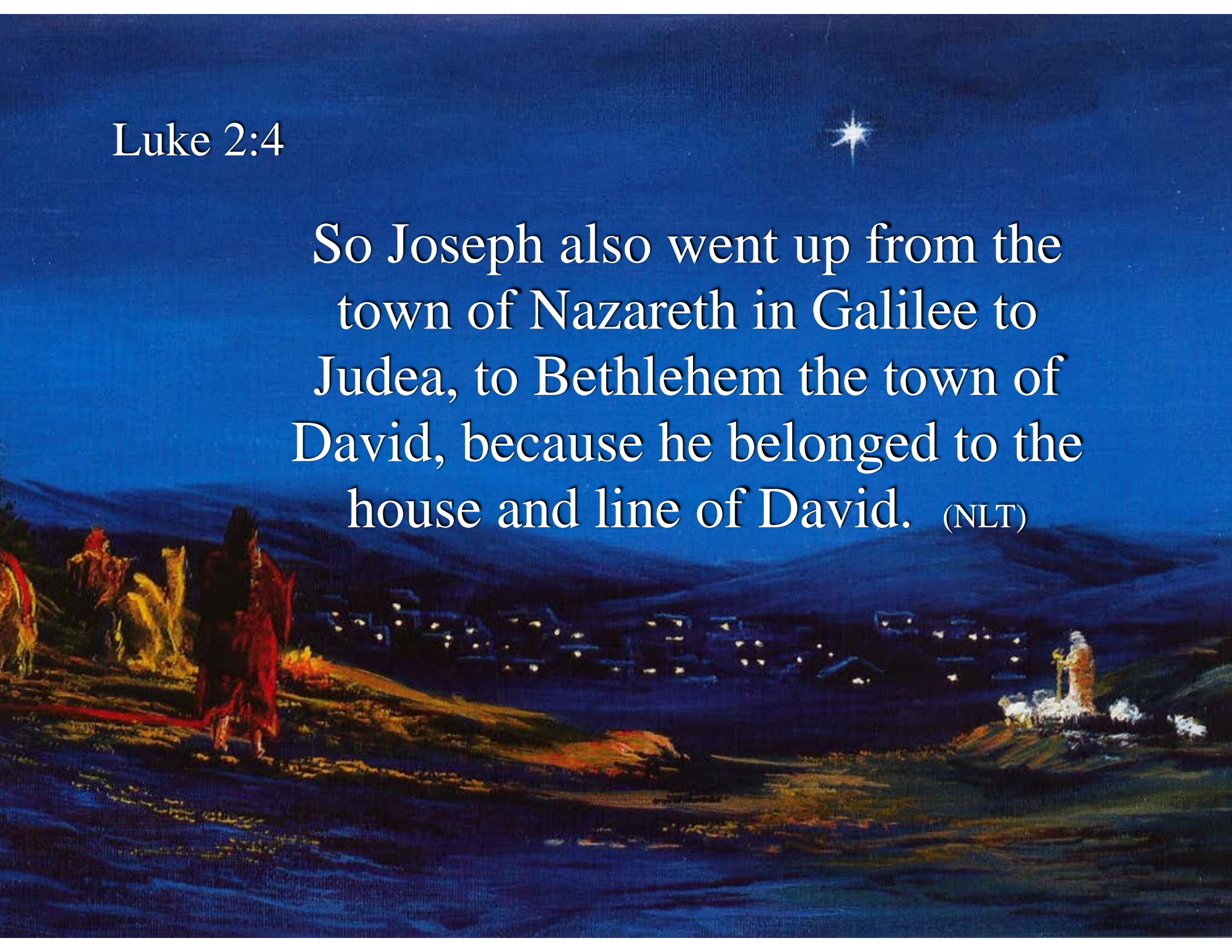
Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes,
Cultural Studies in the Gospels,
Kenneth E. Bailey, p. 25

Luke 1:1 - 4

¹ Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be *certain* of the truth of everything you were taught. (NLT)

Luke 2:4

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. (NLT)



Judaea Province in the First Century

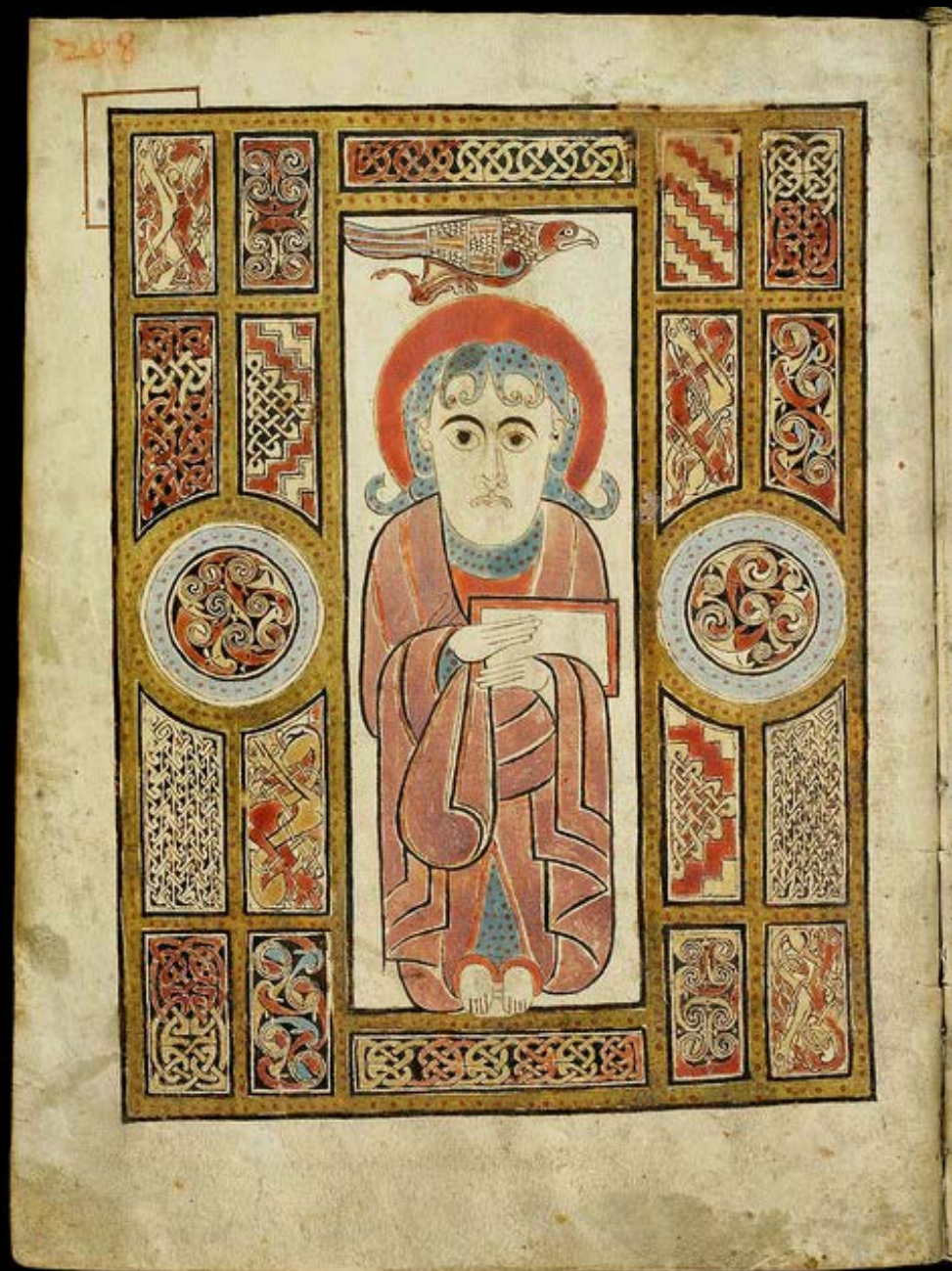


A painting of a night landscape. The sky is a deep, dark blue, with a single, bright, multi-pointed star shining in the upper right quadrant. In the foreground, there are rolling hills and a path. On the left, a figure in a red robe is walking away from the viewer. In the distance, a small town or village is visible, with several lights glowing from its windows. On the right, a figure in a white robe is standing on a hill, looking towards the town. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

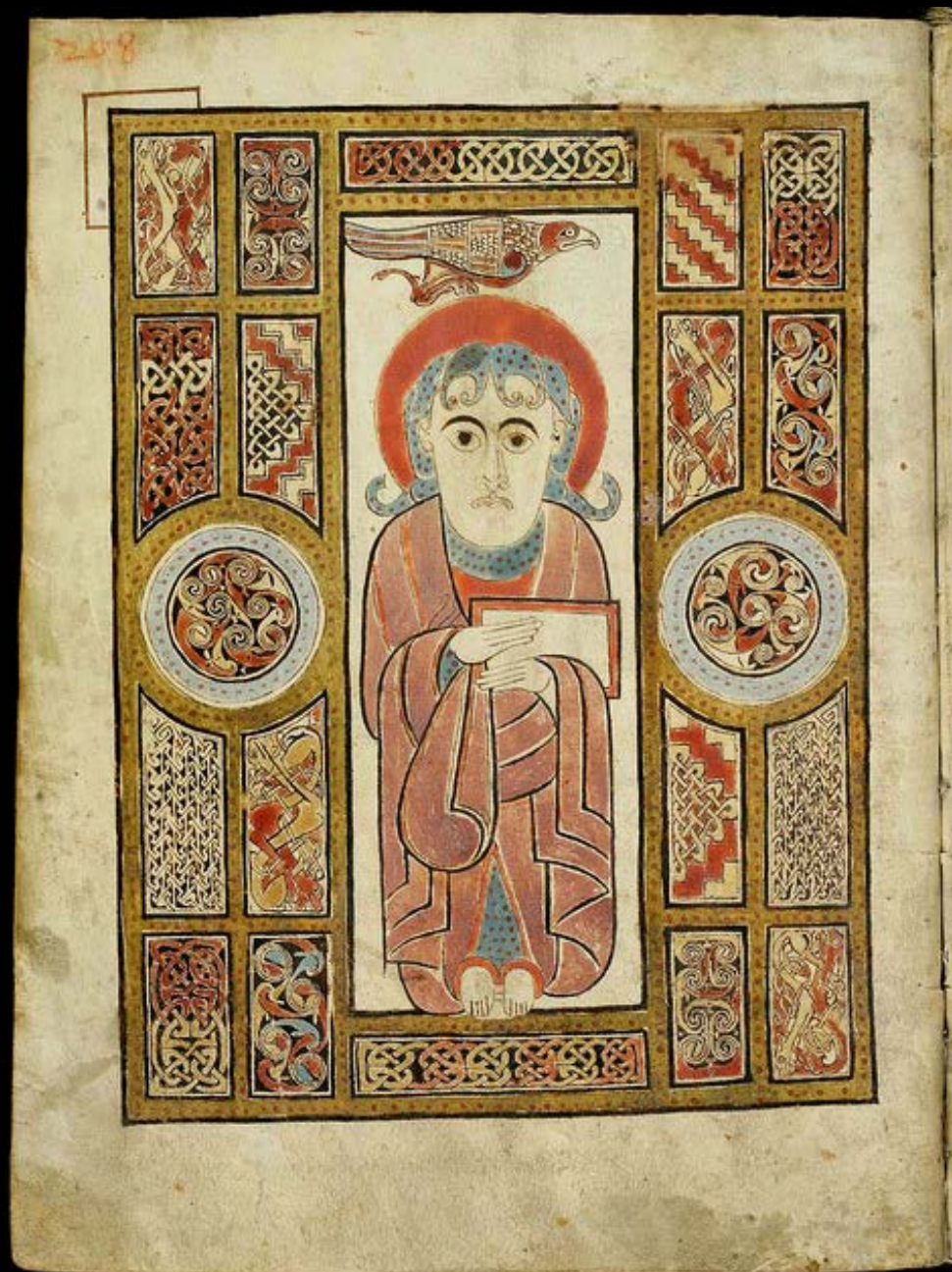
Luke 2:6 & 7

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (NIV)





The Protevangelium of James



This novel is the earliest known reference to the notion that Jesus was born the night Mary and Joseph arrived in or near Bethlehem. The average Christian, who has never heard of this book, is nonetheless unconsciously influenced by it.

Where was the manger?

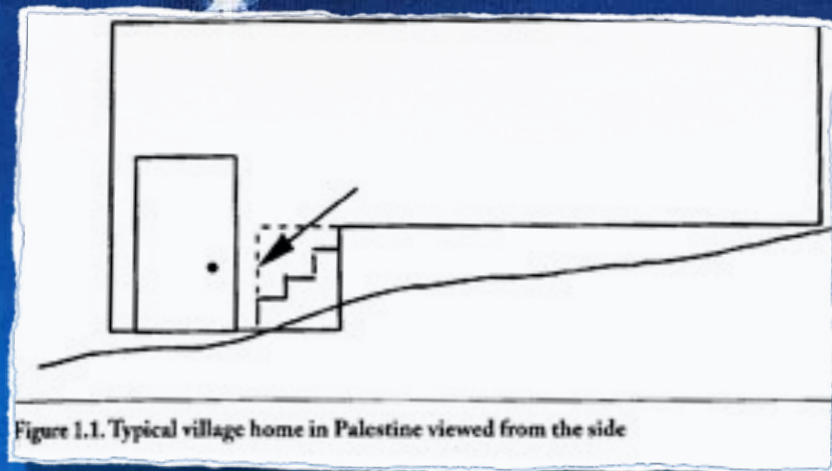
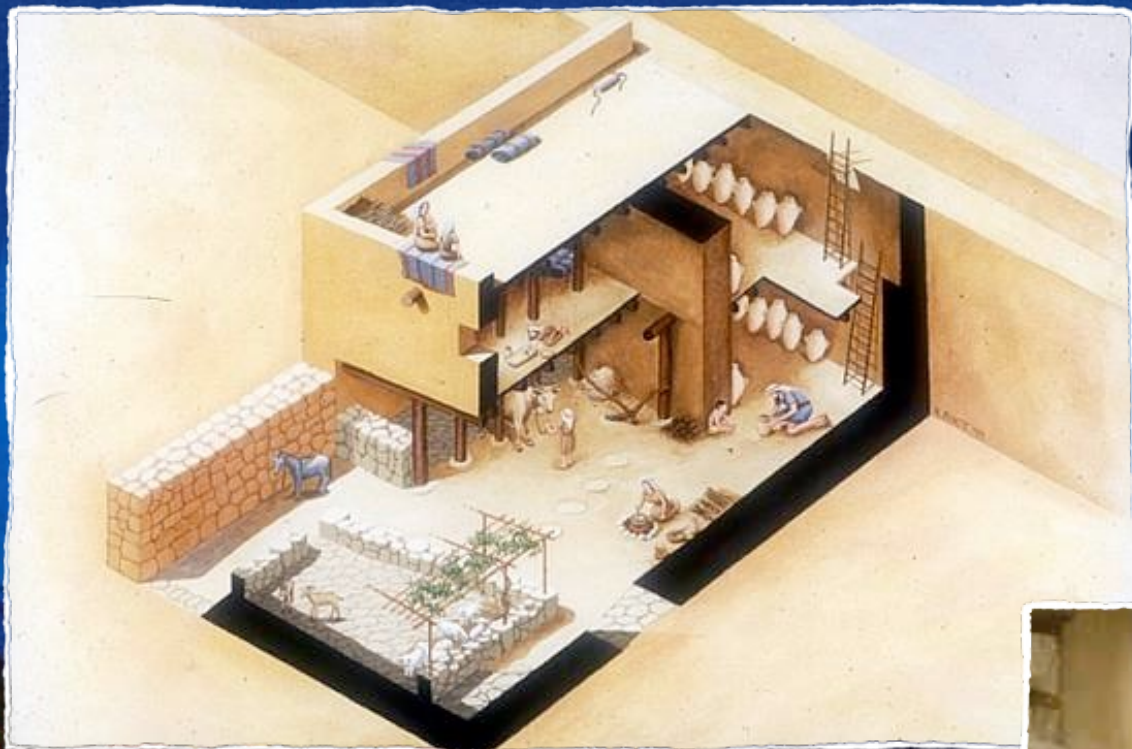


Figure 1.1. Typical village home in Palestine viewed from the side

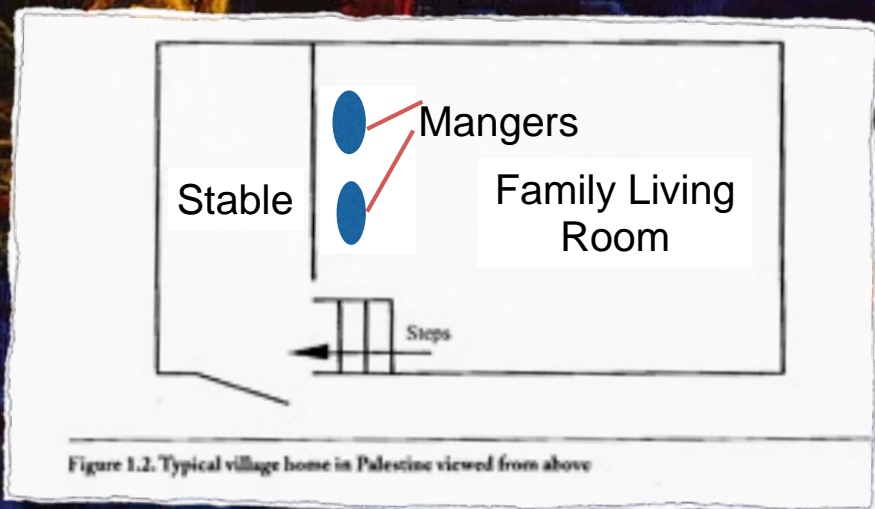


Figure 1.2. Typical village home in Palestine viewed from above



Where was the manger?

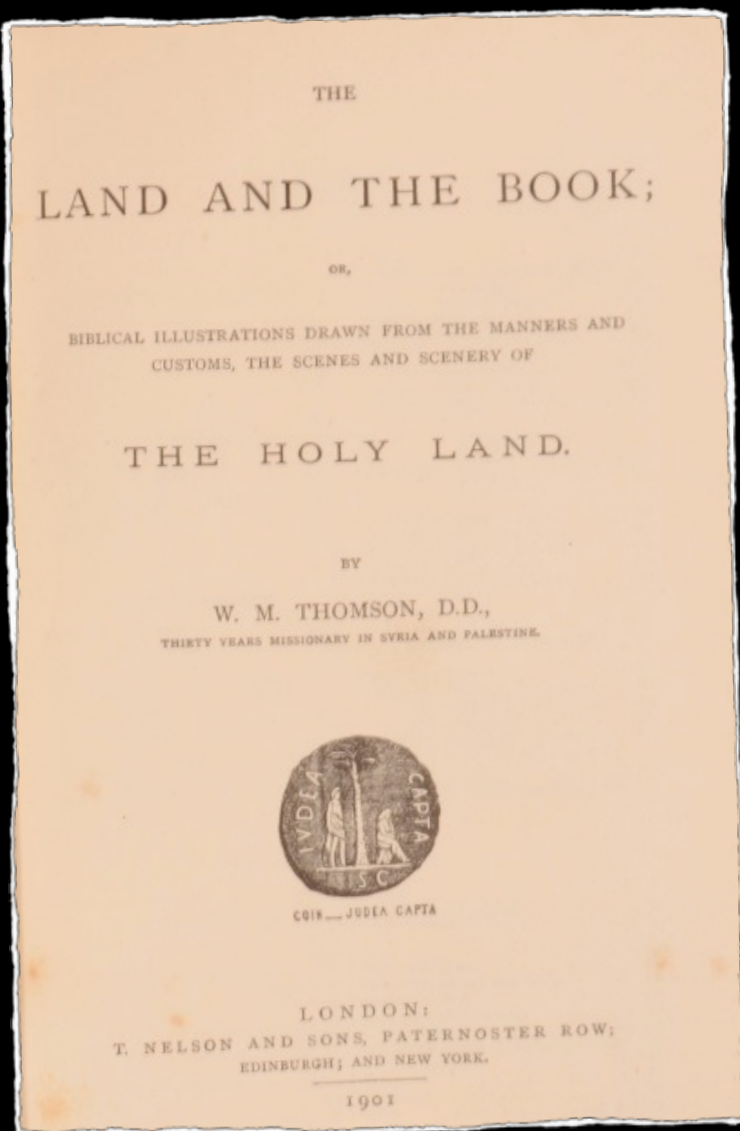


1 Samuel 28:24



Judges 11:29 - 40





It is my impression that the birth actually took place in an ordinary house of some common peasant, and that the baby was laid in one of the mangers, such as are still found in the dwellings of farmers in this region.



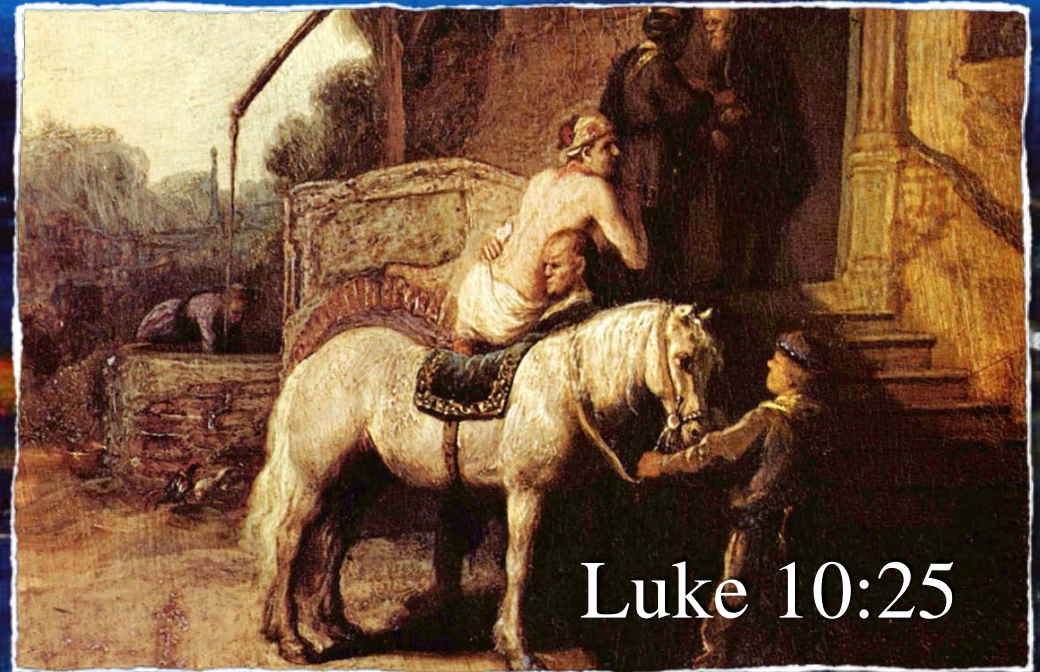
What was the inn?

NO
VACANCY

*there was no room
for them in the inn*

kataluma

pandocheion = a
place that receives all

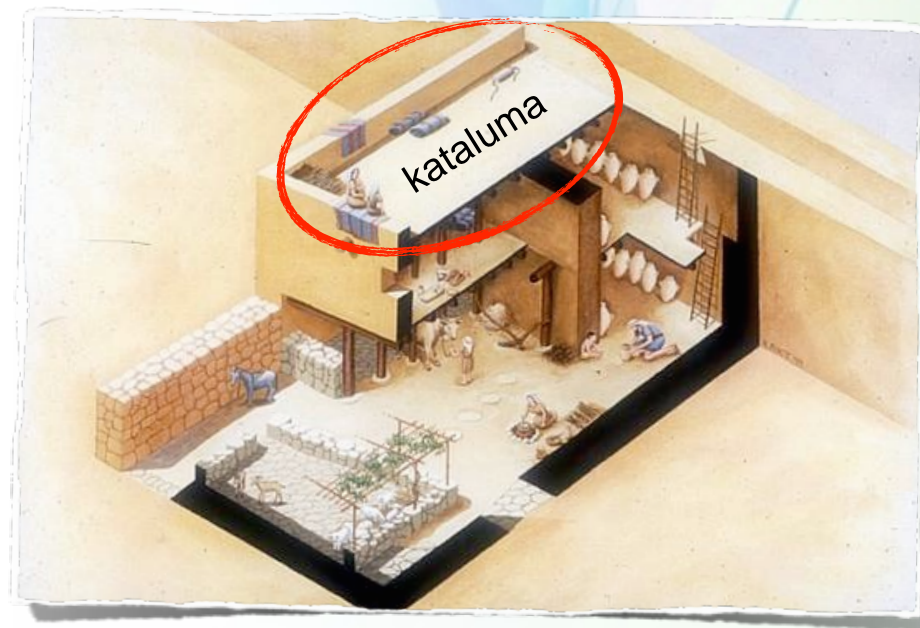
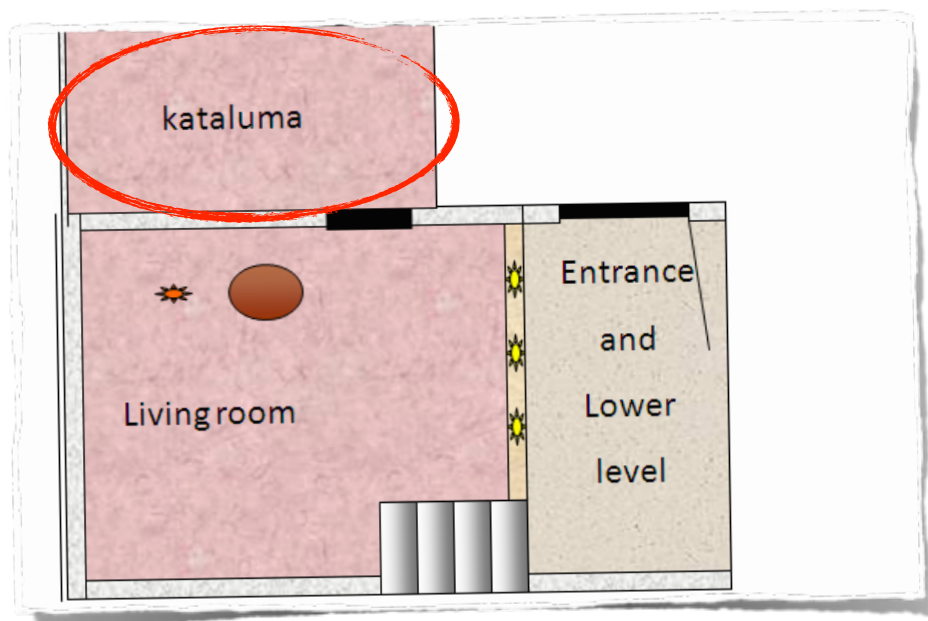


Luke 10:25

Luke 22:10 – 12

¹⁰ As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.

Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house,



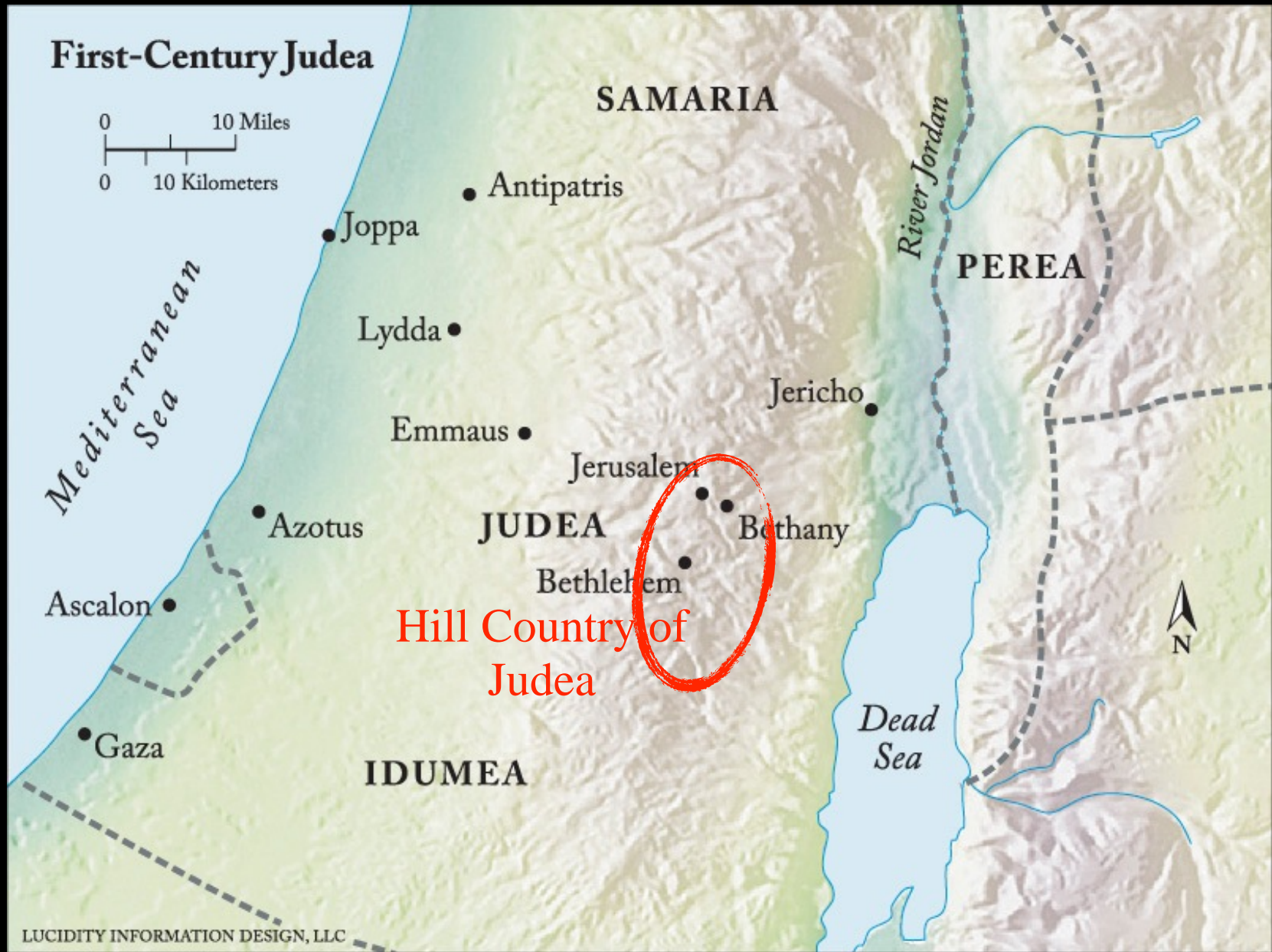
“The Teacher asks: Where is the *guest room*, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” ¹² He will show you a *large room upstairs*, all furnished. Make preparations there.





Luke 2:12

“This will be a sign to *you*: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (NIV)





THREE THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

John 1:14 – The Word became
flesh and made his dwelling
among us.

2. Everyone is invited in . . . shepherds and
magi

3. Matthew 1:23 – “The virgin will
conceive and give birth to a son, and
they will call him Immanuel” (which
means “God *with* us”).



THREE THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

1. The people of Bethlehem gave their best and it was enough.
2. Everyone is invited in . . . shepherds and magi . . . rich and poor.
3. Jesus being born in the home of friends and family is the essence of what God is about and what the Christmas Story is about.



THREE THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

The King, the Son of David, the Lord, the Savior, was sent from heaven to identify with us, walk with us, die for us, be raised for us, and to relate to us – that is the story of Jesus.

