



The
NATIVITY
COMES TO
Life

The Character of Joseph
Matthew 1:18-25



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Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:

After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.



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But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”



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So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”



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Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep,
did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and
took to him his wife, and did not know her till she
had brought forth her firstborn Son.

And he called His name JESUS.

Matthew 1:18 – 25



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Joseph portrayed by Chris Sullivan



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1. In the midst of Doubt,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Promise.

a. The Problem facing Joseph

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:
After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together, she was found with child
of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:18



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3 step process of Jewish marriage

Engagement

Betrothal

Marriage



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1. In the midst of Doubt,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Promise.

b. The Perplexing Plan of Joseph

“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man,
and not wanting to make her a public example,
was minded to put her away secretly.”

Matthew 1:19

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1. In the midst of Doubt,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Promise.

- a. The Problem facing Joseph
- b. The Perplexing Plan of Joseph
- c. The Promise given to Joseph



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2. In the midst of Difficulty,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Providence.

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.



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2. In the midst of Difficulty,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Providence.
Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of
Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is
called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and
lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his
betrothed wife, who was with child.”

Luke 2:1 – 7



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2. In the midst of Difficulty,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Providence.

- a. Difficulty of Timing
- b. Difficulty in Traveling

Mediterranean

Nazareth

Sea of Galilee

Jordan River

Jerusalem

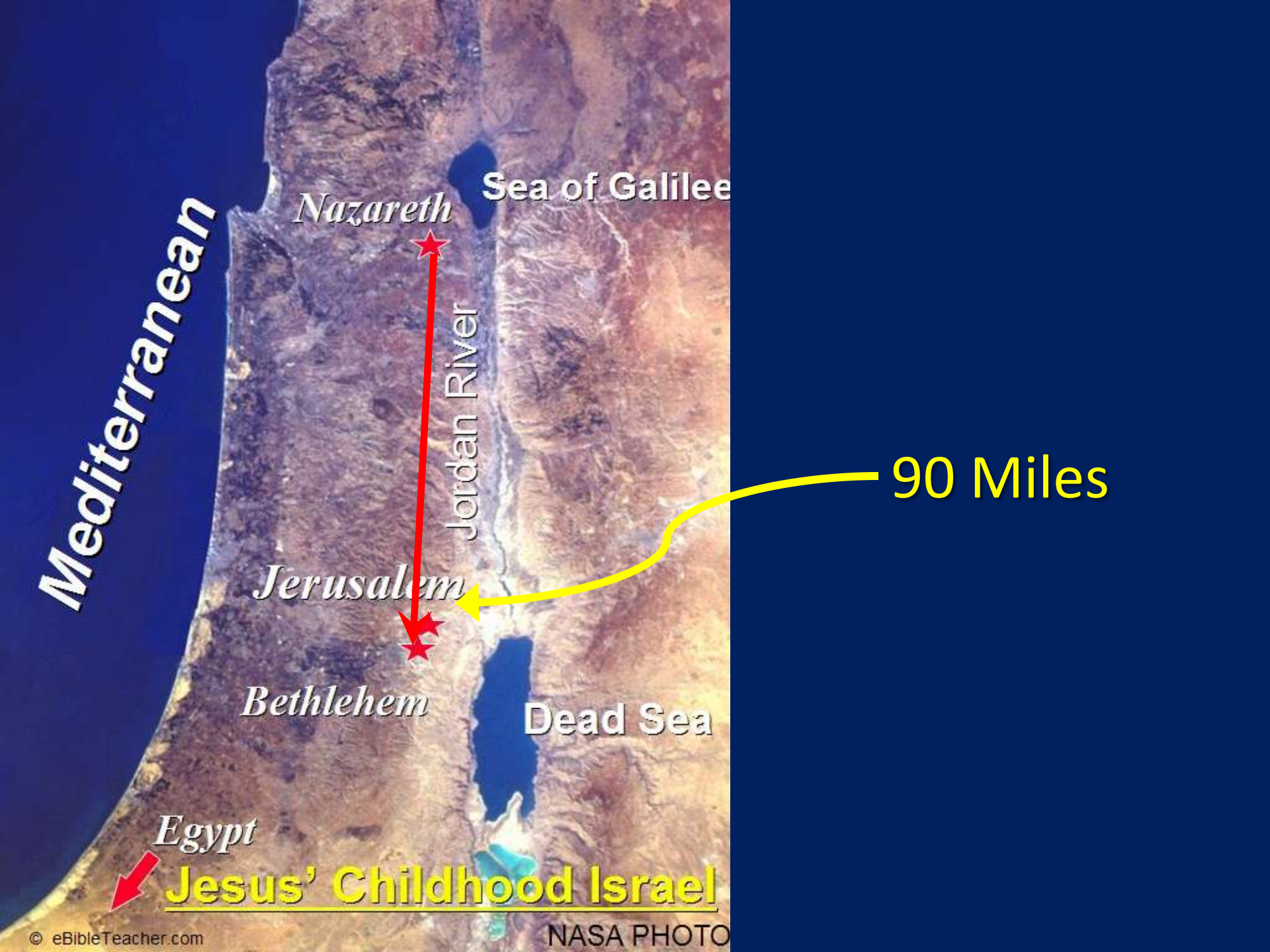
Bethlehem

Dead Sea

Egypt

Jesus' Childhood Israel

90 Miles





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2. In the midst of Difficulty,
Joseph responds by faith in God's Providence.

- a. Difficulty of Timing
- b. Difficulty in Traveling
- c. Difficulty in finding an Inn

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3. In the midst of his Danger,
Joseph responds by Faith in God's Protection.

- a. God directed Joseph to Egypt.
- b. God directed Joseph out of Egypt.
- c. God directed Joseph to Nazareth.

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts"

Hebrews 3:8



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