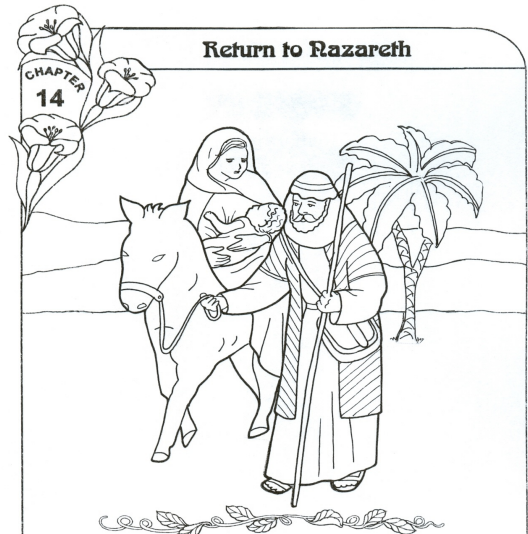


Return to Nazareth

When King Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream in Egypt and told him to return home. Arriving back in the Land of Israel, Joseph learned that Herod’s oldest son Archelaus ruled Judea with the same cruelty of his father. So Joseph returned to the village of Nazareth.

Matthew 02:19-23 / Luke 02:39
14 Copyright ©1991 Jonathan B. Hobbs Teaching Guide (Maps 1 & 2)



Return to Nazareth

After King Herod’s death, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in another dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill him are dead.” But arriving back in the Promised Land, Joseph learned that Herod’s oldest son Archelaus sat on the throne and ruled with the same cruelty of his father. So Joseph returned to the village of Nazareth. As a firstborn son, Jesus would be called a “**Nazarene**”, and dedicated his life to the service of God.

Matthew 02:19-23 / Luke 02:39
14 Copyright ©1991 Jonathan B. Hobbs Teaching Guide (Maps 1 & 2)

14.

A Family Returns to Nazareth

“Bible Notes” – A Summary Study Guide

Meanwhile, as Joseph and Mary reached the land of Egypt after crossing the outer edges of the Sinai Peninsula by way of the coastal route, they would have witnessed a land blooming with life. They had reached the fertile Nile delta whose flourishing landscapes stretched some 100 miles west to the city of Alexandria, where over 1,000,000 Jews had migrated.

When Herod the Great died at Jericho an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream for the third time while he and Mary were still in Egypt, saying, “Get up, take the child and His mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead” (Matthew 2:20). So Joseph awoke, gathered his things, and began the 160-mile journey back to the Promised Land of Canaan with the Christ child and Mary.

Upon arrival, Joseph learned that Herod’s oldest son, Archelaus, reigned in Judea on King Herod’s throne as governor, so Joseph was afraid to return to Bethlehem. Therefore, being warned by God in a fourth and final dream, Joseph turned away from Judea and traveled several days along the coastal road leading to lower Galilee and back to the village of Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had returned home in total secrecy.



The life of the Baby Jesus would be dedicated to God's service and fulfilled the words of the prophets, "He will be called a Nazarene" (v.23). The prophet Samuel stated that if a woman's firstborn was a male, he would be called a Nazarene, and would be dedicated for life to God's service (Judges 13:5; 1 Samuel 1:11).

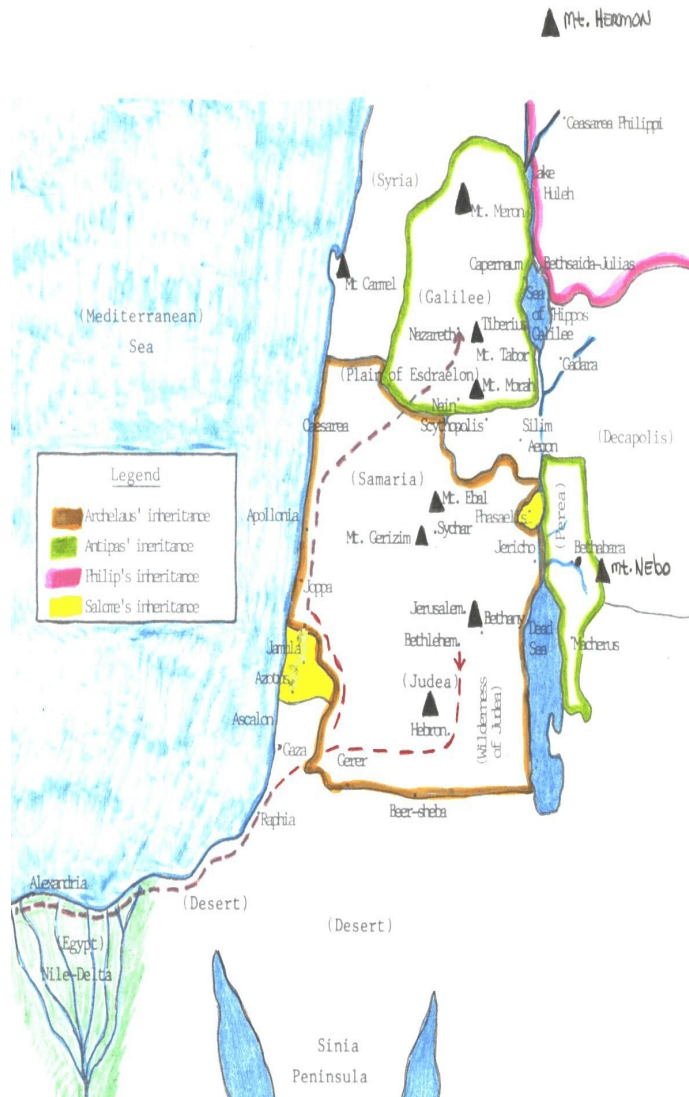
**Sermon#14,
Biblical Scriptures:**

Gospel of Matthew - Chapter 2.
19. But When Herod [the Great] was dead, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20. Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the throne room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee. 23. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He will be called a Nazarene.

Prophecy: And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou will indeed look on the affliction of your handmaid, and remember me, and not forget your handmaid, but will give to you handmaid a man child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. (1 Samuel 1:11).

Gospel of Luke - Chapter 2.
39. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the LORD, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Herod the Great's Kingdom Divided



A Family Returns to Nazareth

“EMMANUEL”

[For Advanced Ministries Only]

With Herod’s death, an angel of the LORD God appeared for a third time in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” (**Matthew 2:20**) Joseph rose from his sleep and probably purchased passage on a camel caravan headed eastward back through the hot desert region along the coastline of the Wilderness of Shur. This returned Joseph, Mary and the Christ child back into the Promised Land of Israel.

After 140 miles of travel, they arrived two weeks later at the outskirts of Judea. Here, Joseph learned that the 18 year old Archelaus, the eldest son of Herod the Great, reigned over Judea from his father’s throne room as tetrarch being a fourth of a king or Governor. Joseph was afraid to return to Bethlehem. Being warned by the LORD God in his fourth angelic dream, Joseph turned away from Judea and headed towards Galilee. Here, Joseph’s family could blend back into the countryside and to disguise their remaining wealth from the Wise Men. The remaining miles probably saw Mary and the Christ child riding on an ass lead by Joseph.

From Gaza, Joseph traveled 32 miles on the major road up the Mediterranean seacoast through the ancient homeland of the Philistines. At the fork in the road, Joseph took the minor road east ten miles and then north. Many roads parallel the huge and lengthy Plain of Sharon. One eastern road stretched 40 miles northward before rejoining the major road from the coast. Twelve miles farther the couple finally entered Lower Galilee. Still another 11 miles lay ahead across the Plain of Esdraelon before Joseph and Mary, along with the unknown Christ child, rode into Nazareth. This portion of the journey had covered some 105 miles and taken nearly a week. With Joseph’s return from Egypt, he continued his carpentry trade as Mary made herself busy with the day-to-day chores of a housewife and mother.

Mary’s day began at sunrise. After preparing the morning meal of curds and bread, she took Jesus with her to the marketplace for water and the family’s needs. The women gathered to chat with friends, and Jesus could play with the other children.

Once home, Mary performed her most important task: baking the daily bread. She took barley and ground the kernels between two millstones. The ground meal gradually filled a large bowl. She then put water in a smaller bowl and crumbled in a small piece of fermented dough that she had saved from the day before. This was used as leaven.

On feast days she omitted the leaven and added mint, cumin or cinnamon for flavoring. The toddler Jesus watched this preparation with curiosity as Mary mixed the liquid with the meal, kneading it and then left it to rise. Later she shaped the dough into disks and baked them.

Mary’s daily routine also included spinning, weaving, mending, washing and making curds from goat’s milk. She also prepared the evening meal and lit the oil lamps. Dinners were simple, consisting of staples such as bread, wine, and dried salted fish or chicken from the local farm. Meat was a luxury, and Joseph’s family indulged in this delicacy on feast days. They enjoyed a variety of vegetables to choose from as well as many fruits, which were used as a dessert. They had no sugar. Thick grape sap or fig syrup was used for sweetener.

Before dinner began, the family washed their hands and Joseph gave the blessing. They then sat on mats around the large dinner pots and helped themselves by hand from communal dishes. Bread was used to pick up the food. While they ate, Joseph recited stories of their Hebrew ancestors and the laws and commandments of Moses as had been done for generations. After dinner Mary cleaned up while Joseph, as well as Jesus in time, went to the synagogue for evening meetings kiss-touching the mezuzah upon entering. There, the Jewish males would debate and learn all about their law and history.



Safe at Nazareth of Galilee, Jesus grew up as a Nazarene with a special vow of separation. This fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2:23) The prophet Samuel states that if a woman's firstborn was a male child, he would be called a "Nazarene", and would dedicate his life to the LORD God's service.⁴⁹

According to the gospels of Matthew and Mark, at this time Joseph and Mary began their own family. Over the years, Mary had four other sons: James, Joses, Judah and Simon. She also had at least two daughters who are not mentioned by named in the gospel story. Therefore, the house of Joseph and Mary multiplied as the LORD God of Israel had commanded from Adam and Eve's departure from the Garden of Eden.

⁴⁹ Judges 13:5; 1 Samuel 1:11.