



**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING TO US

**God spoke to many different people
during the first Christmas story.**

What did He say?

Is He speaking to us today?

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

Joseph of Nazareth

Matthew 1, 2

Luke 2

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Mary conceives a son

Jacob was the father of **Joseph** the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. Matthew 1:16

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to **Joseph**, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

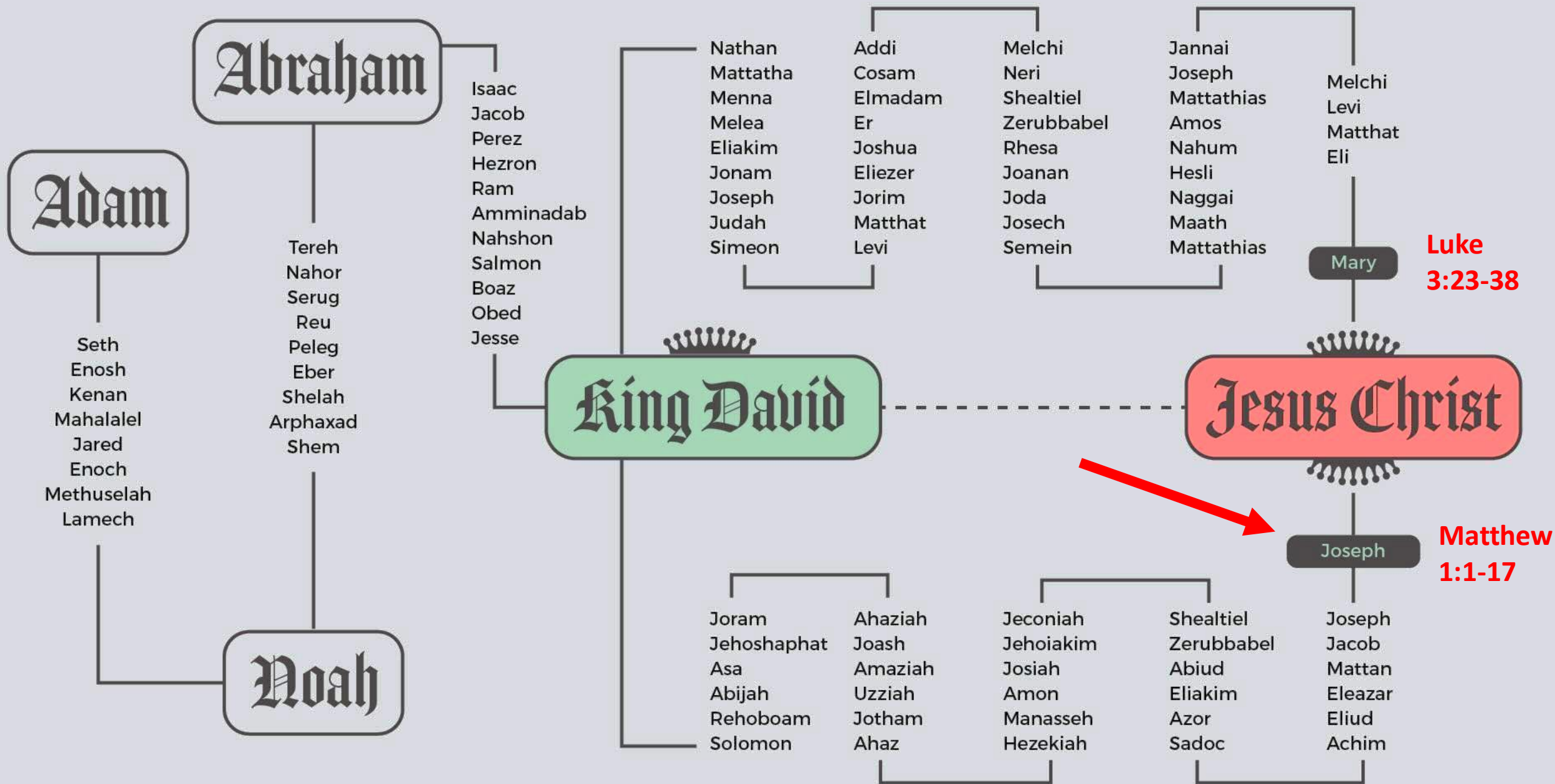
Lots of Josephs in the Bible

1. The eleventh son of Jacob and the oldest of Rachel. His ability to interpret dreams and administrative gifts in Egypt earned the confidence of Pharaoh and a high position.
2. A son of Asaph, head of first division of sacred musicians (1 Chronicles 25:2, 9).
3. The son of Judah, and father of Semei (Luke 3:26).
4. The foster (earthly) father of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 1:16; Luke 3:23).
5. A native of Arimathea, a man of wealth, member of the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:57, John 19:38), requested the body of Jesus from Pilate.
6. A man surnamed Barsabas (Acts 1:23); also called Justus. Ministered with the apostles (Acts 1:21), one of the candidates for the place of Judas.
7. Father of Igal of tribe of Issachar, chosen by Moses to spy out Canaan (Numbers 13).
8. A descendant of Binnui; a postexilic Jew who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:42).
9. A head of the priestly father's house of Shebaniah when Joiakim was high priest (Nehemiah 12:14).
10. One of the sons of Mary and a brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55) who bore the Greek rather than the Hebrew form of the name (Joses; Mark 6:3).
11. An early Christ-follower, surnamed Barnabas (Acts 4:36), along with Saul/Paul, was sent on a missionary journey by the church in Antioch (Acts 13:2).

Meet Joseph of Nazareth

- He grew up in the village of Nazareth, in the Galilee region
- His father's name was Jacob and he was a distant descendant of King David of the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:20)
- He was betrothed to and later husband of Mary of Nazareth (Matthew 1:18)
- He was called a “righteous man” (Matthew 1:19)
- He was by trade a carpenter or craftsman (Matthew 13:55)
 - Carpenter = τέκτων *tektōn* in Greek
 - A worker in wood, a carpenter, builder; a ship's carpenter or builder; any craftsman or workman.

DO YOU HEAR
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The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

Joseph wanted out

And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her [Mary] away secretly. Matthew 1:19

Joseph's 1st Dream

But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus [Yeshua], for He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20-21

- Ἰησοῦς is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua (ישוע) which means “salvation”

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

God kept His promise

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

Matthew 1:22-23

El ֱלֹהִים is one name of God in Hebrew

Hebrew meaning of Immanuel is “God with us” or literally “with us God”

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Did Joseph know the Messianic Prophecies?

Therefore the Lord Himself will give
you a sign: behold, a virgin will be with
child and bear a son, and she will call
His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

What would you do?

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin **until** she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

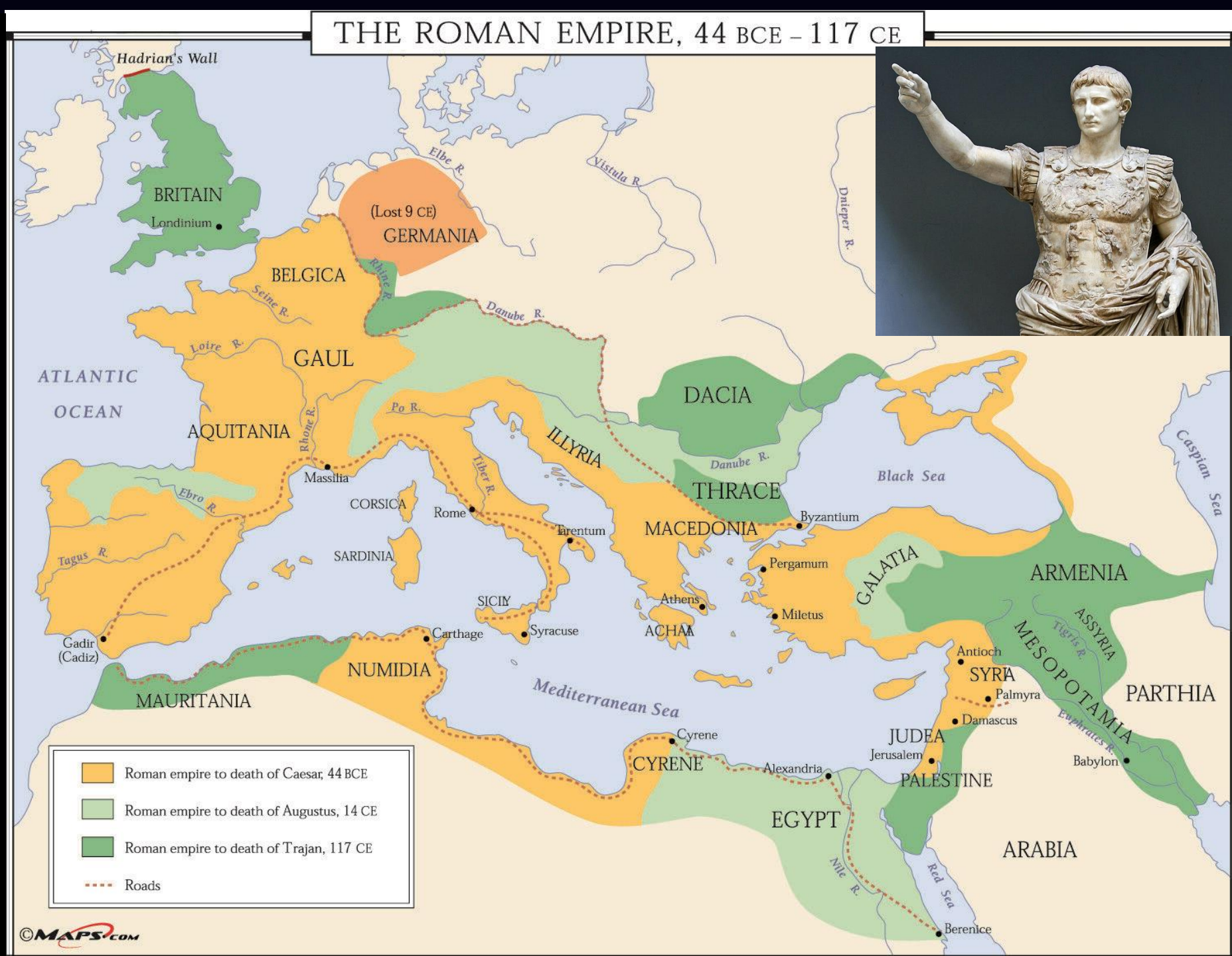
Matthew 1:24-25

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Luke 2

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus [Octavian, first Roman emperor], that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. Luke 2:1



Roman Emperors in New Testament Times

Augustus, known as Octavian (27 B.C.–A.D. 14)

Ordered the census that involved Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1)

Tiberias (A.D. 14–37)

Jesus ministered and crucified under his reign (Luke 3:1; 20:22, 25; 23:2; John 19:12, 15)

Caligula (A.D. 37–41)

Claudius (A.D. 41–54)

An extensive famine occurred in his reign (Acts 11:28). He expelled Jews from Rome, including Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2).

Nero (A.D. 54–68)

He persecuted Christians, including the martyrdoms of Paul and Peter. He is the Caesar to whom Paul appealed for a fair trial (Acts 25:8, 10–12, 21; 26:32; 27:24; 28:19).

Galba (A.D. 68–69)

Otho (A.D. 69)

Vitellius (A.D. 69)

Vespasian (A.D. 69–79)

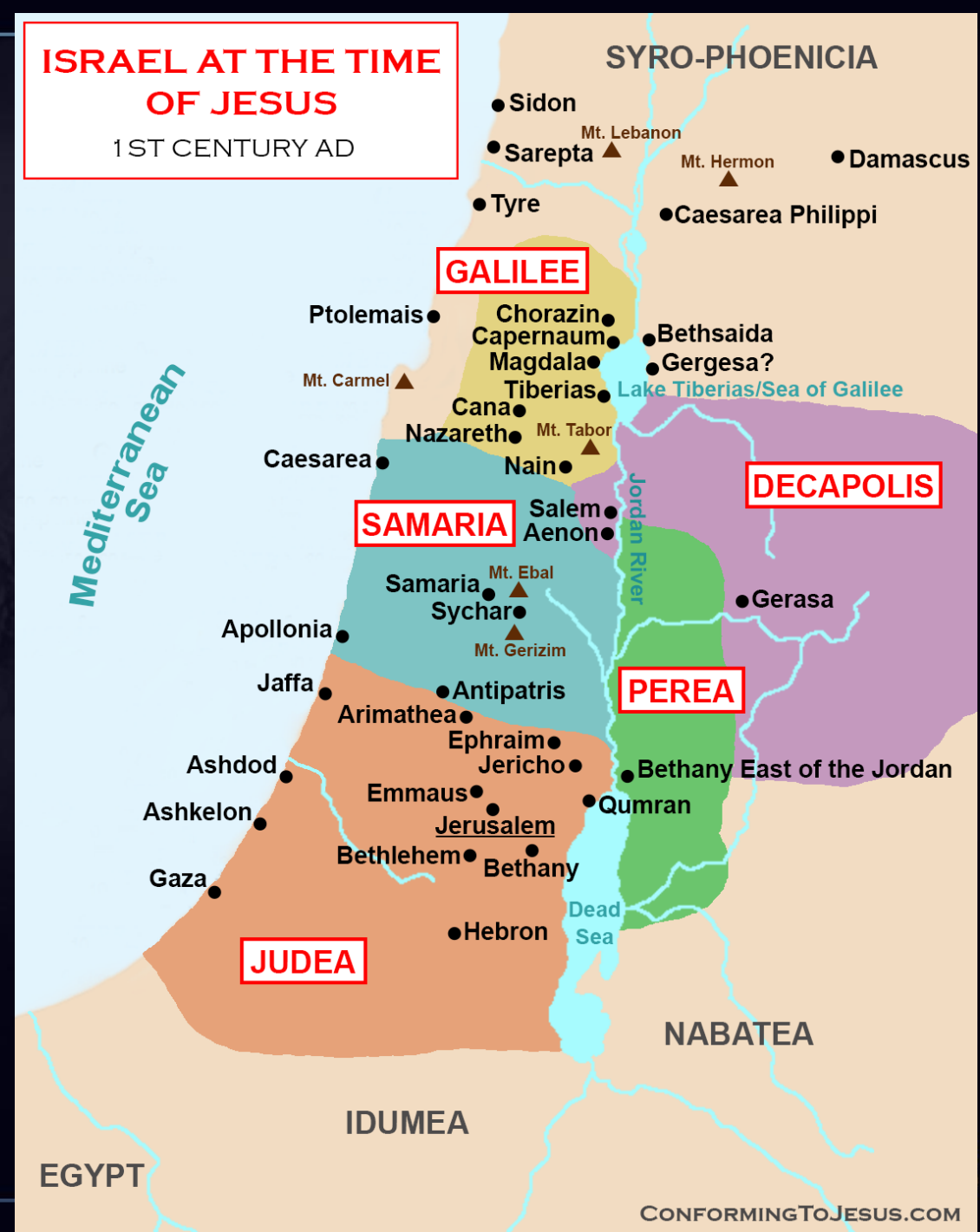
Crushed the Jewish revolt, and his son Titus destroyed the Jerusalem temple in A.D. 70.

**DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?**

This was the first
census taken
while [Publius
Sulpicius]
Quirinius was
governor [Roman
consul] of Syria.
Luke 2:2



And everyone
was on his way to
register for the
census, each to
his own city.
Luke 2:3



Joseph and Mary are betrothed and travel 80-90 miles from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea

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, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.
Luke 2:4-5



Did Joseph know the Messianic Prophecies?

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. Micah 5:2

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

While they were there [in Bethlehem], the days were completed for her [Mary] to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger [feeding trough], because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

*Why was there no room?

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

The House of David Lives On

- 2,000 years ago, Bethlehem wasn't just a dot on the map — it was the heartbeat of David's family.
- For generations, the descendants of Jesse lived in those hills, passing down their stories, their faith, their promises. Jewish writings tell us that many branches of David's line settled quietly in Judea and the Galilee after the exile, keeping out of sight under foreign rule, but never forgotten by God.
- So when Joseph and Miriam (Mary) went to Bethlehem for the census, they weren't two strangers looking for shelter. They were returning home — to the village of their fathers, to the family line God had chosen long before. And it's very possible that the place where Yeshua was born wasn't random at all. It may have been a Davidic family home... perhaps even a relative's house.
- Imagine that: the promised Son of David, born under the same roofline where David's own blood still flowed. In the very home where psalms once rose to heaven, the Word became flesh.



Source: I AM ISRAEL

**DO YOU HEAR
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Born in Humility

- The lower level of a Judean home was often a stone stable, carved partly into the hillside, where families kept their animals at night. When the guest room was full, Miriam and Joseph were shown to that lower chamber — warm, humble, ordinary.
- There, the King of Israel was born.
- He wasn't laid in silk or surrounded by servants, but placed in a stone manger, the feeding trough of the family's animals. What a picture of humility. The same God who once filled Solomon's Temple with glory now filled a small Bethlehem home with His Presence. The Son of David entered His world through the doorway of simplicity.



Source: I AM ISRAEL

**DO YOU HEAR
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she gave birth to her firstborn son;
and she wrapped Him in cloths,
and laid Him in a **manger** Luke 2:7

<https://biblicalisrael tours.com/2014/12/the-manger/>

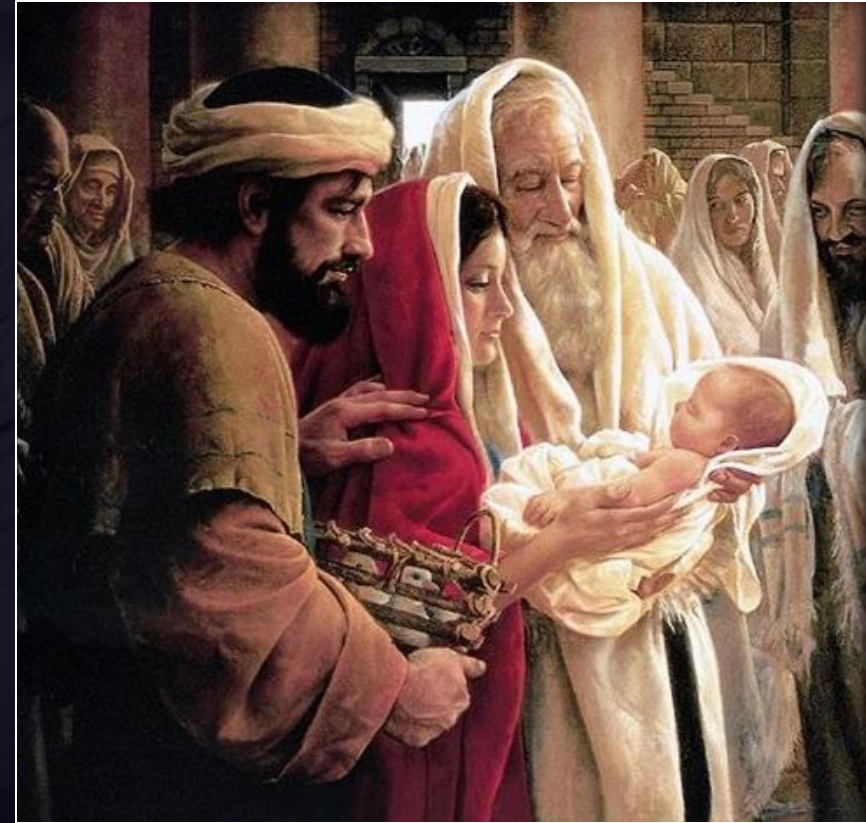


**DO YOU HEAR
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**THE MANGER IN JESUS' BIRTH WAS A
POWERFUL SIGN, NOT A RANDOM DETAIL**

**DO YOU HEAR
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And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision [*brit milah*], His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed [baby Jesus was 41 days old], they [Mary and Joseph] brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord” Exodus 13:2-16), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons (Leviticus 5:11).” Luke 2:21-24



Visiting the Temple

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Matthew 2

DO YOU HEAR
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The True King Has Come

- In those days, Israel bowed to Herod, a man Rome had appointed “King of the Jews.” But Herod was not a descendant of David, and therefore, never a legitimate king of Israel.
- Herod ruled from a palace; Yeshua rested in a manger. Herod held a sword; Yeshua carried salvation.
- The world didn’t know it yet, but the rightful Son of David — the promised Messiah — had just been born. And though His beginning seemed small, His Kingdom would have no end.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:1-3

DO YOU HEAR
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Joseph's 2nd Dream

Now when they [magi] had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod [the Great]. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet [Hosea 11:1]: "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Matthew 2:13-15

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Family flees to Egypt in Matthew chapter 2



Joseph's 3rd Dream

But when Herod [the Great] died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Matthew 2:19-21

- When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.
Hosea 11:1

DO YOU HEAR
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Joseph's 4th Dream

But when he heard that Archelaus [son of Herod the Great, ruler of Judea and Samaria] was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod [the Great], he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2:22-23

DO YOU HEAR
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Joseph raised the boy named Jesus

When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, **they returned to Galilee**, to their own city of Nazareth. The Child [Jesus] continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:39-40

DO YOU HEAR
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Early Life of Jesus

- Family returned from Egypt
- Jesus grew up in Nazareth of Galilee after age 3 or 4
- Jesus grew up in the household of Joseph and Mary along with younger brothers and sisters
- Joseph's occupation was called in Greek *tekton* τέκτων (craftsman, carpenter, stonemason)
- Jesus was an apprentice or student of Joseph's and worked alongside him (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3)
- Jesus was a student of Torah (Luke 24:27)

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

Joseph would have taught Jesus about Biblical Holy Days

- Shabbat (weekly sabbath)
- Rosh Hashanah (New Year)
- Pesach (Passover)
- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Sukkot (Feast of Booths)
- Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)
- Purim (story of Esther)
- Tisha B'Av
- Hanukkah

**Joseph took his family
to worship God**

Luke 2:41-50

**DO YOU HEAR
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Now **His parents** went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He [Jesus] became twelve, they [Mary and Joseph] went up there [Jerusalem] according to the custom of the [Passover] Feast; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But **His parents** were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

Luke 2:41-45

DO YOU HEAR
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Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, **Your father and I** have been anxiously looking for You.” And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

Luke 2:46-50

DO YOU HEAR
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Other Children of Joseph and Mary

He [Jesus as an adult] came to His **hometown** [Nazareth] and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Is not this the **carpenter’s** son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” Matthew 13:54-57

DO YOU HEAR
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Scenes of Joseph after the Christmas story

- When Jesus was aged 12, Joseph leads the family as they travel to the Temple in Jerusalem for Passover (Luke 2:41-50)
- Joseph is not mentioned during Jesus' earthly ministry
- Not mentioned at the first miracle, the wedding feast in Cana
- Not mentioned at the crucifixion of Jesus
- Not mentioned at the time of the resurrection of Jesus

*It is assumed by scholars that Joseph died before the public ministry of Jesus began when Jesus was 30 years old

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

What does the Bible NOT tell us about Joseph?

- How old he was at the birth of Jesus
- That he was decades older than Mary
- That he had a wife before Mary
- That he had children before Jesus was born
- How and where and when he died

Am I willing to say “yes” to God when He speaks, even if His call on my life...

- is hard to understand
- does not look like what I had planned
- tests my capacity to love
- demands my ongoing humility
- requires great struggle and hard work
- brings ridicule from family and friends
- is arranged so that I may not live to see the mission fully accomplished?
- requires me to confess that my salvation comes only through faith in Jesus, the baby of Christmas?

DO YOU HEAR
WHAT I HEAR?

**If God spoke to us like He spoke to Joseph,
what would that mean for us today?**

Hearing
Believing
Trusting
Obeying
Enduring
Proclaiming

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WHAT I HEAR?**