

## The Trials of Jesus & His Family

Selected Scripture

### A First-century Jewish Marriage

- 1) The betrothal period
  - The *kiddushin*
  - More serious than our engagement
  - Only be ended by divorce
  - Did not live together
  - Were to remain sexually pure
    - Any form of sexual sin was considered adultery and the guilty party was to be stoned (Deut. 22:23-24).
- 2) The *huppah*
  - The man went to the home of his wife, with a great deal of fanfare.
  - And he brought her back to his home to live.
  - This was accompanied by as many as seven days of feasting, and the consummation of the marriage.

### "Various Trials"

- 1) The suspicion of sexual sin taints their marriage and reputation from the beginning (Matt. 1).

### Joseph's Options

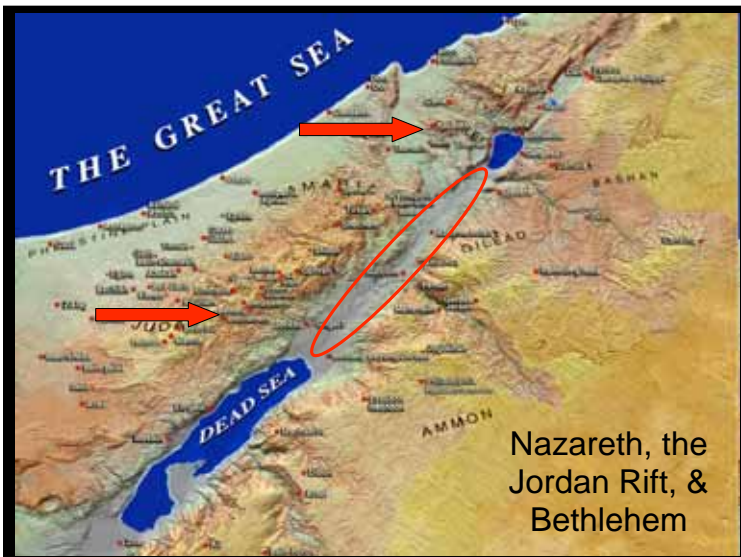
- 1) Marry her
- 2) Disgrace her
- 3) Send her away secretly

### The Order of Events in Matthew 1 & Luke 2

- Gabriel appears to Zacharias in the Temple & announces John (Luke 1:5-25).
- Six months later, Gabriel appears to Mary in her home in Nazareth & announces Christ (Luke 1:26-38).
- Notice that Mary leaves in a hurry and visits Elizabeth in the hill country for 3 months until John is born (Luke 1:39-80).
- Mary returns home to Nazareth 3 months later—pregnant (Luke 1:56).
- Joseph learns from Mary of her pregnancy & decides to divorce her (Matt. 1:18-19).
- An angel appears to Joseph in a dream (Matt. 1:20-23).
- Joseph takes Mary as his wife, keeping her a virgin (Matt. 1:24-25).

### "Various Trials"

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- 2) Rome orders a census, requiring Joseph and Mary to travel several days away from home, when Mary is 9-months pregnant (Luke 2).



Jordan Rift and Yarmuk Valley aerial from west



Jordan River



Jordan Rift south of Sea of Galilee aerial



Jordan River south of Sea of Galilee



Jordan River south of Sea of Galilee

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- 3) When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay (Luke 2).



Jordan River south of  
Sea of Galilee

## No Vacancies

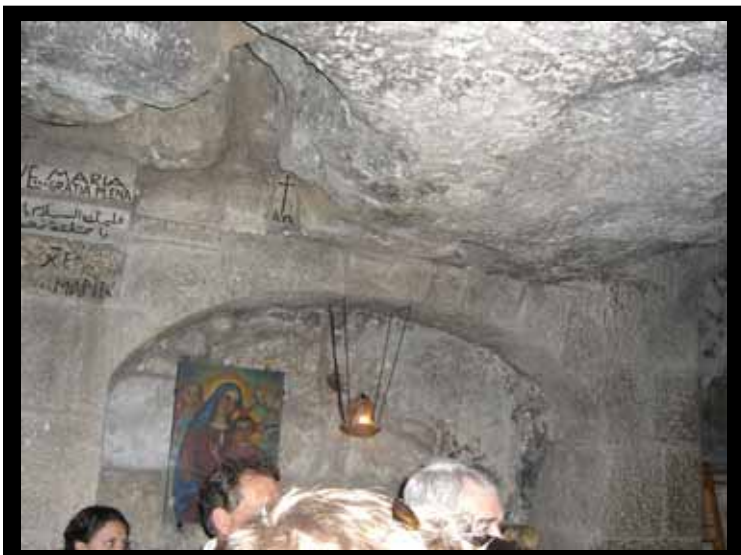
- English text: "there was no room for them in the inn."
- Luke: a paid establishment (i.e., an inn), uses Greek word *pandocheion* (cf. Luke 10:34).
- But here he uses *kataluma*.
- Simply means "guest chamber"
- Two possibilities...
  - 1) This was a public guest chamber provided by the community.
  - 2) This refers to guest quarters in a private home.



Transportation to Bethlehem



Adjacent Cave in the Church of Nativity



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- 2) Rome orders a census, requiring Joseph and Mary to travel several days away from home, when Mary is 9-months pregnant (Luke 2).
- 3) When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay (Luke 2).
- 4) The most powerful man in the country tries to kill their son (Matt. 2).
  - Luke 2:39 - When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.



Ramat Rahel stone manger

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- 3) When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay (Luke 2).
- 4) The most powerful man in the country tries to kill their son (Matt. 2).
- 5) Joseph dies while most of the children are young.
- 6) The family is filled with personal conflict.
  - In fact, they thought he was crazy (Mark 3:21).
  - Mark 3:31-35; cf. Matt. 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21
  - John 7:1-9.
    - Verse 5 - "for not even his brothers were believing on him."



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## The Trials of Jesus & His Family

- Luke 22:28 - "You are those who have stood by Me in My trials."
- Why did the Father allow these things?
  - 1) For the Plan of God to be fulfilled!
    - Cf. Rom. 8:28 - we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
  - 2) For what He needed to learn.
    - Cf. Heb. 5:8