

Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem wasn't ideal. And it wasn't their idea!

HISTORY: *'In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world' (Luke 2:1).*

Luke was a first-rate historian
Real World Time Place
Observable Dateable Geographical

HISTORY

THEOLOGY

Caesar Augustus Quirinius Syria Nazareth Galilee Judea Bethlehem David

Census Luke 2:1-2

Assess the value of the Roman world
 Joseph had to travel to his hometown.

Criticism!

Mary Pregnant. Promiscuous?
Joseph Puzzled. Divorce?

'But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' **Matthew 1:20-21.**

John 1:14: "The Word became flesh."

Adding human nature to his divinity.

God with us and God for us.

Reveals the Father (Jn 1:8) Redeems the Fallen (Gal 4:4) Represents the faithful (1 Tim 2)

'While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn' (Luke 2:6-7).

The Greek word (*kataluma* - Luke 2:7) refers to a guest room used also in Luke 22:11. The Greek word (*pandokheion* - Luke 10:34) is an inn as used in the Good Samaritan Hospitality to visitors in the ME is a social virtue. Denial of hospitality is shameful. Bethlehem was Joseph's ancestral home. Inconceivable to be locked out by family.

'It is quite the usual thing for the family to live, eat, and sleep on a raised terrace in one room of the house while the cattle (donkeys and oxen) have their place below on the floor near the door (where) the mangers are fixed to the floor, the wall, or at the edge of the terrace' (Gustaf Dalman: Sacred Sites and Ways, p. 41).

Jacob: *'to my sorrow Rachel died. I buried her beside the road to Bethlehem'* (Gen 48:7)

Naomi: *'Call me Mara Lord has dealt bitterly with me'* (Ruth 1:20)

David: *'O that someone would get me a drink from the well near Bethlehem'* (2Sa 23:15)

Deep despair Broken dreams Desperate longing.

Lonely.

Empty.

Thirsty

Jesus solves our biggest problem – Sin. Defeats our greatest foe – Satan.

Destroy the last enemy – Death.