

Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ
Summer 2021

Helpful Link



<https://www.teamagee.com/class/>

✎ Copies of the slides with my notes

Herodium



Herodium



- ❧ Herodium was the administrative center for Herod the Great. It is located 7.5 miles south of Jerusalem and 3.1 miles southeast of Bethlehem.
- ❧ The site is a large, man-made hill that looks like a volcano. It also looks very much like an archaeological Tel, but it was built by Herod the Great between 23 and 15 B.C.
- ❧ The mountain is 2,487 feet above sea level, the highest peak in the Judean desert.
- ❧ There was a fortress-palace on the top of the mountain, and at the bottom was a palace, bathhouse, and giant freshwater swimming pool. Herod the Great is also believed to have been buried there.
- ❧ A signet ring (bulla) of Pontius Pilate was found at Herodium.
- ❧ In the second century AD, Herodium was occupied by the Jews during the second Jewish revolt.

Oslo II Map
Outlining Areas A, B, and C





Herodium – artificial mountain built by Herod the Great



Feral cat at Herodium



Model of Herodium





Excavated remains of the fresh-water pool and palace at the base of the hill.



Steep path to the top of Herodium which offered incredible views all the way to Jerusalem, the Wilderness of Judaea, and the Dead Sea.



View toward Jerusalem



View of the Wilderness of Judaea, and the Dead Sea.



The remains of the fortress on top of the mountain



Model of the fortress on top of the mountain



Main tower from the fortress



Bathhouse within the fortress



A ritual bath (Mikveh) from time period of the 2nd revolt



A reception hall that was converted to a synagogue in the 2nd century AD



A tunnel that leads down through the hill to the outside. The first part of this tunnel is from Herod's water system, and the second part is from the time of the 2nd Jewish revolt in the 2nd century AD.



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Cistern from Herod's water system



The tomb of Herod the Great. No inscription has been found at the tomb, but it was described by Josephus that Herod was buried here.



The remains of a theater that is currently being restored

Shepherd's Field

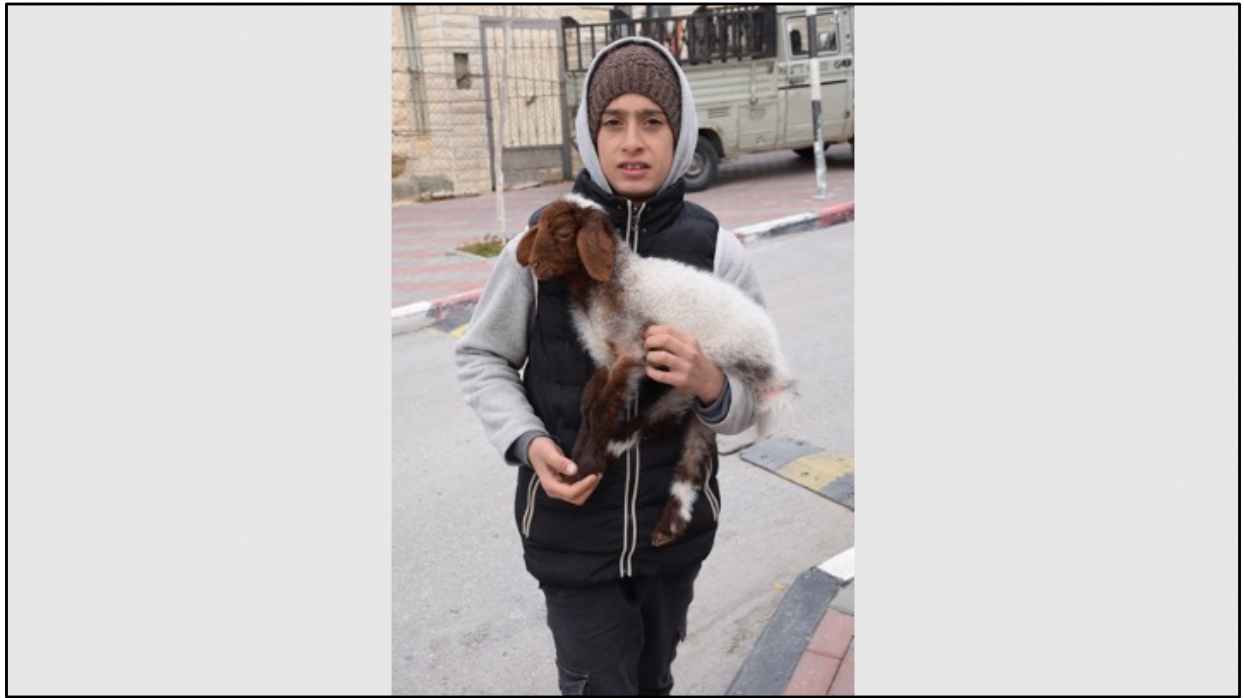


Ruth 2:2; Luke 2:8-20

Shepherd's Field



- ❧ Site that contains a natural cave that is traditionally considered to be the house of the shepherds who received the messages of the birth of Jesus from the angel (Luke 2:8-20). It is just southeast of Bethlehem in the West Bank.
- ❧ While we don't know where those shepherds lived, this cave is a good example of the type of natural caves in the area, and where Jesus was likely born in nearby Bethlehem.
- ❧ The message coming to the shepherds first (lower class) instead of the priests in Jerusalem (upper class) was an example of how wealth and power in this life mean nothing to God (James 2:1-7).
- ❧ This same site is also traditionally identified Boaz's field mentioned in Ruth 2:2, where Ruth gleaned grain for herself and Naomi





Entrance the Franciscan site known as Shepherd's Field



Ethiopian Christians in their white robes celebrating Orthodox Christmas



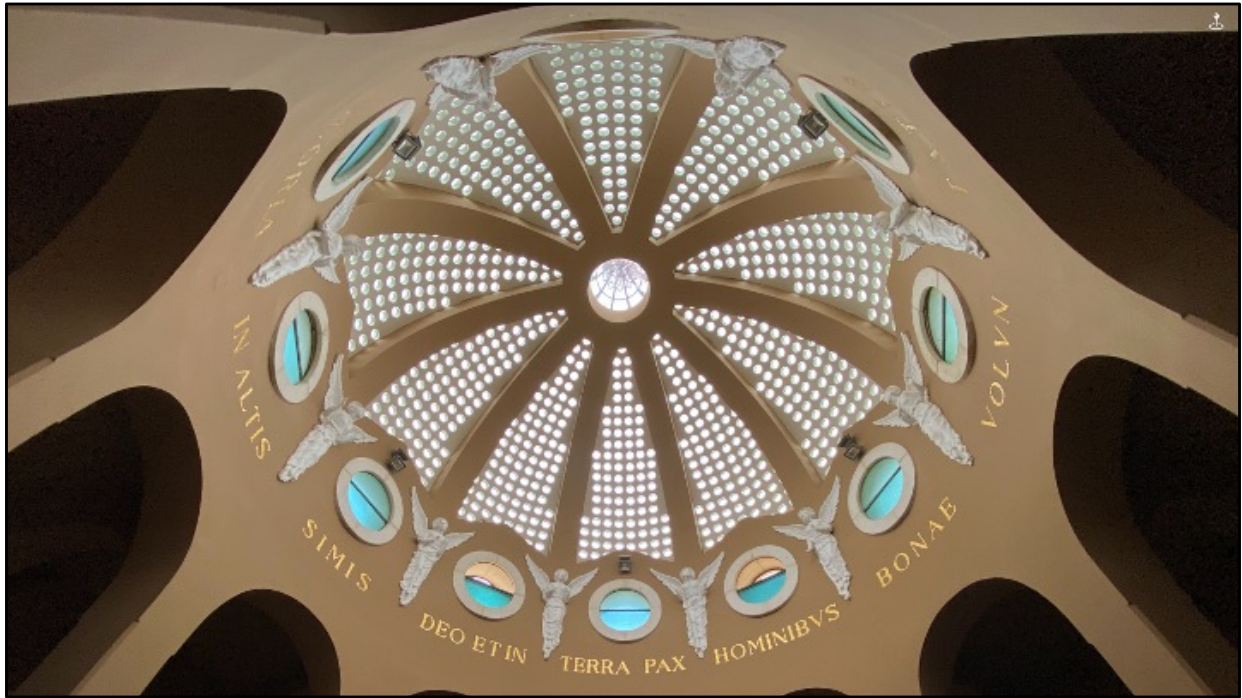
A natural cave that is traditionally considered to be the house of the shepherds who received the messages of the birth of Jesus from the angel (Luke 2:8-20).



Entrance to the cave that is traditionally considered to be the house of the shepherds who received the messages of the birth of Jesus from the angel (Luke 2:8-20).



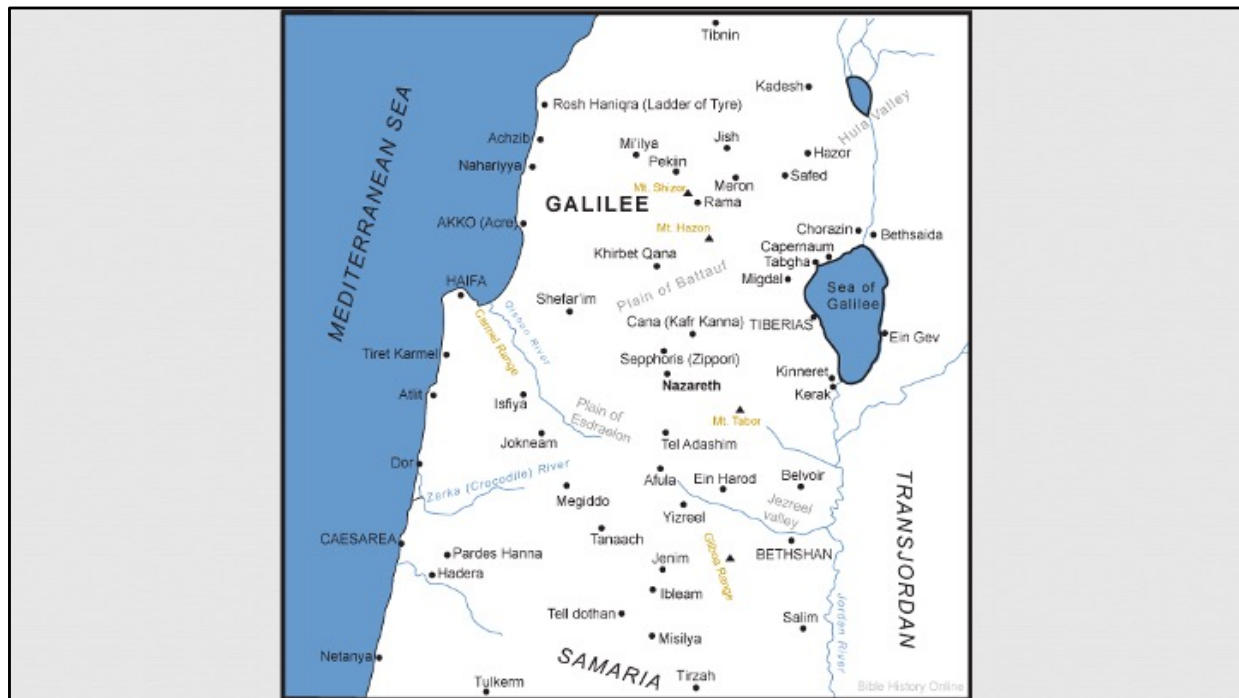
Shepherd's Field Chapel at the site built in 1953 by the Franciscans



Shepherd's Field Chapel at the site built in 1953 by the Franciscans

Zippori (Sepphoris)





Zippori



- ❧ Zippori was a major city in lower Galilee, four miles northwest of Nazareth.
- ❧ It is never mentioned in the Bible, but it is possible that Jesus might have come here due to its proximity to His hometown of Nazareth.
- ❧ The name of the city is derived from a word meaning bird, because it is on a hill (i.e. bird's eye view).
- ❧ The Sanhedrin moved to Zippori in the 2nd or 3rd century AD.
- ❧ The Mishnah was completed in Zippori during the 3rd century AD.



A mosaic floor from a 5th century AD synagogue.



It included elements from the temple worship such as the menorah and shofar,



A depiction of Abraham sacrificing Isaac



A zodiac featuring Helios god of the sun. This shows the influence of the Greeks and Romans on Jewish worship.



A Greek style theater from the 2nd century AD.



A residential area with many ritual baths (Mikveh) from the Roman period and beyond.



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A citadel from the period of the Crusades that was at the very peak of the hill.



View of lower Galilee from the Citadel



View of Nazareth from the Citadel



The remains of a private house from 2nd century that is called the Dionysus House. Dionysus was the Greek god of wine. This name comes from a beautiful mosaic floor that depicts Dionysus.



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The mosaic also contains a beautiful, detailed depiction of a woman's face that is known as the "Mona Lisa of Galilee." This would have been the house of a wealthy family and would have had room for 3 beds. It was destroyed by an earthquake in the 4th century AD.



A public building known as the House of the Nile River from the 5th century AD (Byzantine Period). This building has a very detailed mosaic floor that contained scenes from the Nile River.



Roman road from the 2nd century AD



Children's games carved in the road



Ruts from chariots in the road