



*The Lord Jesus Christ was born to serve, not to be served...*



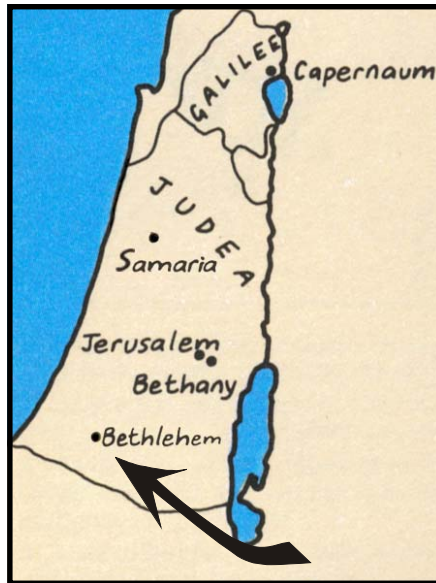
**ΒΗΘΛΕΕΜ**

*Location of the area the Lord Jesus Christ ministered unto and performed miracles: Bethlehem was a hillside Judean town five miles south of Jerusalem.*

**“May the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ Fill the Earth”**

**B**ethlehem holds an endearing place in Christian hearts as the birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was also the home to shepherds and many humble families. During the early period of history one of the central characteristics of Bethlehem was its mixed population and mutual tolerance among people of different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds.

There are many sites where tourist's can visit to get a better understanding of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The most popular is the Church of the Nativity. This is one of the oldest church buildings in the world. Emperor Constantine built three churches in the early fourth century; this was one of them. The church is unique because it is said to be built over the manger of the Lord Jesus Christ. The focus of the Church of the Nativity is an octagonal structure with an opening



looking down into the cave. Access to the grotto was made easier by stairway so that worshippers could meditate there on the meaning of the Incarnation. Inside the grotto an altar was erected over the birthplace of the Lord Jesus Christ and a Silver Star was embedded in the white marble floor to indicate the spot where the Lord Jesus was born. An inscription reads:

**“HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA  
JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS  
EST”**

**“HERE THE VIRGIN MARY  
GAVE BIRTH TO JESUS  
CHRIST”**



**The Site of the Nativity of the Redeemer in Bethlehem**

A second altar was built opposite the manger and a third altar was erected dedicated to the three magi who had come from the east to pay their respects. The Church of the Nativity is truly a blessed place.

Another popular site in Bethlehem is Solomon's Pool. Located about four kilometers south of the Bethlehem, the pools have played a significant role in the area's water supply for centuries. There are three pools all together and they are fed by four different springs.

The pools are approximately 100 meters long and ten meters deep. When filled to capacity the can



*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in BETHLEHEM*  
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hold 300,000 cubic meters of water. These pools were said to be built by Herod the Great but yet they are named after Solomon. In the Old Testament Holy Book of Ecclesiastes 2:5-6 it states:

*“I made myself gardens and parks and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.”*

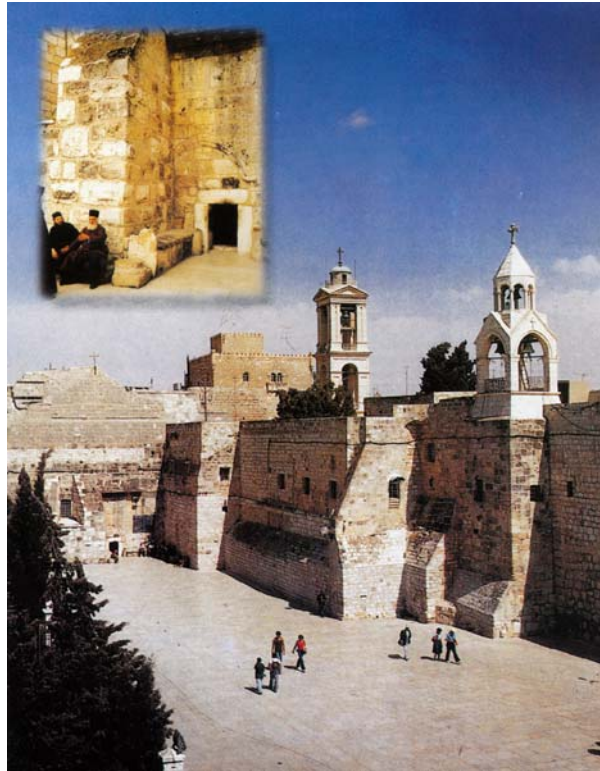
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There is also an old building located on the north side, Qal’ at el-burak (Castle of the Pools). This castle served as a resting-place for caravans that passed though Jerusalem.

The water system has five different aqueducts, totaling nearly 60 kilometers. Two of the aqueducts connected to other water sources and two others brought water into Jerusalem. The final aqueduct went to Herod’s recreational pool. The



*The Court and Side Entrance of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem*

sophistication of the pools and aqueducts are an amazing site.

Herodium was a famous fortress that King Herod built for himself around the year 20 BC. Herod invested a great deal of labor and resources in various building projects including the City of Samaria. This Fortress was truly a work of a proud man. The main structure consists of 2 parallel circular walls with a diameter of nearly 50 meters. Inside the eastern half or the Herodium was a garden surrounded by columns. The western half included a bathhouse, dwelling quarters, and a

triclinium dining room. This fort being located on the top of a hill had 38 + acres of beautiful pasture. In the lower Herodium there was a magnificent pool complex and a bathhouse. An Arabic name was given to this amazing structure “**Jebel Furdidis**” or **Paradise Mountain**.

Bethlehem has many more amazing sites for you to enjoy and to learn more about you beloved Father our Lord Jesus Christ. ✨

**Written by: David Estephanous  
St. Mary, Dallas, TX**