

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Significance



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Luke 1:1-80

Lesson 2

1

ACTS 17:11 (ESV)

Now these (Berean) Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

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2

God, we praise You for your intricately designed Word which teaches us how to follow You. Now guard our minds and our hearts and draw us closer to you as we study. Let us study so that we may become *talmidim* (disciples) that are doers of your word. Give us “Acts 17:11” discernment.
In the name of Yeshua our messiah. !אמן.

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3

Lesson 2 Discussion Topics

- Luke & Theophilus
- Herod the Great
- Zechariah’s big day at the Altar of Incense
- Zechariah’s visitation
- The Annunciation
- The *Magnificat*
- The *Benedictus*
- John in the Wilderness

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4

Luke 1:1-4

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, (2) just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, (3) it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, (4) that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

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5

It seemed good to me also . . . to write an ordered account to you, most excellent Theophilus



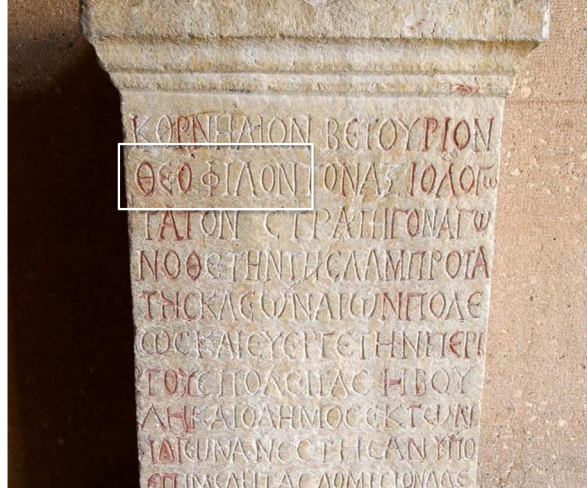
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Evangelist Luke in Saint Mina Monastery in Mariut

1:3

7

It seemed good to me also . . . to write an ordered account to you, most excellent Theophilus



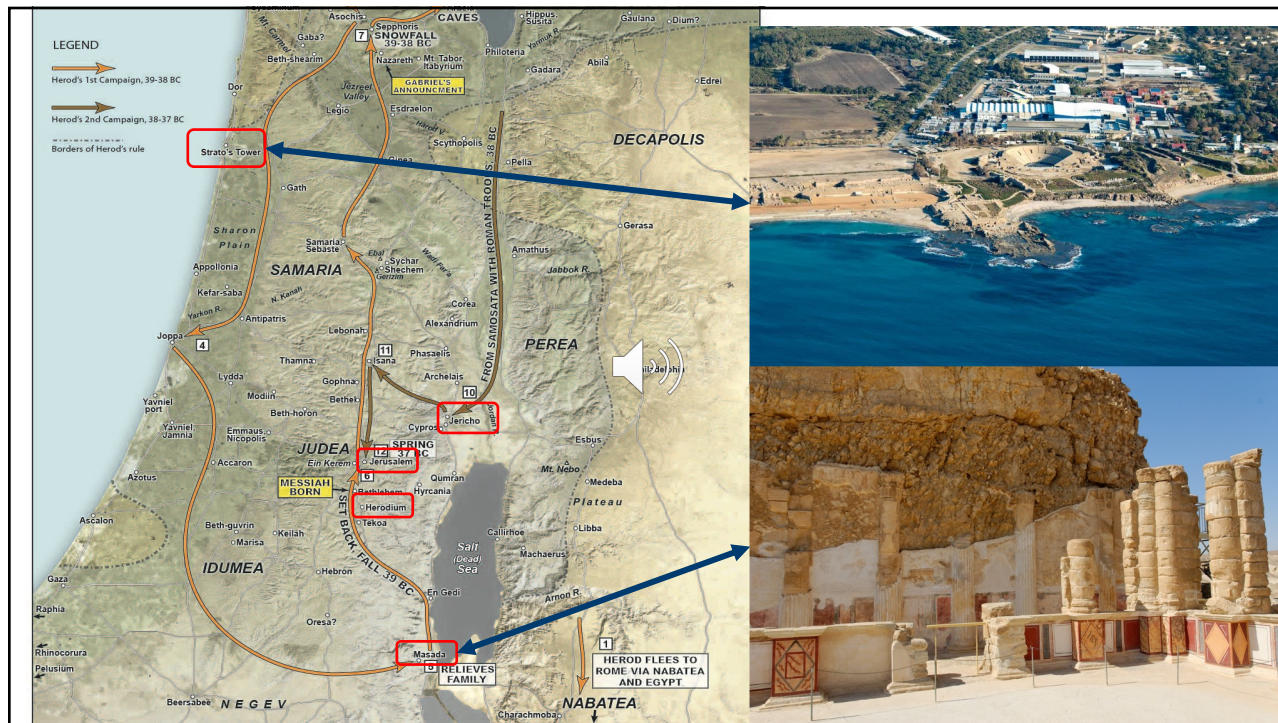
Honorary base in honor of C Veturius Theophilus, Roman period, from Kleonai

1:3

8

Luke 1:5-7	References
<p>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.</p>	<p>Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”</p>

9



10

There was a certain priest named Zechariah

Ein Kerem, traditional hometown of Zechariah (from the northwest)

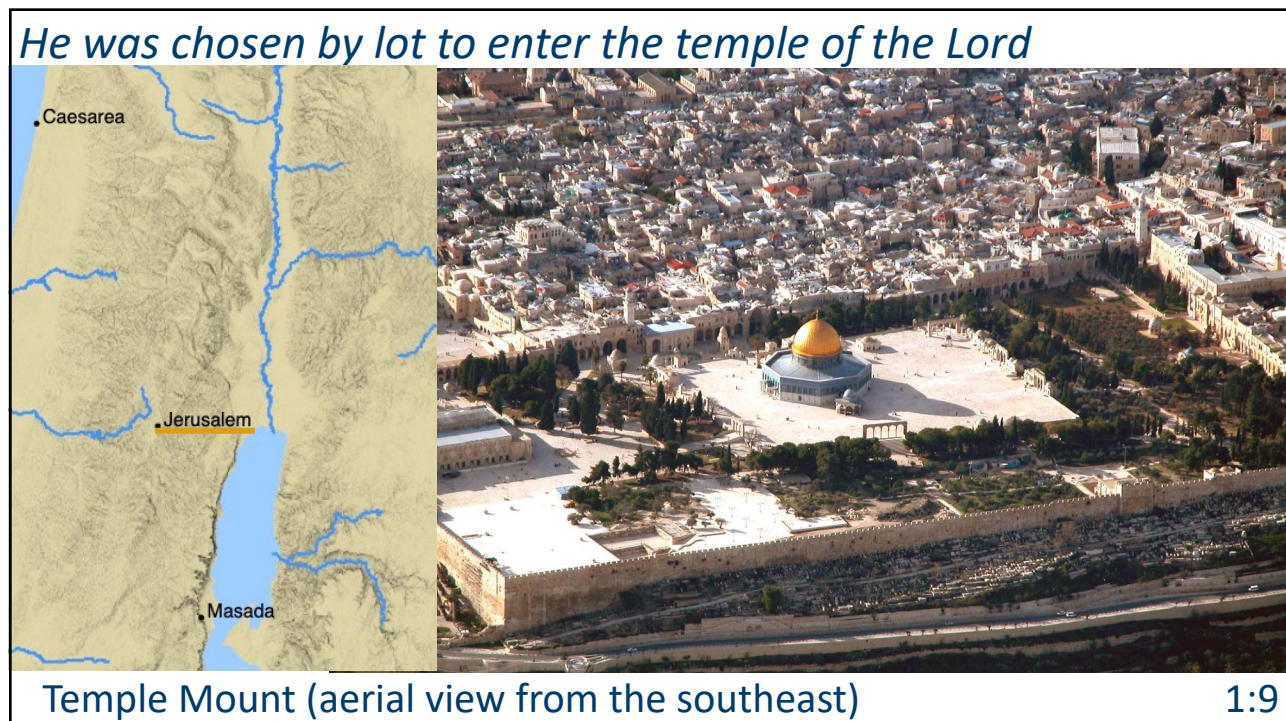
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13

Luke 1:8-12	References
<p>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.</p>	<p>1Ch 24:3,10 David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service... the eighth to Abijah,</p>

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14



16

He was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord



Herod's Temple on the Jerusalem model (from the northeast)

1:9

17

He was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense



Tabernacle Way

Altar of incense in the Tabernacle model

1:9

18

He was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense



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Iron incense shovels from Tel Dan, 8th century BC

1:9

20

The whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the time of the incense offering



Western Wall prayer area filled during Sukkot

1:10

21

Seven Oracles of Luke

1. Annunciation of John to Zechariah - 1:13-17
2. Annunciation of Jesus to Mary - 1:30:37
3. The Blessings of Elizabeth - 1:42-45
4. The *Magnificat* - 1:46-55
5. The *Benedictus* - 1:68-80
6. *Nunc Dimitis* 2:29:32
7. Mary's Sword - 2:34-25 (ominous)

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22

1. Oracle to Zechariah

Luke 1:13-15a

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will **bear you a son**, and you shall call his name John. And you will have **joy and gladness**, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord.

References

Gen 21:6-7 And Sarah said, “**God has made laughter for me**; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” [7] And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? **Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.**”

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23

1. Oracle to Zechariah

Luke 1:15b-17

And he must **not drink wine or strong drink**, and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit**, even from his mother's womb. And he will **turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God**, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of **Elijah**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

References

- **Nazirite** - Numbers 6:2-3, Judges 13, Acts 18 & 21
- **Elijah** – Malachi 4:5-6

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He must not drink wine or strong drink



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“he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink.
 ...All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. (Num 6:3,5)

Torah scroll with numbers 6 with the laws for a Nazirite vow

1:15

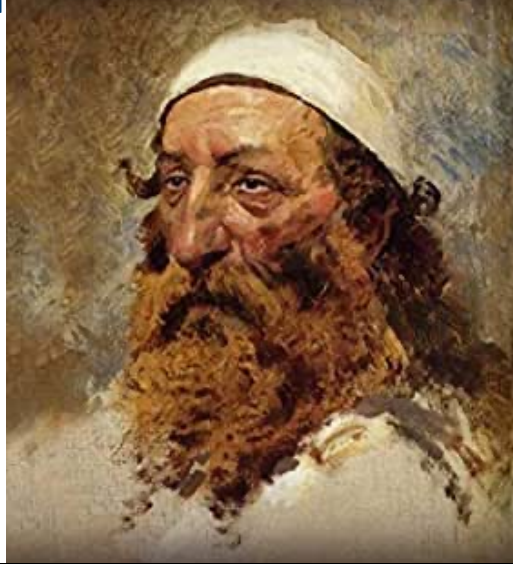
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Presuppositions

Act 18:18 At Cenchreae he had **cut his hair**, for he was under a **vow**.

Act 13:9 But Saul, who was **also called Paul**, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

THE JEWISH APOSTLE PAUL



Act 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and **went into the temple**, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

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26

He will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah



Mal 4:5-6 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."

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Statue of Elijah on Mount Carmel

1:17

27

Luke 1:18-23

And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, **because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.**”

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28

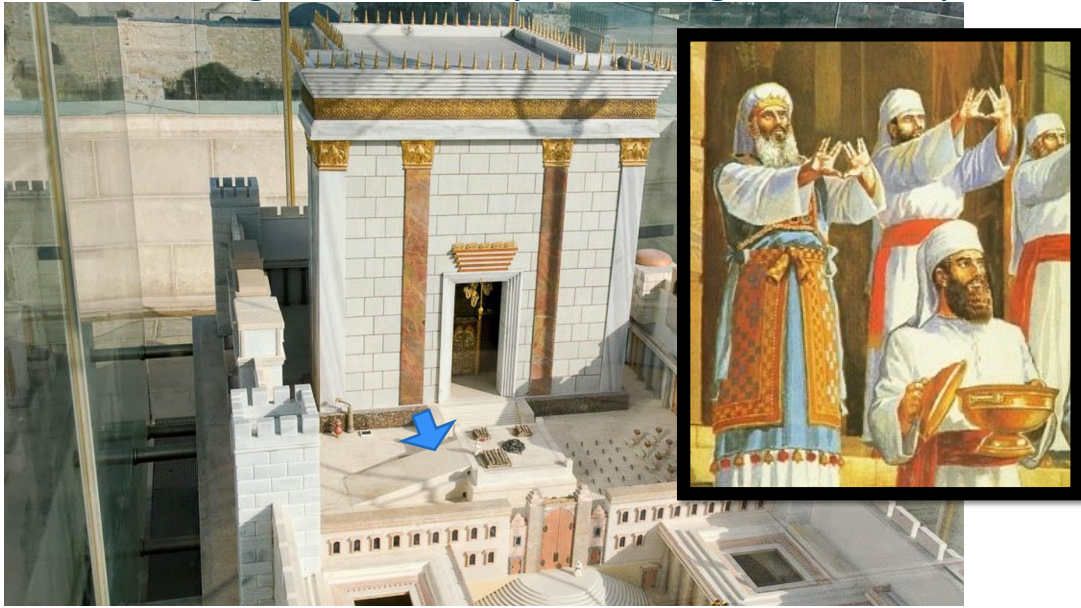
Luke 1:21-23

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he **kept making signs** to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

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They were wondering while he stayed so long in the temple



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Temple model with Court of the Israelites

1:21

30

Luke 1:24-25

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to **take away my reproach** among people."

Reference

Gen 30:23 She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has **taken away my reproach.**"

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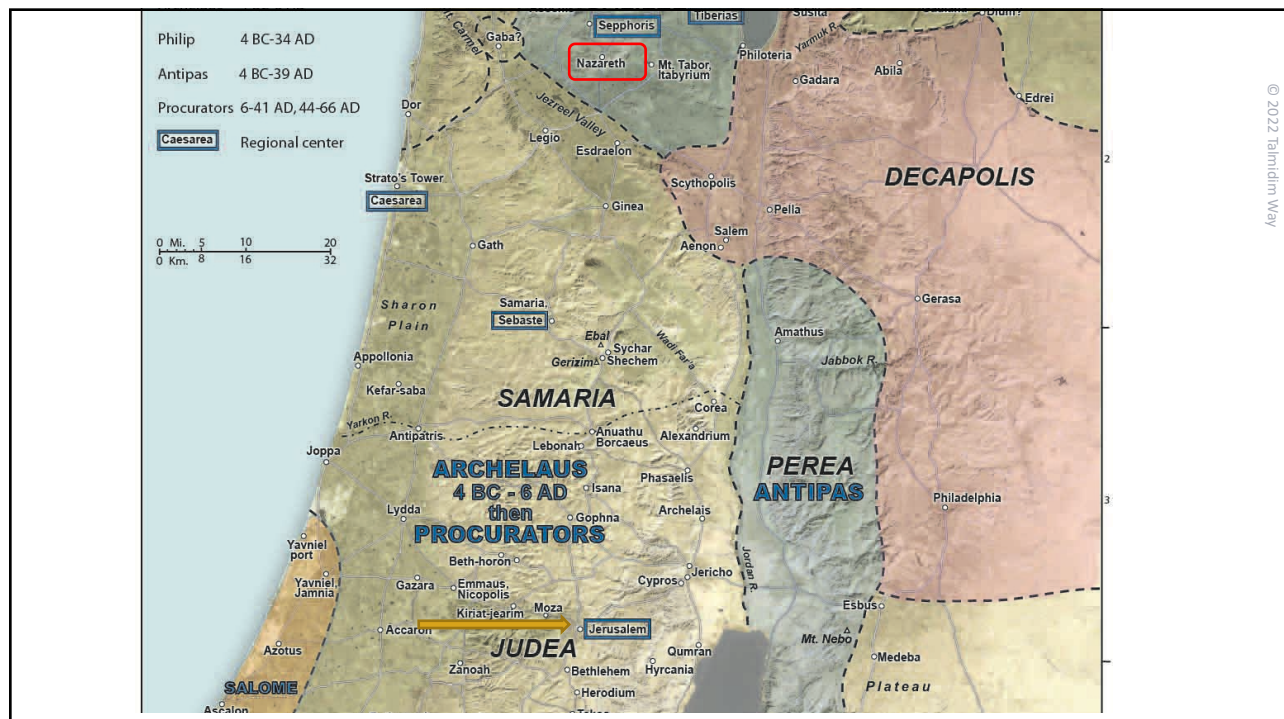
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Luke 1:26-29

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named **Nazareth**, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

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32



33

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee whose name was Nazareth



Nazareth (from the northeast)

1:26

35

Luke 1:30-33 – Annunciation to Mary

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

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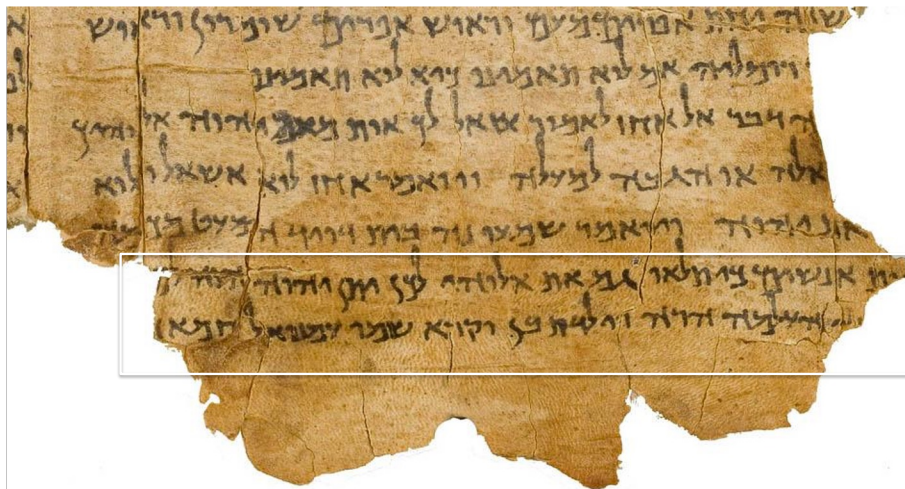
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Luke 1:31	References
<p>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.</p>	<p>Gen 16:11 You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.</p> <p>Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.</p>

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39

You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call His name Jesus



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Isaiah 7:14 on the Great Isaiah Scroll

1:31

40

Luke 1:32	References
<p>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,</p>	<p>2Sa 7:9,14 And I will make for you a great name ... I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.</p> <p>Psa 2:7 The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.</p> <p>Psa 132:11 The LORD swore to David a sure oath: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne."</p>

41

Luke 1:33	References
<p>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.</p>	<p>2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.</p> <p>2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."</p> <p>Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.</p>

42

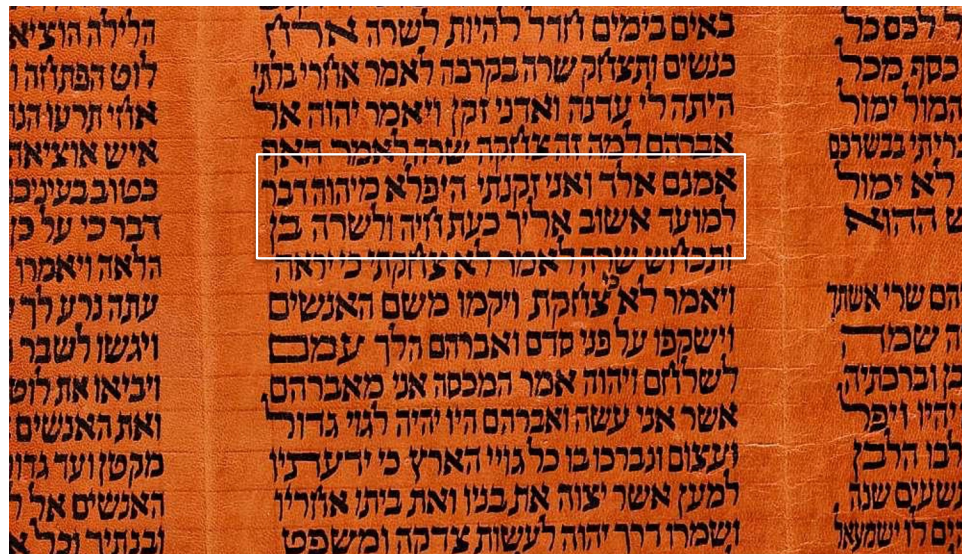
Luke 1:34-38

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **For nothing will be impossible with God.**” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant (handmaid) of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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43

For nothing will be impossible with God



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Torah scroll with Genesis 18:14 in which the Lord declares his power to give Sarah a son

1:37

44

Seven Oracles Of Luke

- Annunciation of John - 1:13-17
- Annunciation of Jesus to Mary - 1:30:37
- The Blessings of Elizabeth - 1:42-45
- The Magnificat - 1:46-55
- The Benedictus - 1:68-80
- Nunc Dimitis 2:29:32
- Mary's Sword - 2:34-25

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45

Luke 1:39-42

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry,

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46

Luke 1:42-45 - “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

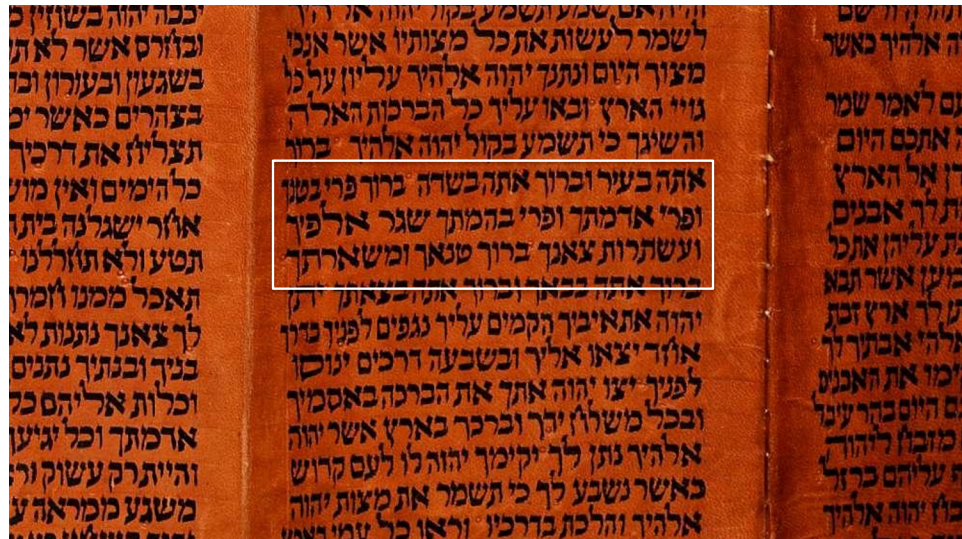
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47



48

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb



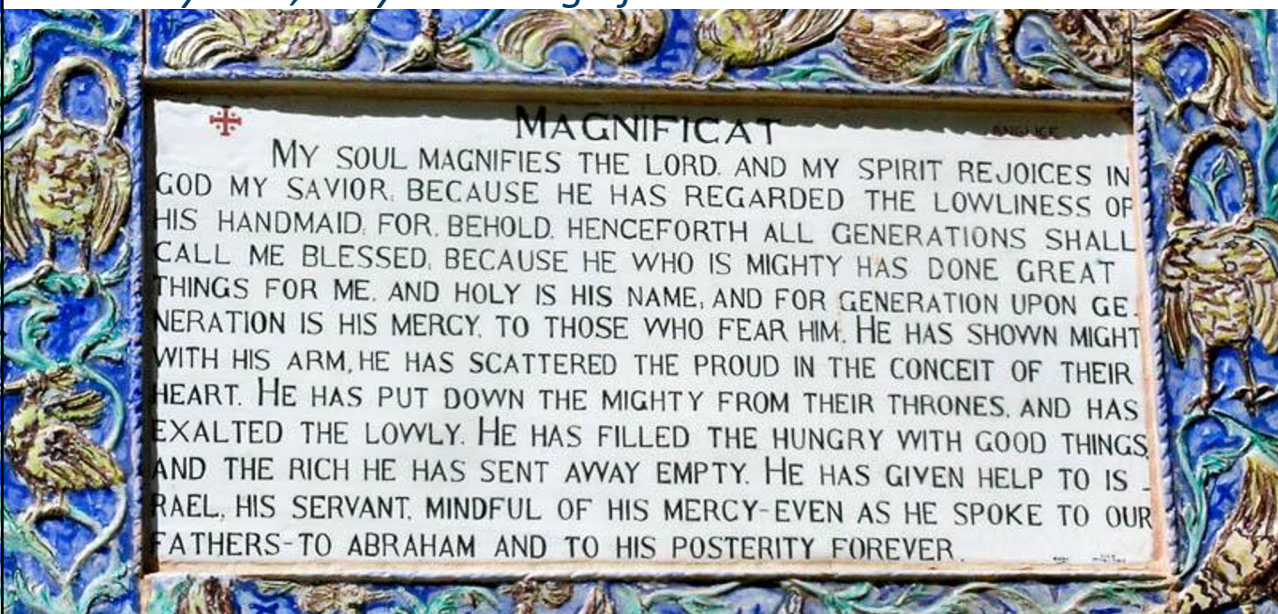
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Torah scroll with Deuteronomy 28:4 which speaks of blessings upon obedient Israel

1:42

50

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord . . ."



Mary's Magnificat sign at the Church of Visitation in Ein Kerem

51

Luke 1:46	References
And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,	1 Sam 2:1 And Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. (יְשׁוּחָה - Yesuha).

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52

Luke 1:47	References
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ,	Hab 3:18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation (יְשׁוּחָה - Yesuha).

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53

Luke 1:48	References
<p>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.</p> <p>For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed</p>	<p>1 Sam 1:11 ...remember me and not forget your maidservant...</p> <p>Gen 29:32 And Leah said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.”</p> <p>Gen 30:13 And Leah said, “Happy (blessed) am I! For women have called me happy.” So she called his name Asher.</p>

54

Luke 1:49	References
<p>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.</p>	<p>Psa 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.</p>

55

Luke 1:50	References
And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.	Psa 103:17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

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56

Luke 1:51	References
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;	Psa 136:12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever; Psa 89:13 You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand. Psa 89:10 ...you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

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57

Luke 1:52	References
<p>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;</p>	<p>1Sa 2:7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. Psa 113:7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,</p>

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58

Luke 1:53	References
<p>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.</p>	<p>Psa 107:9 For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. 1Sa 2:5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.</p>

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59

Luke 1:54	References
<p>He has helped his servant Israel,</p> <p>in remembrance of his mercy,</p>	<p>Isa 41:8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend...Fear not... you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you</p> <p>Psa 98:3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.</p>

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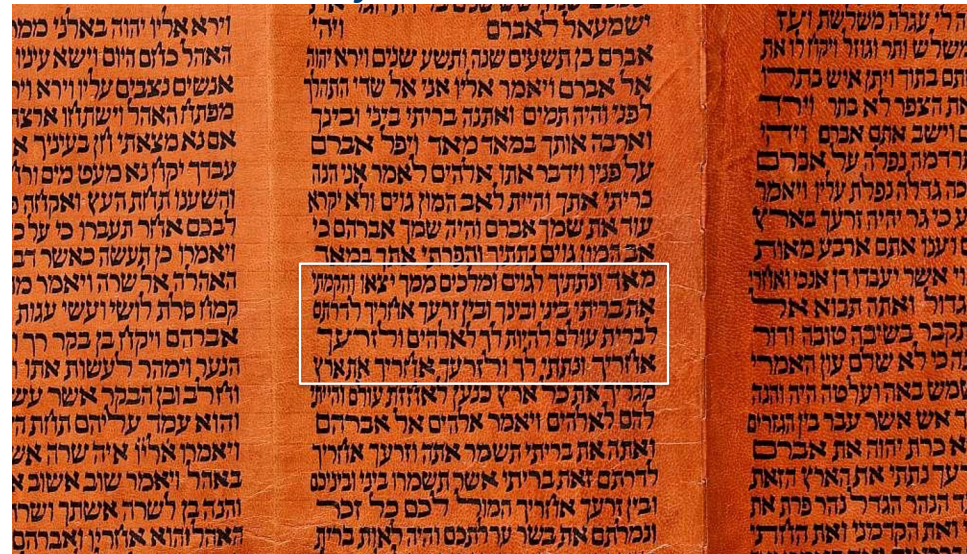
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Luke 1:55	References
<p>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."</p>	<p>Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'"</p>

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61

To Abraham and his seed forever



Torah scroll with Genesis 17:7 which gives the Lord's promise to Abraham and his seed

1:55

63

Luke 1:56-58

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her **home**. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

64

Luke 1:59-63

And on the eighth day they came to **circumcise** the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.

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65

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child



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Circumcision ceremony

1:59

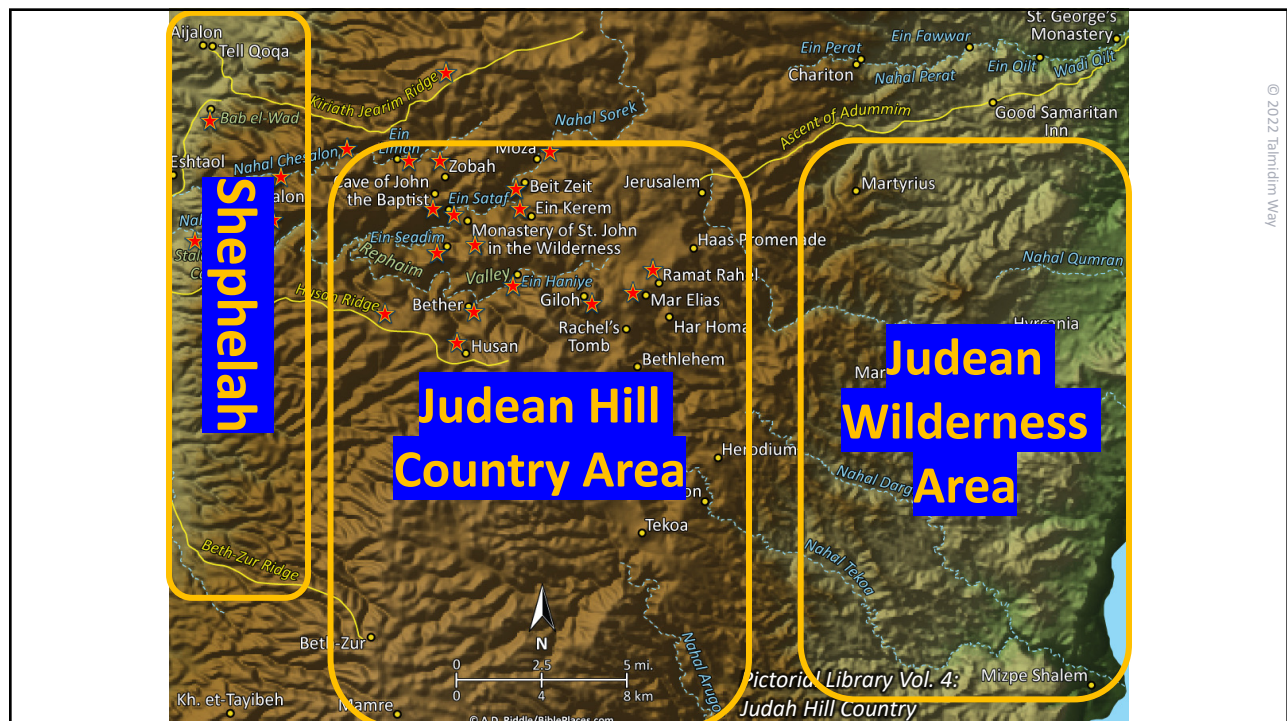
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Luke 1:64-66

And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the **hill country of Judea**, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

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69



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70

And all these things were being discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea



Hill country of Judah with the Nahal Sorek from Beitar (from the west)

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1:65

71

The Benedictus – Luke 1:68-71

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant **David**, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

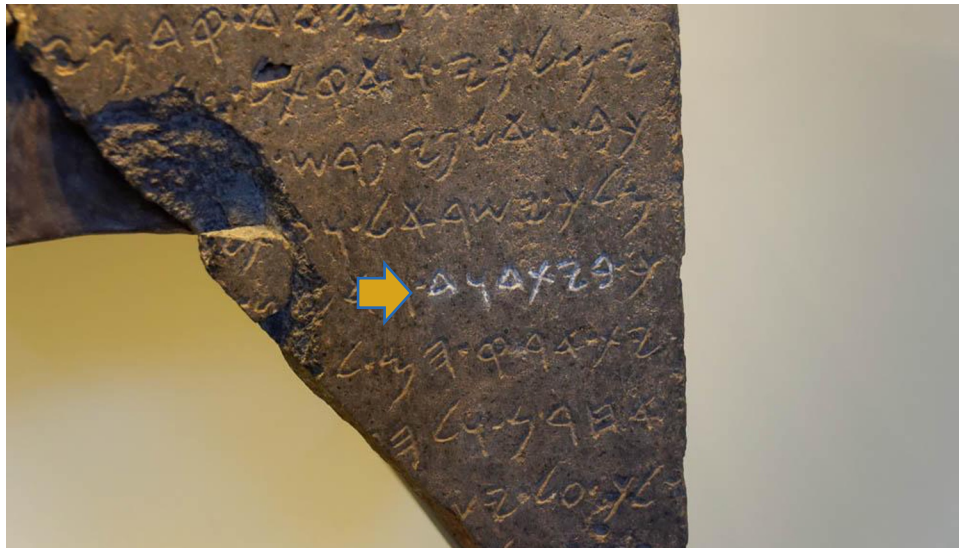
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72

See talmidimway.org for a list of Old Testament references in The *Benedictus*

73

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David



“House of David” written on the Tel Dan Inscription

1:69

74

Salvation from our enemies



Roman parade of temple treasures depicted on the Arch of Titus in Rome

1:70

75

Luke 1:72-75

to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father **Abraham**, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76

Luke 1:76-80

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

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77

For you shall go before the face of the Lord to make ready His ways



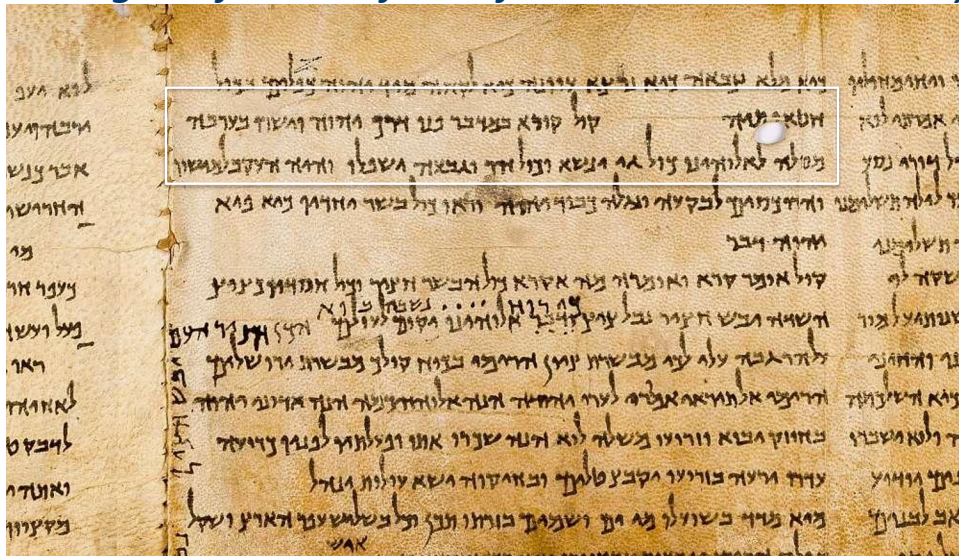
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Roman road cutting in bedrock on the Husan ridge

1:76

79

For you shall go before the face of the Lord to make ready His ways

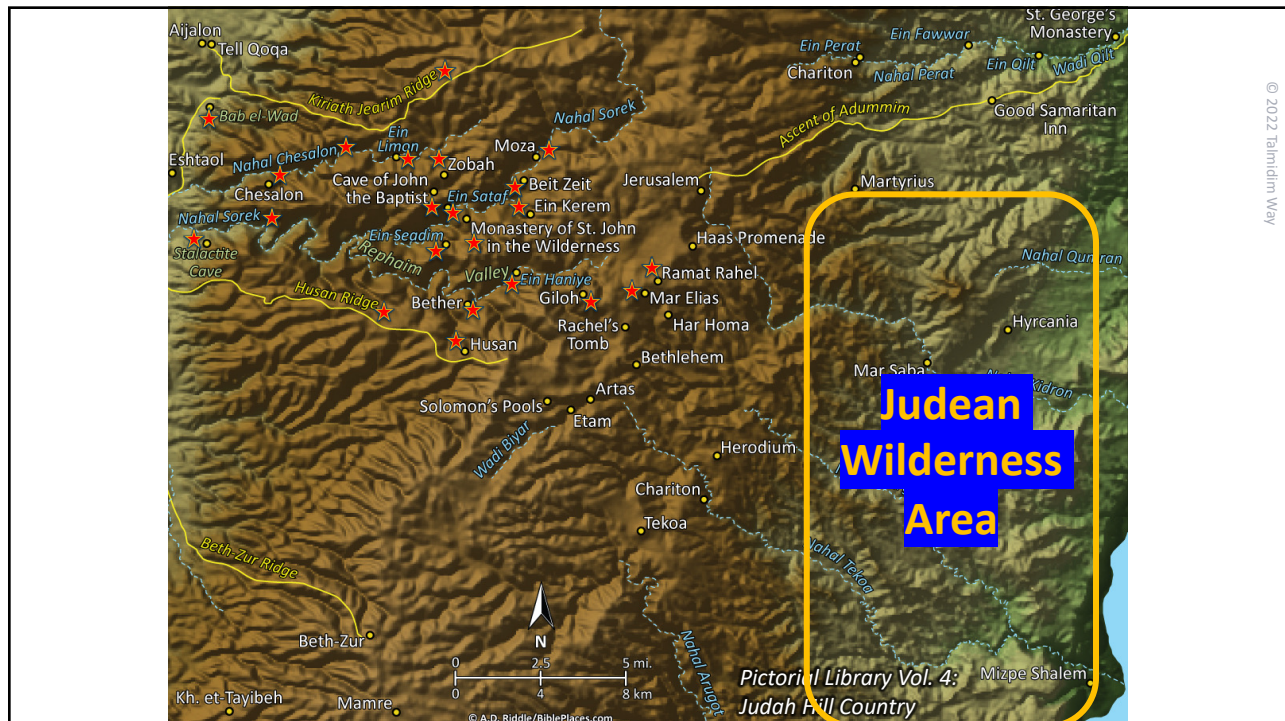


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Prediction of the forerunner in Isaiah 40:3 on the Great Isaiah Scroll

1:76

80



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81

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and lived in wilderness areas



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Wilderness of Judea

1:80

82

Memory Verse



And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”

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83

Application Questions

- How would I have reacted if I were in Zechariah's place? Do you pray like you mean it?
- Do I TRULY believe "nothing is impossible with God"? Do I live like I believe it?
- What common ground can I find with my brothers from another Christian faith tradition?
- We often think of "wilderness" as a place where God sends us to be tested. John the Baptist apparently chose to live there. As I look back on my wilderness times, what are some blessings I've experienced? How can I use my wilderness times to help others?

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84

Next Lesson:



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85

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86



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87