

REFUGEE

A CHRISTMAS SERIES

THE RAGS OF ROYALTY
CRAIG REES



Joseph was righteous because he was both faithful to God and compassionate to Mary, despite his feelings of shame and betrayal.



A refugee is a displaced person who is forced to leave their home country because of war, persecution, natural disaster, etc.



Lesson

People choose to leave “home” for numerous reasons: intentional decision making, choice and careful preparation. In Luke 2:1–5 it’s because circumstances dictate the departure.





Luke 2:1–5

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1. Angel came to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
2. Mary tells Joseph (Matthew 1:18-19; Luke 1:39)
3. Mary visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
4. Angel visits Joseph (Matthew 1:20-23)
5. Mary returned, Joseph honored his pledge
(Matthew 1:24)
6. They were married but did not consummate the
marriage (Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2:5)

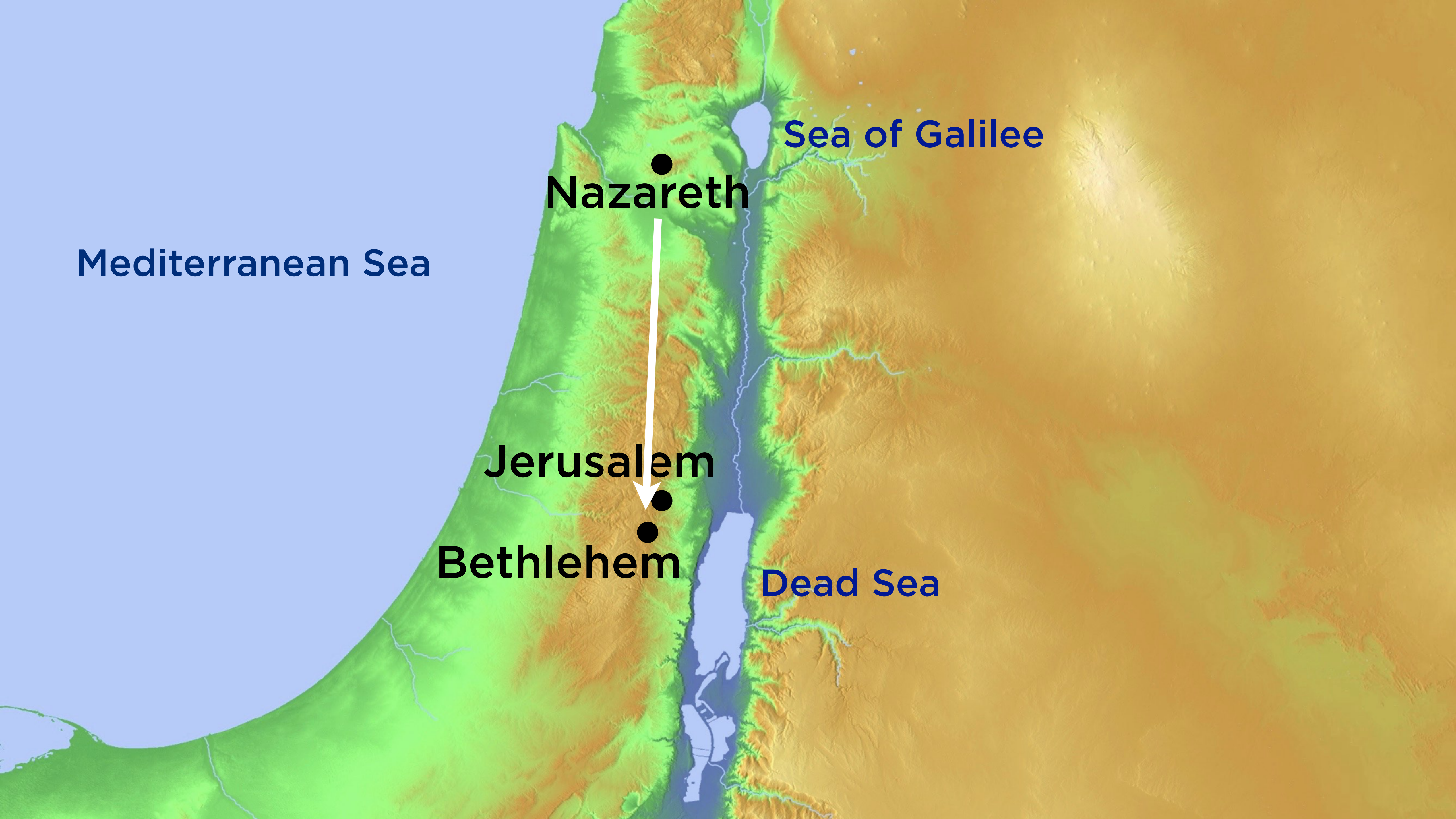


7. Joseph and Mary left for Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-4)
8. They stayed with Joseph's extended family
(Luke 2:7)
9. Jesus was born, shepherds came
(Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:6-21)
10. They go to Jerusalem to present Jesus
(Luke 2:22-38)



11. They return to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1–13)
12. The wise men come to Jerusalem and Bethlehem
(Matthew 2:1–12)
13. The atrocities begin, Joseph and Mary flee
(Matthew 2:13–18)
14. They return to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19–23;
Luke 2:40)





Sea of Galilee

Nazareth

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Dead Sea



Sea of Galilee

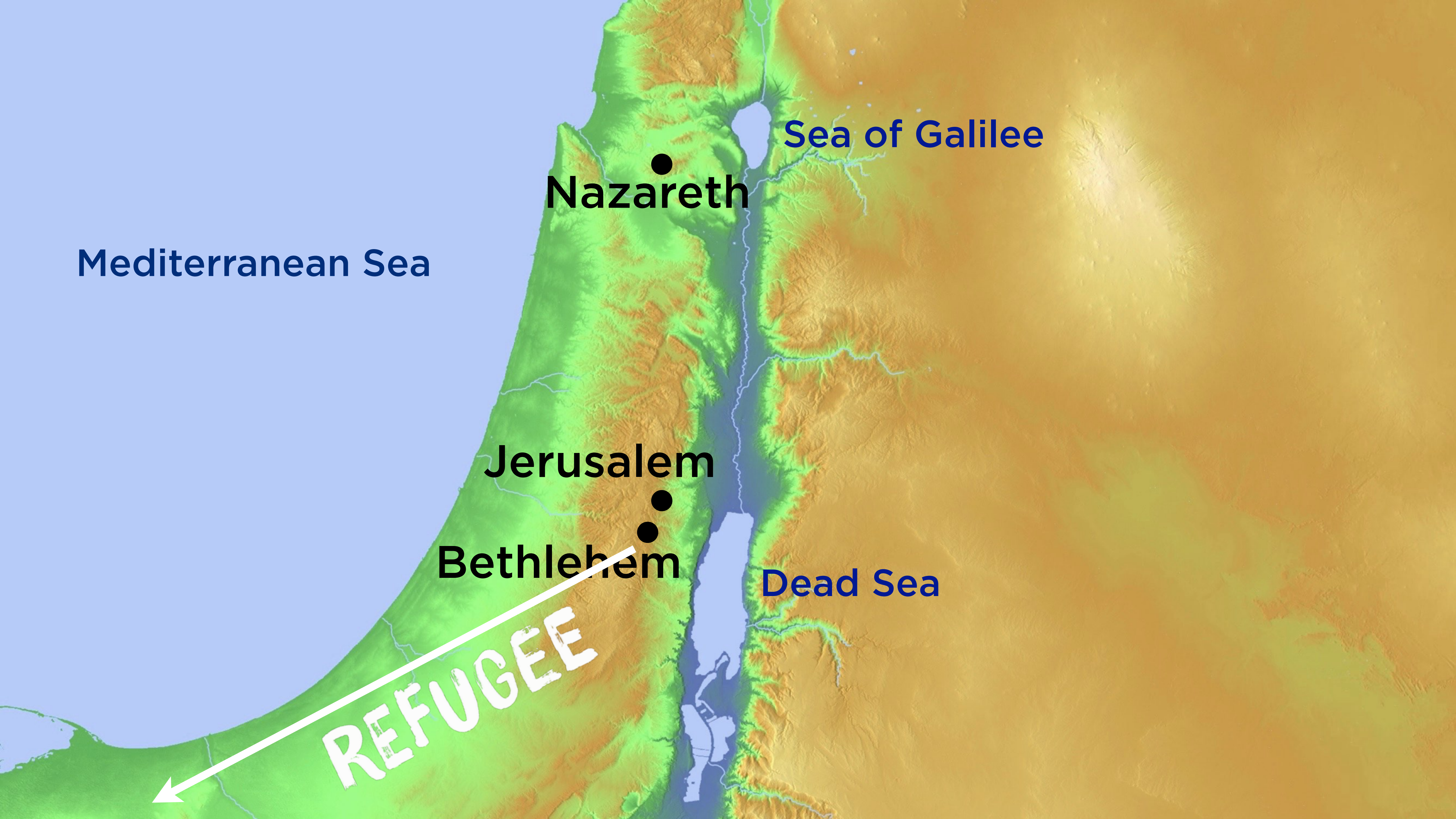
Nazareth

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

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Sea of Galilee

Nazareth

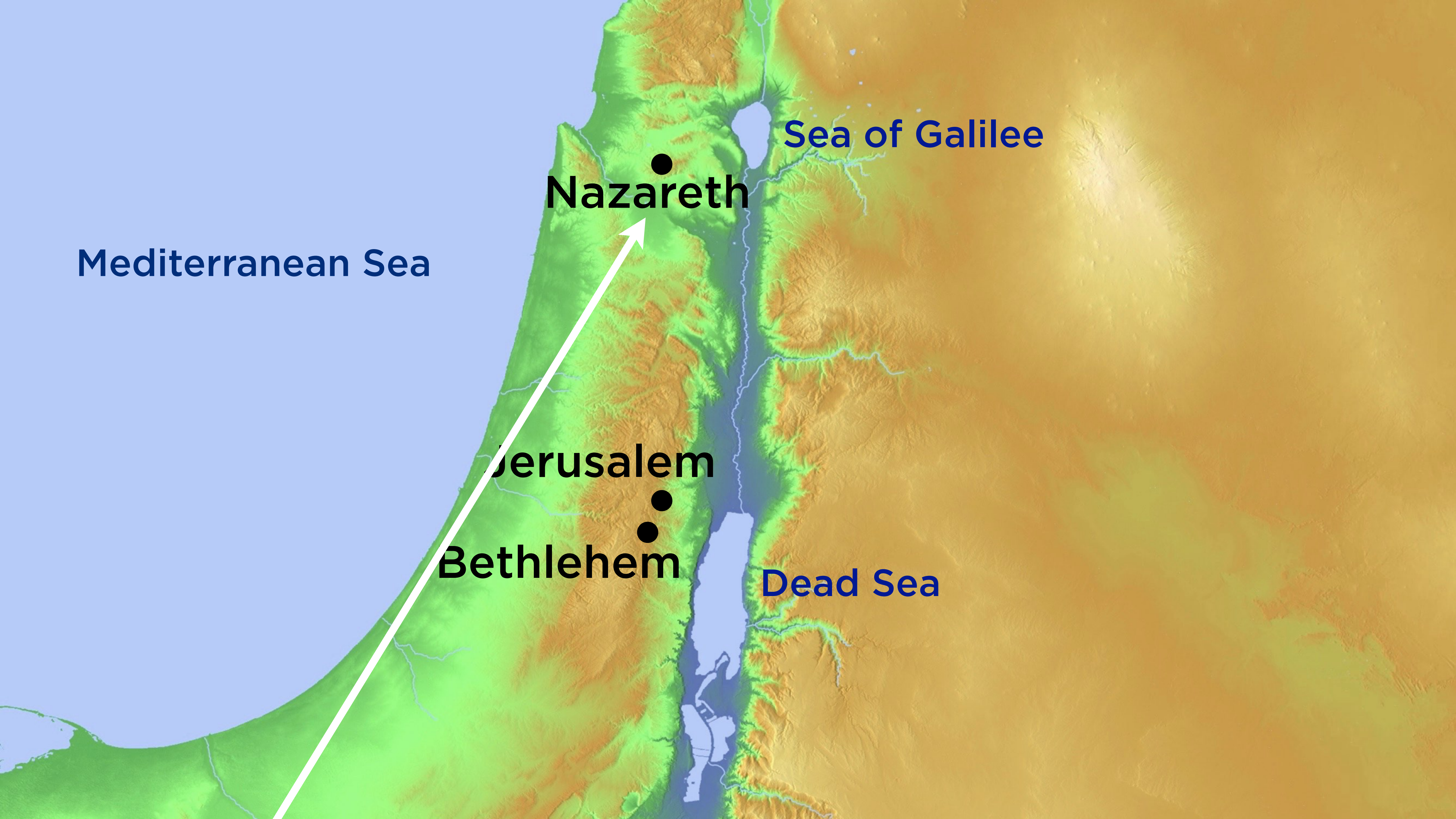
Mediterranean Sea

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Sea of Galilee

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“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.). And everyone went to their own town to register.”

Luke 2:1-3



“The census-takers appeared everywhere, introduced a tumult wherever they went. The fields were measured clod by clod; every grapevine and fruit tree were counted, every head of livestock of every kind was listed, the exact number of people noted, and in the autonomous cities the urban and rural population were herded together until the marketplaces were filled with the collective families.



“All came with their whole band of children and slaves. Everywhere was heard the screaming of those who were being interrogated with torture and beatings. Sons were forced to testify against their fathers, the trustiest slaves driven to bear witness against their masters, and wives against their husbands.



“When all other means had been exhausted, the victims were tortured until they gave evidence against themselves, and when pain had at last conquered, taxable property that did not exist was registered. Neither age nor illness won exemption... The market places rang with Lamentations.”

Lactantius, cited by Burge, Cohick & Gene in *The New Testament in Antiquity*, page 128



“But the point Luke is making is clear. The birth of this little boy is the beginning of a confrontation between the kingdom of God—in all its apparent weakness, insignificance and vulnerability—and the kingdoms of the world.”

N.T. Wright, *Luke for Everyone* on Luke 2



Application

1. Economic migration adds burdens, not only relieves them.
2. Outsiders are more welcoming of outsiders.
3. In a clash of kingdoms, the next generation usually suffers.





“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”

Luke 2:40

