

Nazareth



Description

The Nazareth Jesus Would Have Known:

Arriving at Nazareth Village, you will step out of the hustle and bustle of the modern city of Nazareth and step into the first century quiet village that Jesus would have known. Based on solid New Testament scholarship and the most up-to-date archaeology, Nazareth Village brings to life a farm and Galilean village, recreating Nazareth as it was 2,000 years ago.

As you walk along the pathways of Nazareth Village, you will walk the paths where Jesus might have walked. Nazareth Village will shed new light on the life of Jesus as you will experience the sights, the sounds, and the environment from which Jesus drew many of His parables.

Winding your way along the path you will be lead through a working farm, an ancient winepress, and a stone quarry. On the hillside you will see terraces designed for farming the land, olive trees, and grape vines. The working farm will provide you with a better understanding of the simplicity of farm life as you pass by sheep grazing on the hillside and a donkey pulling a rudimentary sled used in the threshing process.

You will meet the people of Nazareth Village and experience the hospitality of the first century. As you step through the stone doorways, you will step back into first century family life as it would have been in the reconstructed homes of both a weaver and carpenter. The working olive press will help provide you with a better understanding of the process of extracting oil from the olive, a very

important industry of Jesus' day.

This is the environment that shaped Jesus' early years and ultimately His Galilean ministry. Enjoy your visit!

Scripture

Bible References in Context

- Childhood home of Jesus
- Jesus rejected here

Isaiah 7:14-16

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Isaiah 11:1

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Matthew 2:23

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 4:13

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

Mark 1:9

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

Luke 1:26-38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the

angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:49-51

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Luke 4:16-30

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave [it] again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, [a city] of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

John 1:43-51

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Na-

thanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Nazareth Village

Based on solid New Testament scholarship and the most up-to-date archaeology, Nazareth Village brings to life a farm and Galilean village, recreating Nazareth as it was 2,000 years ago. The tour begins inside with a visit to four different rooms, each bringing out a different aspect of the history of Nazareth giving a better understanding of the life and times of Jesus.

The first room deals with the extensive archaeology of the site that was carried out by the University of the Holy Land's Center for the Study of Early Christianity, and other top scholars from around the world, uncovering what was a first-century working farm and quarry.

After passing through a doorway from the Ottoman period, we peel back the layers of time in a photographic journey from the modern to the ancient city of Nazareth. Nazareth's position in the crossroads between Europe, Asia, and Africa establish the setting for Jesus' life and teachings.



1st Century Cross

In the room that follows, two displays show the methods of punishment used by the ruling political and religious authorities and shows a cross depicting how Jesus would pay the price for the sins of the world.

Nazareth Village



Joseph's Shop

Finally, a display of Joseph's home and workshop help you imagine Jesus' life as a young boy before He began His public ministry at the age of thirty. How did He come to understand His purpose and formulate his message? Following this, the tour goes outdoors to begin the "Parable Walk." As Jesus began His public ministry, the prophet Isaiah's words quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18 summarize His ministry:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he hath anointed me to preach
the gospel to the poor; he hath sent
me to heal the brokenhearted, to
preach deliverance to the captives, and
recovering of sight to the blind, to set at
liberty them that are bruised, To preach
the acceptable year of the Lord.

Oil lamp on wall

As we exit the building we will be led through a path lined with small oil lamps. It is interesting to see these lamps and to think about the parable of the ten virgins, in Matthew 25. Five of them let their lamps run out of oil and five of them were prepared. Jesus used the simple things that were very common to drive home His message.



sled and sheep graze on the hillside. It is amazing to think that Jesus would certainly have been aware of this property. Nazareth, again, was a very small village and Jesus perhaps walked through this farm.

Nazareth Farm

We continue down the winding path which leads through a working farm and past an ancient winepress and stone quarries. On the hillside there are grape vines and olive trees. Donkeys pull a wooden threshing

Nazareth Village



Winepress

It is also interesting to see a working olive press and to hear how the different grades of oil are extracted from the olive. Every part of the olive is used; even the mash that is left after the crushing of the olives is used as fire starters. As the oil is extracted, tremendous weight is put on the olives to crush the pits. The three weights that are used weigh 1,600 pounds. “Gethsemane” means “olive press.” As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was being squeezed and pressed, sweating great drops of blood, as He faced the cross and His one-time, all sufficient sacrifice for sin.

In the weaver’s house we will watch a demonstration of the art of weaving. After this, we will go to a reconstructed synagogue, similar to what Jesus would have attended. Then, on to a carpenter’s house, perhaps similar to what Joseph’s house would have looked like. Here are the tools of the carpenter and a demonstration on drilling, using a string and a bit. It is amazing to see what can be done without our modern machinery!

This is the environment which shaped Jesus’ early years and ministry in Galilee. From this place He drew many images for His parables. The fruits of these fields nurtured Jesus from infancy to adulthood, and their features illuminate His teachings.



Terrecing

After seeing the terracing, it is easy to understand the parable of the sower and the seed. Seeing the “stony ground” gives a different perspective to what one might previously have thought. Why would the sower throw the seed on rocks? The stoney ground is soil filled with shallow rocks and the seed cannot take root. One can also see the thorns growing there as well and how the thorns would choke out the seed.

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Reconstructed Watchtower

There is a reconstructed watchtower where the farmer could look out over his farm to prevent thieves and wild animals that might wander onto his property. In addition to the watchtower, there is an ancient winepress. This reminds us of the parable in Matthew 21:33-46 where Jesus says, “Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to the husbandmen, went into a far country...”



Cistern and capstone

We will also see a cistern and capstone. The cistern or well would have been the place where the ladies of the village would come to gossip and talk about the village business. Think back to the woman at the well in John 4 and how Jesus asked her to draw Him water to drink. Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to speak of thirst and to tell her how that water will only temporarily quench thirst, but He, the Living Water, will eternally quench our spiritual thirst.

Points of Interest



The Church of the Annunciation

The first stop in Nazareth is the Church of the Annunciation. As we make our way to the church, we pass by the Nazareth spring. Since Nazareth was a village of about 200 people, we can be sure that most of the dwellings would have been close to the source of water.

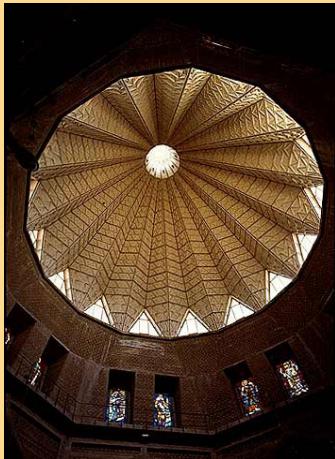
Inside the courtyard of the church, there stands an olive tree. Much symbolism is in the olive tree and its fruit. Isaiah 11:1 declares, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:” The word Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word “Netzar” which means “the shoot.” The “new root,” Jesus, would come from Nazareth. There are many correlations between the olive tree and Jesus, the Messiah. 1) The olive tree will send out shoots from the roots. If you look at the base of the olive tree you can see the new shoots coming out. Again, Jesus is that “new root” Who would stem from the root of Jesse. 2) The leaf of the olive tree is light on one side and dark on the other. Jesus is the light of the world, He brings light to a sin darkened world. 3) The olive tree reproduces itself. Jesus wants us to reproduce ourselves as Christians. 4) The olive is harvested and pressed to extract oil. Jesus was pressed as He went to the cross. 5) The olive produces oil which lights lamps. Jesus is the oil which produces light.

Its presence dominating the city, the Basilica of the Annunciation, maintained by the Franciscan Order, is the largest in the Middle East. The modern structure, consecrated on 23 March 1969, and designed by the architect Giovanni Muzio, consists of two levels.

The lower church contains the grotto which, tradition holds, was the home of Mary and the Site of the Annunciation, along with remnants of churches from the Crusader and Byzantine eras.

The important archaeological site, which includes the church and surrounding buildings, verifies this is in fact the location of the original village of Nazareth.

Points of Interest- Church of the Annunciation



Dome in the shape of the Madonna Lily



A Madonna Lily

The upper church, which serves as the local Roman Catholic parish church, is crowned by a majestic 170 foot high dome through which natural light flows to illuminate the entire interior. It is in the shape of the Madonna Lily.

Inside

Inside the church is the grotto, where tradition says, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce to Mary that she was with child. There is a stone carved with the Greek words, “*Xe Maria*” meaning “Hail Mary” which dates back to the 2nd century AD. This lends more credibility to this site



perhaps, this was the home of Joseph. The cave under the church was used by the early dwellers in the Roman period as a water and food storage place under the house, which is typical of the residential houses at that time. The place was converted to a worship place in the Byzantine period. A baptistery and cistern from the Byzantine church were discovered at this site.

Church of St. Joseph

Connected to the Church of the Annunciation by a courtyard is the Church of St. Joseph which is also known as The Church of the Holy Family. The St. Joseph church is located, according to early traditions, over the carpenter workshop of Joseph's family. Many tools were found on this site, leading archaeologists to believe that

Points of Interest



The Synagogue Church

The Synagogue Church is a 12th century A.D. church, built by the Crusaders. According to tradition, the church was built above the original location of the Roman period synagogue where Jesus first learned, prayed, and later preached as a young man. According to tradition, the Jewish synagogue from the Roman period was located at this site, and this is where young Jesus visited and read from the Scriptures.

Jesus could have been invited to read as a special guest, or possibly, because it was His birthday. Whatever the reason, Jesus took the scroll and read from Isaiah.

Clearly, the scribes and Pharisees understood that Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah and were extremely angry with Him for what He had said.



Mt. Precipice

After leaving Nazareth Village, we will go to Mt. Precipice or “the brow of the hill.” Some believe this is the place where the angry mob wanted to cast Jesus off the cliff following His sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth.

Of course, this was not Jesus’ time to be killed and this was not the method which was prophesied, so Jesus miraculously passed through their midst and escaped.