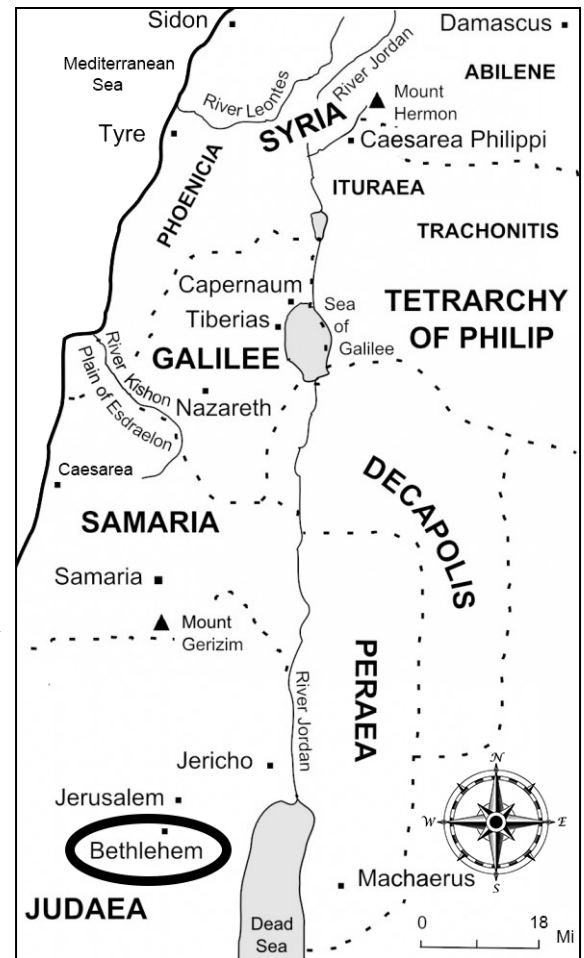


# The Messengers

Watch free episode: [churchfamilytime.com/the-chosen/the-messengers](http://churchfamilytime.com/the-chosen/the-messengers)

## Context

- The episode jumps between two time periods:
  - 48 A.D., which is about 15 years after Jesus' death and resurrection
  - 4 B.C., which is when Jesus was born – this storyline takes place in Bethlehem, which is circled on the map
- Matthew 1:18-25: "...Because Joseph, [Mary's] husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'..."



- Psalm 63:1: "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."
- Luke 1:26-38: "...the angel said to [Mary], 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end'... 'for nothing is impossible with God'..."
- Luke 1:39-45: "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... '...why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'"
- Luke 1:46-55: "And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.'..."

- Luke 2:1-7: “[Mary] wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”
- Tychicus: Assisted Paul: Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21–22; Colossians 4:7; Titus 3:12; 2 Timothy 4:12
- 1 Samuel 2:1-10: Song of Hannah
- Acts 12:1-25: Death of Big James
- Acts 28:30-31: Luke in Rome with Paul

## Discussion

- How did you relate with the episode being primarily from the perspective of Mary the mother of Jesus? Or how about how Mary’s song (Luke 1:46-55) was recited during the birth of Jesus?
- There’s a shot of Joseph scooping dung from the place where the Son of God will be born, which reminds us how Jesus, the King of the Universe, was born into a stinky, dirty, humble stable. (The last place I think any mother would want to have a baby!) How does viewing Jesus being born into this humble place as a little baby affect your faith?
- Both Mary and Joseph took leaps of faith when called by God to be part of his redemption plan. How have you taken steps of faith in your journey? How has your life changed as a result?
- Were there any scenes in particular that were interesting or moving? Any takeaways or reminders while we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season?