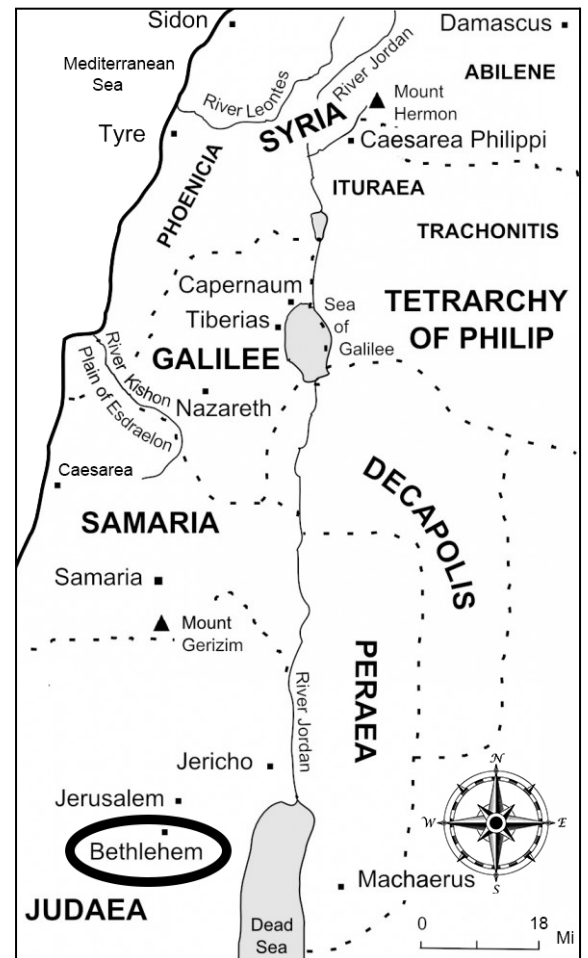


The Shepherd

Watch free episode: churchfamilytime.com/the-chosen/the-shepherd

Context

- This episode is based in Bethlehem, circled on the map
- Micah 5:2-3a: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.’ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son...”
- Isaiah 9:2-7: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.** He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever...”
- Isaiah 35:3-6a: “Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.’ **Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy...**“
- Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”



Discussion

- What did you think of how the prophecies from Isaiah and Micah were woven into the story? We hear them every Christmas – did you relate to them in a new way?
- How did you connect with the story from the perspective of the shepherd?
- Shepherds were the bottom of society, and yet they were the first to hear the news and tell others. What do you think that means for the gospel message? Is there someone you can share the gospel with this Christmas season?
- God and Jesus are referred to as a good shepherd multiple times in the Bible (eg. Psalm 23, John 10:14-15, etc.). What attributes make Him a good shepherd?
- How does the birth of Jesus bring new meaning and purpose to the characters' lives? How about to your life?