

## ~NAZARETH (401)

(Naz'a-reth) [probably, Sprout-Town]

.. Location

.. Prominence Of Nazareth

.. Attitude Of The People

- A city in Lower Galilee where Jesus lived most of his earthly life, along with his half brothers and half sisters.
- And he went down with them and came to **Nazareth**, and he continued subject to them. Also, his mother carefully kept all these sayings in her heart. (**Luke 2:51**)
- And Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men. (**Luke 2:52**)
- And after coming into his home territory he began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said; Where did this man get this wisdom and these powerful works? (**Matthew 13:54**)
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where, then, did this man get all these things? (**Matthew 13:56**)
- Both Joseph and Mary were residents of **Nazareth** when Gabriel announced the approaching birth of Jesus.
- In her sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent forth from God to a city of Galilee named **Nazareth**. (**Luke 1:26**)
- To a virgin promised in marriage to a man named Joseph of David's house, and the name of the virgin was Mary. (**Luke 1:27**)
- Of course, Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of **Nazareth**, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because of his being a member of the house and family of David. (**Luke 2:4**)

- So when they had carried out all the things according to the Law of Yehowah, they went back into Galilee to their own city **Nazareth**. (Luke 2:39)
- Later, after their return from Egypt, they took up residence in **Nazareth** again.
- When Herod had deceased, look! Yehowah's angel appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt (Matthew 2:19)
- And said; Get up, take the young child and its mother and be on your way into the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the soul of the young child are dead. (Matthew 2:20)
- So he got up and took the young child and its mother and entered into the land of Israel. (Matthew 2:21)
- But hearing that Archelaus ruled as king of Judea instead of his father Herod, he became afraid to depart for there. Moreover, being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee. (Matthew 2:22)
- And came and dwelt in a city named **Nazareth**, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets; He will be called a Nazarene. (Matthew 2:23)
- So when they had carried out all the things according to the Law of Yehowah, they went back into Galilee to their own city **Nazareth**. (Luke 2:39)

## •• Location

- Most scholars identify **Nazareth** with **En Nasira**, **Nazerat**, in Galilee. If this view is correct, **Nazareth** was situated in the low mountains just North of the Valley of Jezreel and approximately halfway between the South tip of the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Coast.
- It was in a mountain basin with hills rising 120 to 150 meters (400 to 500 feet) above it. The area was well populated, with a number of cities and towns near **Nazareth**.

- Also, it is estimated that one could walk from **Nazareth** to Ptolemais on the Mediterranean Coast in seven hours, to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee in five hours, and to Jerusalem in three days.
- On one occasion people of **Nazareth** sought to throw Jesus from the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built.
- And they rose up and hurried him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built, in order to throw him down headlong. ([Luke 4:29](#))
- That is not to say that **Nazareth** was on the very brow or edge, but that it was on a mountain having a brow from which they wanted to hurl Jesus. Some have identified it with a rocky cliff some 12 meters (40 feet) high located Southwest of the city.

## .. Prominence Of Nazareth

- It is difficult to say with certainty just how prominent **Nazareth** was in the first century. The most common view of commentators is that **Nazareth** was then a rather secluded, insignificant village.
- The principal Biblical statement used to support this view is what Nathanael said when he heard that Jesus was from there; Can anything good come out of **Nazareth**?
- But Nathanael said to him; Can anything good come out of **Nazareth**? Philip said to him; Come and see. ([John 1:46](#))
- This has been taken by many to mean that **Nazareth** was looked down upon, even by people of Galilee.
- There were in company Simon Peter and Thomas, who was called The Twin, and Nathanael from Cana of Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and two others of his disciples. ([John 21:2](#))
- **Nazareth** was near trade routes of the area but not directly on them. It was not mentioned by Josephus, though he referred to nearby Japhia as the largest fortified village of all Galilee, leading to the idea that **Nazareth** was eclipsed by its neighbor.
- On the other hand, Nathanael may simply have been expressing surprise that Philip would claim a man from the neighborhood city of

**Nazareth** in Galilee to be the promised Messiah, for the Scriptures had foretold that that one would come from Bethlehem in Judah.

- And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite. (**Micah 5:2**)
- Josephus did not mention many of the settlements in Galilee, so his not mentioning **Nazareth** might not be particularly significant. It is noteworthy that the Bible does not call Nazareth a village, but always a city.
- In her sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent forth from God to a city of Galilee named **Nazareth**. (**Luke 1:26**)
- Of course, Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of **Nazareth**, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because of his being a member of the house and family of David. (**Luke 2:4**)
- So when they had carried out all the things according to the Law of Yehowah, they went back into Galilee to their own city **Nazareth**. (**Luke 2:39**)
- Furthermore, close-by Sepphoris was an important, fortified city having a district court of the Sanhedrin. Nonetheless, whatever its size and prominence, **Nazareth** was convenient to important trade routes and main cities, and so its inhabitants would have had ready information about the social, religious, and political activities of the time.
- At this he said to them; No doubt you will apply this illustration to me, Physician, cure yourself, the things we heard as having happened in Capernaum do also here in your home territory. (**Luke 4:23**)

## .. Attitude Of The People

- As Jesus grew up, he progressed, in favor with God and men.
- And Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men. (**Luke 2:52**)

- He and his half brothers and half sisters were known by the people of **Nazareth**, and it was his **custom** to attend the local synagogue each week.
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where, then, did this man get all these things? (**Matthew 13:56**)
- And he came to **Nazareth**, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)
- When he was about 30 years of age, Jesus left **Nazareth** and was baptized by John.
- In the course of those days Jesus came from **Nazareth** of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. (**Mark 1:9**)
- Furthermore, Jesus himself, when he commenced his work, was about thirty years old, being the son, as the opinion was, of Joseph, son of Heli. (**Luke 3:23**)
- Some months later, near the start of his Galilean ministry, Jesus returned to **Nazareth** and in the synagogue read aloud (**Isaiah Chapter 61**), applying it to himself.
- The people manifested a lack of faith and attempted to kill him, but he went through the midst of them and continued on his way, taking up residence in Capernaum.
- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)
- So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written: (**Luke 4:17**)
- Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the

crushed ones away with a release. (Luke 4:18)

- To preach Yehowah's acceptable year. (Luke 4:19)
- With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. (Luke 4:20)
- Then he started to say to them; Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled. (Luke 4:21)
- And they all began to give favorable witness about him and to marvel at the winsome words proceeding out of his mouth, and they were saying; This is a son of Joseph, is it not? (Luke 4:22)
- At this he said to them; No doubt you will apply this illustration to me, Physician, cure yourself, the things we heard as having happened in Capernaum do also here in your home territory. (Luke 4:23)
- But he said; Truly I tell you that no prophet is accepted in his home territory. (Luke 4:24)
- For instance, I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, so that a great famine fell upon all the land. (Luke 4:25)
- Yet Elijah was sent to none of those women, but only to Zarephath in the land of Sidon to a widow. (Luke 4:26)
- Also, there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, but Naaman the man of Syria. (Luke 4:27)
- Now all those hearing these things in the synagogue became filled with anger. (Luke 4:28)
- And they rose up and hurried him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built, in order to throw him down headlong. (Luke 4:29)
- But he went through the midst of them and continued on his way. (Luke 4:30)

- Further, after leaving **Nazareth**, he came and took up residence in Capernaum beside the sea in the districts of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- Then Jesus was led by the spirit up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. (**Matthew 4:1**)
- Over a year later, Christ again visited **Nazareth**.
- And after coming into his home territory he began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said; Where did this man get this wisdom and these powerful works? (**Matthew 13:54**)
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where, then, did this man get all these things? (**Matthew 13:56**)
- So they began to stumble at him. But Jesus said to them; A prophet is not unhonored except in his home territory and in his own house. (**Matthew 13:57**)
- And he did not do many powerful works there on account of their lack of faith. (**Matthew 13:58**)
- And he departed from there and came into his home territory, and his disciples followed him. (**Mark 6:1**)
- When it became Sabbath, he started teaching in the synagogue, and the greater number of those listening were astounded and said; Where did this man get these things? And why should this wisdom have been given this man, and such powerful works be performed through his hands? (**Mark 6:2**)
- This is the carpenter the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, is it not? And his sisters are here with us, are they not? So they began to stumble at him. (**Mark 6:3**)
- But Jesus went on to say to them; A prophet is not unhonored except in his home territory and among his relatives and in his

own house. (**Mark 6:4**)

- So he was able to do no powerful work there except to lay his hands upon a few sickly ones and cure them. (**Mark 6:5**)
- Indeed, he wondered at their lack of faith. And he went round about to the villages in a circuit, teaching. (**Mark 6:6**)
- Though some have thought this to be the same occasion as in
- And he came to **Nazareth**, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)
- So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written: (**Luke 4:17**)
- Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release. (**Luke 4:18**)
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- For instance, I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, so that a great famine fell upon all the land. (Luke 4:25)
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- And they rose up and hurried him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built, in order to throw him down headlong. (Luke 4:29)
- But he went through the midst of them and continued on his way. (Luke 4:30)
- The order of events in Matthew, Mark, and Luke indicates otherwise, as does the fact that Jesus activities and the results were somewhat different.
- His fame may have grown by this time so that a somewhat more hospitable reception was granted him. Though many stumbled over the fact that he was a local man, there is no mention of the peoples trying to kill him this time.
- He performed some powerful works, but not many, because of the peoples lack of faith.
- So they began to stumble at him. But Jesus said to them; A prophet is not unhonored except in his home territory and in his own house. (Matthew 13:57)
- And he did not do many powerful works there on account of their lack of faith. (Matthew 13:58)
- Jesus then left and began his third circuit of Galilee.
- Indeed, he wondered at their lack of faith. And he went round

about to the villages in a circuit, teaching. (**Mark 6:6**)