

FEELS LIKE

J  Y



Joy On The Journey





Holiday Stress

NGS There are currently 2 active closings or delays

More than 5,000 Friday flight cancellations disrupt holiday travel

LIFESTYLE | Published December 22, 2022 7:16am EST

113 million Americans expected to travel this holiday season as blizzard wreaks havoc

Not only will we see an increase in the number of people driving and flying this year, but the FOX Forecast Center is tracking a Christmas week blizzard that is having a major impact on holiday travelers.

LIVE Updates 3m ago How Much Snow Will You Get? White Christmas Forecast Travel Havoc

What to Know if the Winter Storm Wreaks Havoc on Your Holiday Travel

Forecasters say a “bomb cyclone” will tear through much of the U.S. this week and that travelers could face cold, snow and rain. What can you do if your plans are disrupted?

Strategies for getting where you want to go for the holidays

Forrest Brown and Marnie Hunter, CNN • Updated 22nd December 2022

Holiday Travel

Holiday Travel

During the holidays, many people travel

Some travel a short distance

Some travel a long distance

Some travel voluntarily

Some travel because it is required (by the job or the government)

For all, travel is a hassle

Expensive

Time-consuming

Requires planning



Joy On The Journey

The First Christmas



Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18



And Joseph her husband, being
a righteous man and not
wanting to disgrace her, planned
to send her away secretly.

Matthew 1:19



But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus [Yeshua], for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20-21



Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet [Isaiah 7:14]: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:22-23

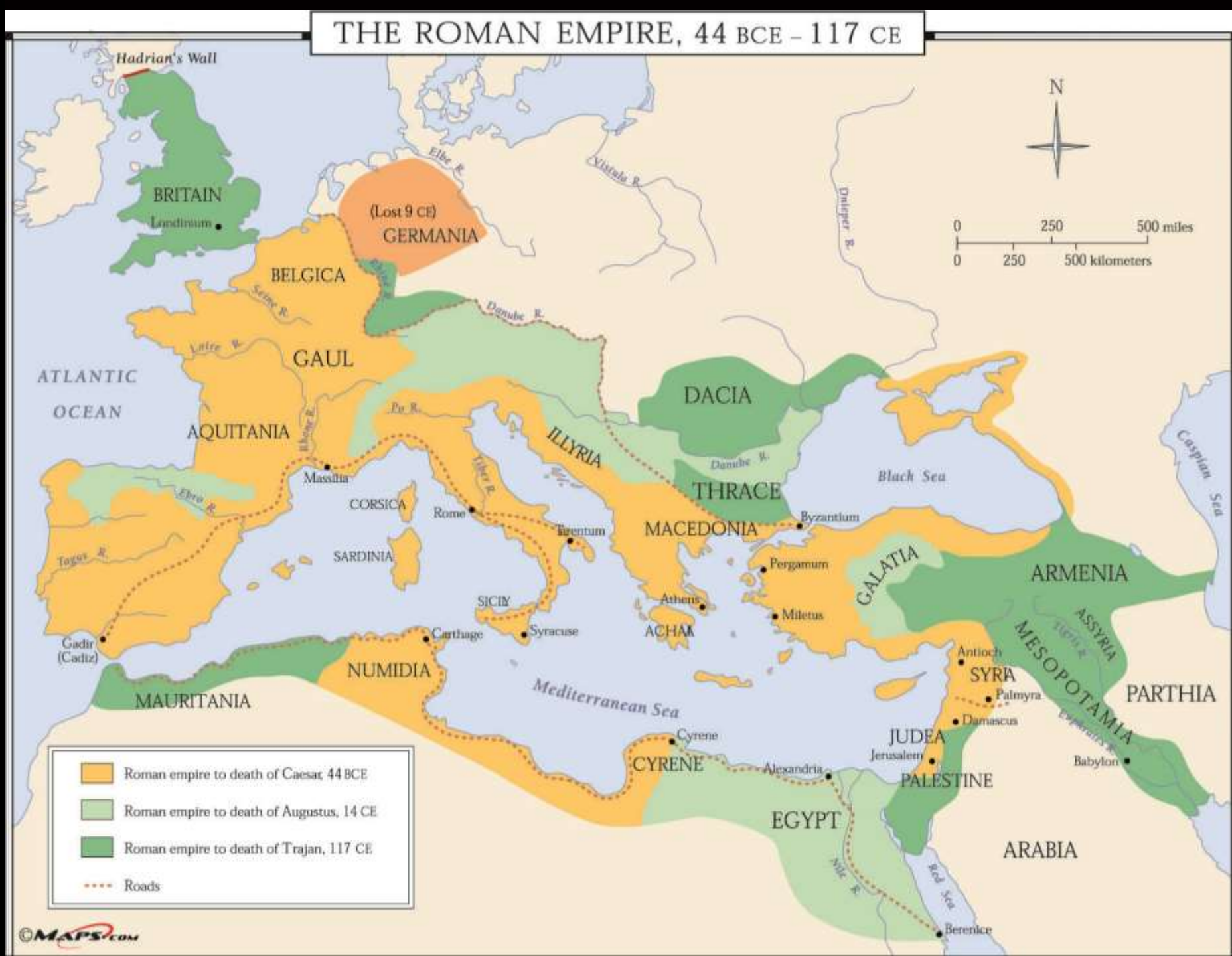


And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus (Yeshua).

Matthew 1:24-25



Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
Luke 2:1

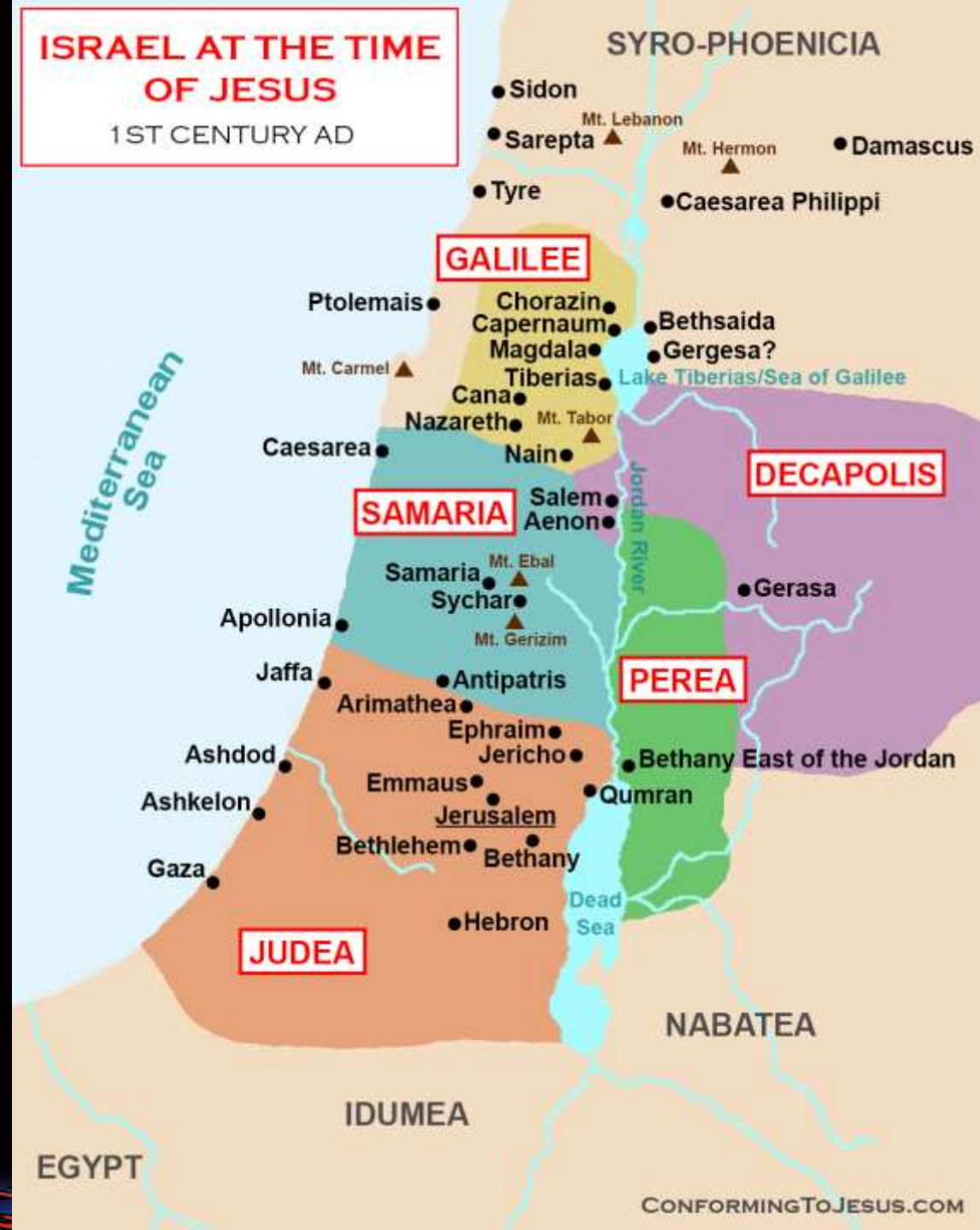


This was the
first census
taken while
Quirinius was
governor of
Syria.
Luke 2:2



And everyone was
on his way to
register for the
census, each to his
own city. Luke 2:3

*Lots of travel in this story



Joseph also **went up from Galilee**, from the city of Nazareth, **to Judea**, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

Luke 2:4-5



While they [Joseph and Mary] were there [in Bethlehem], the days were completed for her to give birth. And she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7



In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8



And an angel of
the Lord suddenly
stood before
them, and the
glory of the Lord
shone around
them; and they
were terribly
frightened.
Luke 2:9



But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid;
for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which will be for all the people; for today in
the city of David [Bethlehem] there has been
born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:10-11



“This will be a
sign for you:
you will find a
baby wrapped
in cloths and
lying in a
manger
[feeding
trough].”
Luke 2:12



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And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:13-14



When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “**Let us go straight to Bethlehem** then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2:15



Ancient Bethlehem



So they [the shepherds] came in a hurry and found [after a search] their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. Luke 2:16



When they had seen this, they [the shepherds] made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. Luke 2:17-19



The shepherds went back, glorifying and
praising God for all that they had heard and
seen, just as
had been
told them.
Luke 2:20



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, **magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,**

saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For **we** saw His star in the east and **have come** to worship Him.”
Matthew 2:1-2



When Herod the king [of Judea] heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:3



King
Herod's
Palace



Gathering together all the [Jewish] chief priests and scribes of the people, he [King Herod] inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet [Micah 5:2] : 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Matthew 2:4-6



Then Herod secretly called the magi and
determined from them the exact time the star
appeared.

Matthew 2:7



And **he** [King Herod] **sent them** [magi] **to Bethlehem** and said, “**Go** and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

Matthew 2:8



After hearing the king, **they went their way**; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place [in Bethlehem] where the Child was. When they saw the star, they [magi] rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Matthew 2:9-10





After **coming into the house** they [the magi] saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11

And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, **the magi left** for their own country **by another way.** Matthew 2:12



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Shepherds

Joseph and Mary, Magi

Shepherds, Magi

Joseph and Mary

Every person is on their own spiritual journey



Joy On The Journey

There was lots of **travel** in the
First Easter story also



- After singing a hymn, they [Jesus and His disciples in the Upper Room] **went out to the Mount of Olives.** Matthew 26:30
- Then **Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane,** and said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” Matthew 26:36
- And **He went a little beyond them,** and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:39
- **Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas,** the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together.
Matthew 26:57
- Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; and **they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate** the governor. Matthew 27:1-2

- Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. Matthew 27:27-28
- After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. Matthew 27:31
- And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. Matthew 27:33-35

- In the Christmas story, many different people **travel** to Bethlehem to meet Jesus, the newborn King
- In the Easter story, Jesus humbly **travels** to a cross in Jerusalem to become the sacrificial Lamb of God

Every **journey was planned by the Heavenly Father to provide for us the way of salvation**



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Joseph and Mary, Magi

Shepherds, Magi

Joseph and Mary

Some travel because we need a Savior **Jesus of Nazareth**



Heavenly **Travel** is behind the Christmas story

But when the fullness of the time came,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born
under the Law, so that He might redeem those
who were under the Law, that we might
receive the adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5



This Christmas
(and this Easter),

Will my journey lead
me to King Jesus?



Candle lighting





Join us tomorrow morning for

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 AM & 10:15 AM