

Nazareth

Name may have come from word for watchtower or guard place

- Hebrew: Natzrat
- Aramaic: Naṣrath
- Arabic: an-Nāṣira

2017 population: 76,551 – 69% Muslim, 30.9% Christian

- Considered the “Arab capital of Israel”

No mention of Nazareth in the Old Testament

No connection to any prophecy

Possible that settlement was there well before time of Christ, but may have “disappeared” during the period that the Assyrians destroyed many towns in the area (circa 720 BC)

Population estimates during time of Jesus vary. May have been no more than 400.

Off the beaten path?

How did Joseph end up there?

The annunciation

Jesus of Nazareth (the Jewish name of Jesus was quite common)

Nazarenes



Nathanael / Bartholomew

In the lists of the 12 in the Synoptic Gospels & Acts as Bartholomew

In John, he is called Nathanael (God has given)

Bartholomew = son of Tolmai... Nathanael Bar-Tolmai

Not everyone agrees that this is the same person

John 1:43-51 (p. 1647)

John 21:1-3 (p. 1687)

What might we glean from these passages?

- Religious
- From Cana (site of the turning water into wine)
- Friend of Philip

Someone from Charlotte: Can anything good come out of Gastonia?

Someone from Gastonia: Can anything good come out of Bessemer City?

What did his comments about Nazareth mean? Was it prejudice?

City of David

Micah 5:2 (p. 1445)

A true Israelite! What did Jesus know?

- True Israelite? Does that refer to blood lines from Abraham?
- “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” – NSRV
- What does he mean by no deceit?

Nathanael’s response to Jesus? What was on his mind?

Did you believe just because I said I saw you under the fig tree? What about us today?

Post-resurrection traditions

- Apostle to: India, or Persia, or Ethiopia, or Armenia?
- Death traditions:
 1. Kidnapped, tied in a sack and cast in the sea to drown
 2. Crucified (upside down)
 3. Skinned alive (he is often associated with flaying knives symbol)