

Christmas #1  
WHERE DID JESUS COME FROM?  
NAZARETH

When we are creating a resume' or filling out an application it is important historical information to state where you are from. They will ask for present addresses and previous addresses. If we are attempting to become acquainted with someone one of the first questions we ask is, "Where are you from?"

If we can learn where a person is from it helps us to understand something about their culture, identity, and etc.

So in this Christmas season let's apply this question to Jesus.

"Jesus, where did you come from?"

Since we are not yet at Christmas we shall begin answering this question in reverse order.

Luke 1<sup>26</sup> And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,<sup>27</sup> To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. Matt. 2<sup>23</sup> And he came and **dwelt in a city called Nazareth**: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a **Nazarene**.

If we can learn about Nazareth we can learn much insight to the Savior.

## **I. The Shame of Nazareth**

**A. Many Roman soldiers lived there, and because of that, others looked down upon Nazarenes as being compromisers and those who consorted with Gentiles and enemies of the Jews.**

**B. Nazareth was a conquered city despised by Rome, despised by the Jewish nation, despised by all.**

**C. To be called a Nazarene was often considered an insult.**

John 1:45-46, Philip came to Nathaniel and said, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote; Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." **Nathaniel asked smugly, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"** Philip said, "Come and see."

**D. The inscription above Jesus head on the cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews."**

Not only do we have the shame of Nazareth, but we also have the sin of Nazareth.

**II. The Sin of Nazareth**

**A. They was offended by him.**

Matthew 13:53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. 54. And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55. "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56. "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" 57. So **they were offended at Him.**

Luke 4:16 **So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up.** And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19. to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." 20. Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." 22. So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" 23. And He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.' " 24. Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **no prophet is accepted in his own country.** 25. "But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine

throughout all the land; 26. "but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27. "And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28. **Then all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29. and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.**

### **B. They rejected Him.**

They rejected him for three reasons...

\* They rejected Jesus because **the people did not understand the source of His wisdom and power.**

1. Jesus lacked proper credentials and education
2. Jesus was from humble beginnings, his father a carpenter; his mother a housewife.

\* They rejected Jesus **because of whom he claimed to be, the Messiah.**

1. They could not imagine that someone from their own house – someone they knew and had known from child – could be the Messiah, the Son of God.
2. They could not imagine that someone who had lived among them could be making the claims that He was making. A man who ate, drank, worked, and slept among them had no right to speak and make such claims.

\* They rejected Jesus **because the people did not believe Him.**

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." 58. And He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own country, and among his own people!" 58. And so he did only a few great miracles there, because of their unbelief.

**The folks in Nazareth knew Him as the son of Mary but rejected Him as the Son of God.**

Are you responding to Jesus the like Nazareth did?  
Christ has come – but you have rejected Him  
Christ offers life – but you refuse it  
Christ brings healing – but you remain sick  
Christ brings sight – but you remain blind  
Christ brings deliverance – but you remain bound  
Christ brings freedom – but you remain bound

John 1:10. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

He fulfills the scripture.... *despised and rejected of men (Isa. 53:2, 3)*  
Not only do we have the shame of Nazareth, the sin of Nazareth, but also see the Savior of Nazareth.

### **III. The Savior of Nazareth**

Nazareth was known by the prophets: Dr. Lightfoot observes that...

**Jonah** was by birth a Galilean

**Elijah and Elisha** very much conversant in Galilee, who were all famous *prophets of the Gentiles.*

**Isaiah 11**<sup>1</sup> And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his roots: **KJV**

**The word Branch there is *Netzar*, which signifies either a *branch*, or the *city of Nazareth***; thus he is declaring that the Messiah would be from the city of Nazareth!

Nazareth was the place where Emmanuel, which being interpreted God with us was brought up as a child.

Nazareth was the place where the Son of Man was humble as the son of Mary until he was older.

Nazareth was the place where Jesus the man revealed humanity in the flesh,

while at the same time Jesus the God revealing deity by the Spirit.

**Phillip Schaff** said of Jesus "This Jesus of Nazareth without money and arms conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon.

Without science and learning He shed more light on matters human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined.

Without the eloquence of schools He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects that lie beyond the reach of orator or poet.

Without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion and furnished more themes for more sermons, oration, discussion, learned volumes, works of art and songs of praise in the whole army of great men of ancient or modern times." **Why? Because of the power of God.**

## CONCLUSION

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.  
Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

He is Jesus

This is the Savior. Recognize His Salvation in your life. Receive Him into your life ...Because **Salvation is a person**...Jesus.

Jesus Christ our Lord

Jesus Christ our Saviour

Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus (of Nazareth), King of the Jews

Jesus, the Son of God

Jesus, the Son of Joseph

He is the " King"

As your King, He is your Sovereign, He is your protection, He is your chosen Leader, He is your King who we fall before in obedience.

King of Israel

King of the Jews

King of Saint

King of Kings

King of Glory

King of Zion

King over all the earth

He is the Lamb: Our Sacrifice..

Jesus the Shepherd became the lamb, the child became the sacrifice for the Mother, He died so that we may live...He is Jesus...

Lamb of God

Lawgiver

Leader

Life

Light

Lord of Lords

Lord our Righteousness

That's our invitation to you today, "Come and see." Come and see for yourself that Jesus is the King of kings who still lives today!

Come and see for yourself that He can forgive your sin and give you peace, hope and love. Come and see that He can take your old life and give you a new one in its place.

Come and see that the One called the Nazarene is more important than any other person, fact, or event in history. He still changes lives today!

