

Site: Bethlehem

Scripture References:

Matthew 2; Luke 2

Historical Significance:

- 6.2 miles south of Jerusalem, a city in central West Bank, Palestine
- Biblical birthplace of Jesus
- Major Christian pilgrimage destination
- His birth is marked by an inlaid silver star in a grotto under the 6th Century Church of the Nativity
- Israeli law forbids Israeli citizens to enter unless they receive approval from the Israeli Civil Administration, But tourists are free to enter and exit the checkpoint to Bethlehem and back to Jerusalem as many times as they would like without any restrictions

Things to look for:

- Inlaid silver star

What does this site teach us about God?

- Bethlehem means that God does not bestow the blessing of salvation on the basis of our merit or our achievement. He does not elect cities or people because of their prominence of grandeur or distinction.