

Luke 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

Analysis

Joseph going 'from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem' emphasizes the geographic movement necessary to fulfill prophecy. The phrase 'because he was of the house and lineage of David' explains both why Joseph went to Bethlehem and Jesus's legal right to David's throne. That Jesus's adoptive father descends from David establishes messianic credentials through legal lineage, while Matthew's genealogy traces Mary's biological descent. God's providence arranged that both Mary's biological and Joseph's legal lines descend from David. The approximately 80-mile journey, difficult for pregnant Mary, demonstrates obedience to governmental authority and divine providence.

Historical Context

Bethlehem, David's birthplace, was the prophesied location of Messiah's birth (Micah 5:2). Joseph and Mary's residence in Nazareth seemed to conflict with prophecy, yet God used Roman census to bring them to Bethlehem at precisely the right time. This demonstrates God's meticulous orchestration of history.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God use circumstances to position people where they need to be?
2. Why is Jesus's connection to David through both legal and biological lines significant?
3. What does Joseph's obedience to difficult governmental requirements teach about submission to authority?

Interlinear Text

Ἄνεβη δὲ καὶ Ἰωσὴφ ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ἐξ πόλιν
went up And also Joseph from G3588 Galilee of the city
G305 G1161 G2532 G2501 G575 G1056 G1537 G4172

Ναζαρὲτ εἰς τὴν Ἰουδαίαν εἰς πόλιν Δαβὶδ, ἣτις
of Nazareth into G3588 Judaea into the city of David which
G3478 G1519 G2449 G1519 G4172 G1138 G3748

καλεῖται Βηθλέεμ διὰ τὸ εῖναι αὐτὸν ἐξ οἴκου
is called Bethlehem (because G3588 he was G846 of the house
G2564 G965 G1223 G1511 G1537 G3624

καὶ πατριᾶς Δαβὶδ,
also lineage of David
G2532 G3965 G1138

Additional Cross-References

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

John 7:42 (References David): Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

1 Samuel 16:1 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

Matthew 2:23 (Parallel theme): 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.

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