



Overview

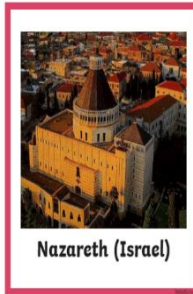
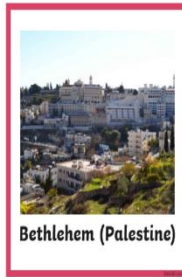
Christianity is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's largest religion with about 2.4 billion followers.

Christians (like Jews and Muslims) believe in one God, who created the world and all that is in it.

Christians believe in the teaching of Jesus Christ, who was a middle-eastern preacher and healer who lived around 2,000 years ago.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ was sent down to earth to serve people.

The holy book in Christianity is called the Bible. A church is a building designed for Christian worship.



Key vocabulary and spellings

Bethlehem – the Christian holy city. It is the place where Jesus was born.

Bible – the holy book for Christians.
Caesar Augustus – the first emperor of Rome when Jesus was born. He issued an order that a census should be taken of the entire Roman World.

Census – an official count or survey, especially of a population. A census counts the number of people in a country, city or town.

Journey – travelling from one place to another

Messenger – a person who carries a message.
Christians believe that the angels were sent to send a message to the shepherds of Jesus' birth.

Nativity – Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The word Nativity comes from the latin word 'natal' meaning birth. The Nativity story shows the birth of Jesus and the journey undertaken by Mary and Joseph.

Nazareth – a town in Northern Israel. It is where Jesus grew up.

Pilgrimage – a sacred journey, undertaken for spiritual purposes. Pilgrims are different from tourists, they travel for spiritual reasons not just to relax or have fun.

Mary and Joseph

Mary and Joseph are the parents of baby Jesus, who must travel to Bethlehem to complete a census, as ordered by Caesar Augustus. When they arrive, they are told there is no room at any of the inns but they are given a stable to stay in. Whilst they were in Bethlehem, Jesus was born.

Journeys: Christianity



The Journey

There are two different stories about the birth of Jesus told in the Bible. These are the tales of Luke and Matthew. Luke tells the story of the journey to Bethlehem as Caesar Augustus had called for a census to be taken. Luke's story describes the angels visiting a flock of shepherds with a message about the birth of baby Jesus. Matthew's story describes the tale of King Herod and the Wise Men.



The Wise Men

In the Bible, the story of Jesus' birth does not talk about the three kings but instead refers to them as Wise Men.

The Wise Men talk to King Herod about the birth of Jesus and ask where they can find him. King Herod was frightened by this and ordered a meeting to find out where Jesus was due to be born. Matthew's story of the birth of Jesus explains that King Herod told the Wise Men to send a message to him once they had found the baby so he could go and pay his respects to the son of God. The Wise Men followed the star and arrived at the stable where Mary was holding Jesus. They gave them gifts of Frankincense, Myrrh and Gold. Once they left, they did not return to tell King Herod where to find baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-12).



Israel