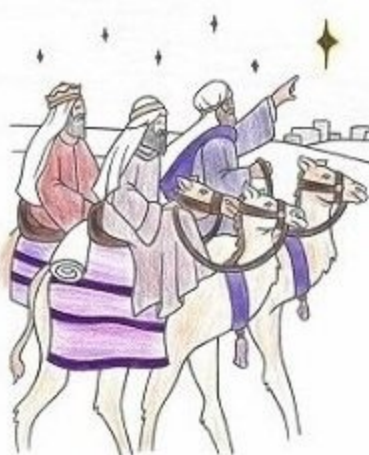


The Nativity of Jesus



The Holy Land
In Jesus' Time

SYRIA

Galilee

Caesarea Philippi

MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

Capernaum

Bethsaida

Cana

Magdala

Tiberias

SEA OF GALILEE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Nazareth X

Samaria

Samaria

JORDAN RIVER

Ephraim

Judea

Jericho

Jerusalem

MOUNT OLIVET

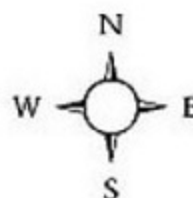
Bethany

Bethlehem X

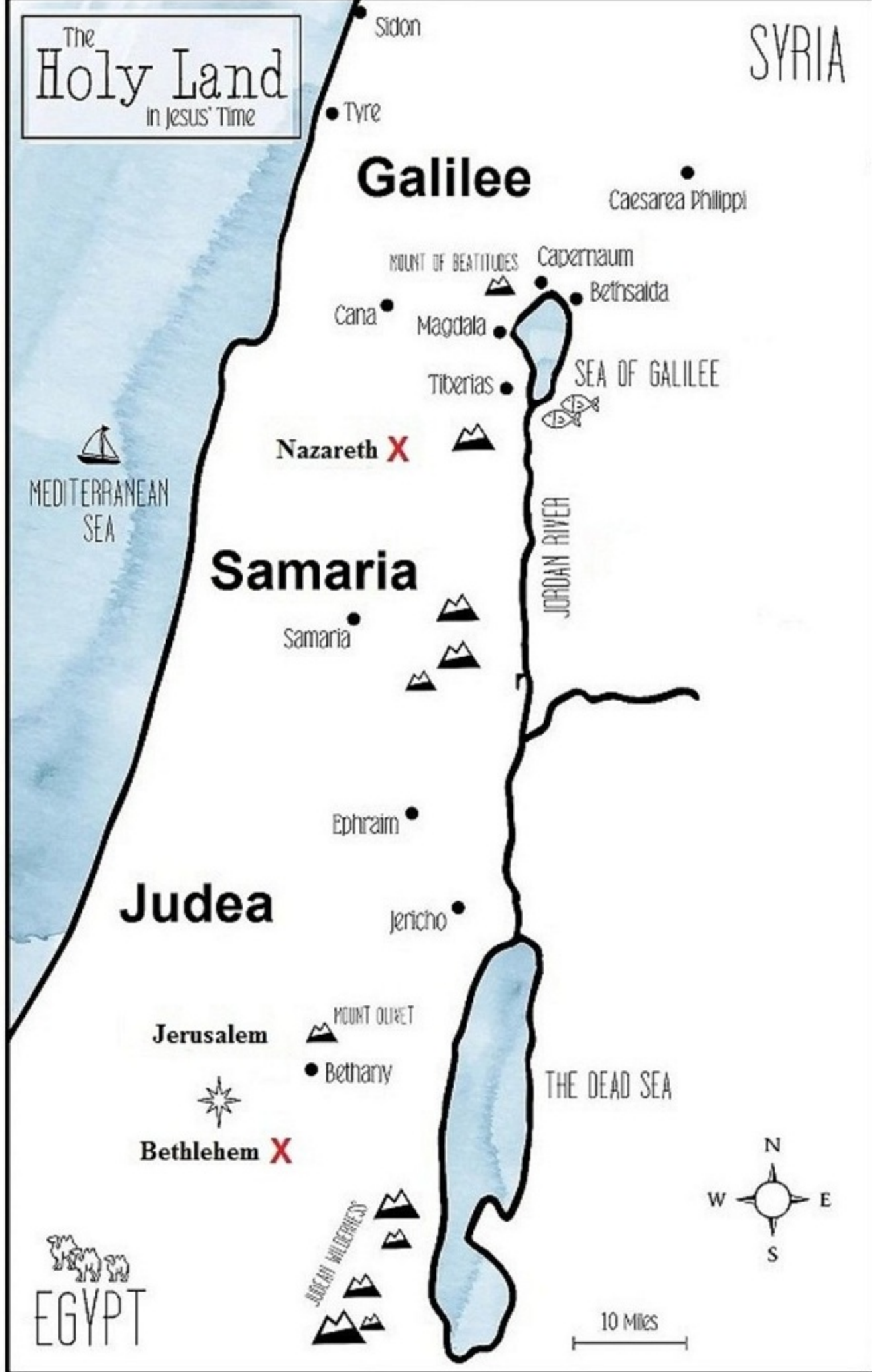
THE DEAD SEA

EGYPT

JORDAN WILDERNESS



10 Miles

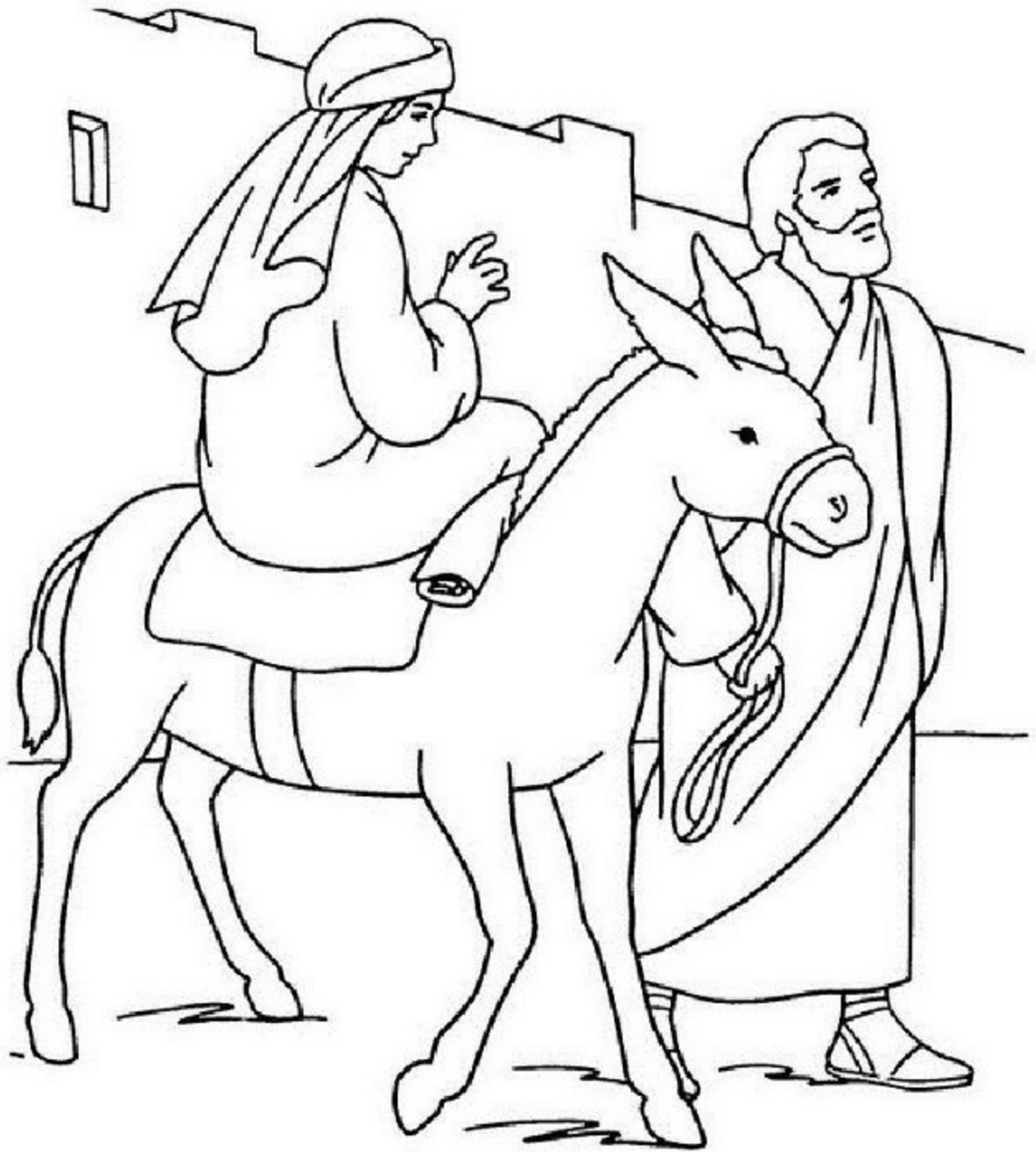




The archangel Gabriel told Mary, "You will conceive and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. His kingdom will have no end." Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be according to the Lord God."



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child within her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he is the one who will save his people from their sins."



The emperor ordered that there was to be a census of all people in the Roman empire. Every person had to go to his hometown for the census. Bethlehem was Joseph's hometown. Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That is 90 miles. Mary rode on a donkey, and Jesus was inside Mary's womb.



When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem, there was no room in any inn. The only place they found to stay was a stable, inside a cave. It was a place where animals were kept. Mary gave birth and placed the newborn baby Jesus in a manger. A manger is a box used to hold dry food for cows and horses and sheep.



That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby, watching their sheep. An angel appeared to the shepherds. The shepherds were afraid. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. Today in the town of Bethlehem, a Saviour has been born. He is the Messiah, the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

The angel left, and the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.



The shepherds quickly went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the babe lying in the manger. The shepherds told what the angel had told them about the baby. All were amazed at what the shepherds said. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard.



Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to a temple in Jerusalem, to present Jesus to the Lord. They offered as a sacrifice a pair of turtledoves.



Sometime later, Wise Men came from the east to Jerusalem. They were guided by a star. They followed the star in search of the Christ Child. They followed the star until it stopped over a place where the child was.



They entered the house and saw the child with Mary.
They fell to their knees and worshiped him.
They gave the babe gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.