

# Nazareth

Nazareth was a small village overlooking the Jezreel Valley from the hills on the north side. The name Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word *netzer* for 'branch' or 'shoot.' Archaeology has revealed the Nazareth was settled in the bronze age around 1000 BC. It is never mentioned in the OT.



Nazareth was the crusader capital of Galilee in the 1100-1200's. It fell to the Muslims in 1263 when the Mameluk's Sultan Baybars took Nazareth. Pillars from the crusaders cathedral can be seen in the Museum of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Today Nazareth is a very busy, crowded city.

## Things to See:

- Basilica of the Annunciation – traditionally part of the house of Mary's family where the angel appeared to her. It is erected over an early Jewish church used before 325. The Byzantines built a shrine over this early church. Excavation show this Byzantine church was built in 427 AD.
- Elaborately Carved Pillars from the Crusaders cathedral are in the Museum of the Basilica of the Annunciation.
- Remains of homes of ancient Nazareth.

**In the Bible:** **Lk.1:26**, Gabriel appears to Mary; **Lk.2:1-7**, Joseph and Mary leave Nazareth for Bethlehem; **Mt.2:21-23**, Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth from Egypt with Jesus; **Lk2:41-52**, Jesus grows up in Nazareth; **Lk.4:16-30**, Jesus preaches his first recorded sermon in Nazareth and makes the crowd angry and they try to kill him by throwing Jesus down over a side of a steep cliff; **Mk.6:1-6**, Jesus performs only a few miracles in Nazareth because of the people's unbelief.