

# The Journey Begins

Joseph, with his heavily pregnant wife, begins the long journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth. The Roman Emperor Augustus has called a census, and Joseph is required to register with his wife in the city of his ancestors, the little city of Bethlehem of Judea.

With the city full of fellow citizens being registered, no room can be found for the couple. Joseph and Mary take shelter in a stable, as there was no room in the inn. Here, Mary gave birth to her first son, and they called his name Jesus.

## **God Promises a Ruler from Bethlehem Micah 5: 2,4**

<sup>2</sup>The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times."

<sup>4</sup>When he comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the Lord and with the majesty of the Lord God himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness.

## **The Journey to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1-7**

2 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup>When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, <sup>6</sup> and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.