

Notes

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Day Service Nov 25

ICA SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am & 10:45 am
Sunday School @ 09:30 am

INDIA CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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WELCOME TO ICA SUNDAY SERVICE

November 12, 2017



WEEKLY ICA VOICE

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER @ 07:30 PM AT ICA
FRIDAY - FASTING AND PRAYER @ 10:30 AM AT ICA
SATURDAY, LADIES MEETING @ 5 PM AT ICA
SATURDAY NIGHT PRAYER @ 07:00 PM AT ICA

Ushers: Raji Mathew & Jolly Pathalil

CHURCH HOME TEAM IN CHARGE THIS WEEK :
Saji Pathalil & Family

WEEK OF 11/19/2017
Thomas K. Kurian & Family

THE CITY OF NAZARETH

Rev. Dr. Wilson Varkey

A. Introduction

Nazareth, one of the famous cities in Galilee, has been the hometown of Jesus according to the Gospels (Mk 1:9; Matt. 2:23; 21:11; Lk. 1:26, 2:4; Jn. 1:45-46). This small town is situated about 20 miles east of the Mediterranean and 15 miles west of Lake Gennesareth, less than 5 miles west of Mt. Tabor, which is the highest point in southern Galilee. Nazareth probably gained its Hebrew name as a lookout or watchtower for the defense of Galilee because it is built on the southeastern slope of a ridge 1300 feet above sea level, with a commanding view of the broad valley of Jezreel to the south. This city is also known as the "Arab capital of Israel." Being the childhood home of Jesus, today Nazareth is a famous center of Christian pilgrimage.

B. The History of Ancient Nazareth

Archaeological research suggests that in Jesus' day, only 120-150 people lived in Nazareth. That is a typical village setting and everyone knew everyone else there. Perhaps these inhabitants in the village were relatives in the sense that they were several extended families or clans. The reason for the small number of population in the village is because the people of Nazareth were essentially farmers. Therefore, they needed space between the houses for livestock and their enclosures, as well as land for plants and orchards. The people were physically robust, strong-minded, practical, respectful of traditions and loyal to family.

In fact, people around Nazareth had very contemptuous perspective about Nazareth. But those who know the prophecy of Isaiah would think differently. Isaiah prophesied about 600 years ago that the Messiah would come from Nazareth. This prophecy was spoken even before the village existed. Isaiah prophesied that "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit" Isaiah 11:1. The word "branch" in Hebrew is *netzer*, the same root word from which the name "Nazareth" comes. Some historians have suggested that Nazareth was named as "the town of the branch," meaning "the place where the Branch of David lives." The gospel of Matthew connects the prophecy of Isaiah with Nazareth by

writing "and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He shall be called a Nazarene'" Matt. 2:23.

There is a strong possibility that most of the Nazarenes were carrying royal blood. In 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the Jews exiled in Babylon can be returned to Judea, a process that continued for the next 400-500 years. Around 100 BC, one clan from the line of David returned to Israel and established the town of Nazareth.

Bible Reading Plan Week 42

Day	Bible Passage	Pray for
November 12, 2017	Mark 6-7	Poland
November 13, 2017	Mark 8-9	Portugal
November 14, 2017	Mark 10-11	Qatar
November 15, 2017	Mark 12-13	Romania
November 16, 2017	Mark 14	Russia
November 17, 2017	Mark 15-16	Rwanda
November 18, 2017	Luke 1-2	Saint Kitts and Nevis

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- HEALING
- FINANCIAL SECURITY
- MARRIAGE OF CHILDREN