

HOPE

HAS A

NAME



The First Christmas

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor [Roman consul] of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Luke 2:1-3

The First Christmas

Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. Luke 2:4-5

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Where does the first Christmas story take place?



Meet Mary of Nazareth

- *Greek name was Maria [Μαρία, Μαριάμ]
- *Hebrew name was Miryam [מִרְיָם]; named after the elder sister of Moses and Aaron
- *As a young teenager, she was betrothed (Hebrew *erusin* אֵירוּסִין) to Joseph
- *Like all Jewish people, she was waiting for the promised Messiah
- *She is described as a “virgin” in Luke 1:27
- *She is called “favored one” of the Lord in Luke 1:28
- *The angel Gabriel said “the Lord is with you” in Luke 1:28

Meet Joseph of Nazareth

- *He is betrothed to and later husband of Mary (Matthew 1:18)
- *He is called a “righteous man” in Matthew 1:19
- *He was by trade a carpenter or craftsman (Matthew 13:55)
- *Carpenter = τέκτων *tektōn* in New Testament Greek
Definition: a worker in wood, a carpenter, joiner, builder; a ship’s carpenter or builder; any craftsman, or stone workman

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The Gospels do not specify whether Mary and Joseph walked or used a donkey for transportation. The Protoevangelium of James, an apocryphal Gospel probably written about AD 145, says that Joseph used a donkey to bring Mary to Bethlehem.

Did Mary and Joseph know the Messianic Prophecies?

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. Micah 5:2

*written about 700 B.C.

Messiah Arrives

While they were there (in Bethlehem), the days were completed for her to give birth. And she (Mary) gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

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The manger most likely was made of stone, not wood. The manger was simply a feeding trough. Amazingly, this served as Jesus' first bed following His miraculous birth. Throughout Israel, stone feeding troughs have been discovered by the 100s. While we don't expect anything made of wood to be preserved, stone feeding troughs can be still seen at places like Megiddo and Bethlehem.



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In the 4th century AD, Emperor Constantine erected a basilica over a cave in Bethlehem believed to be Jesus' birthplace, and this basilica evolved into the present Church of the Nativity. – Harper's Bible Dictionary

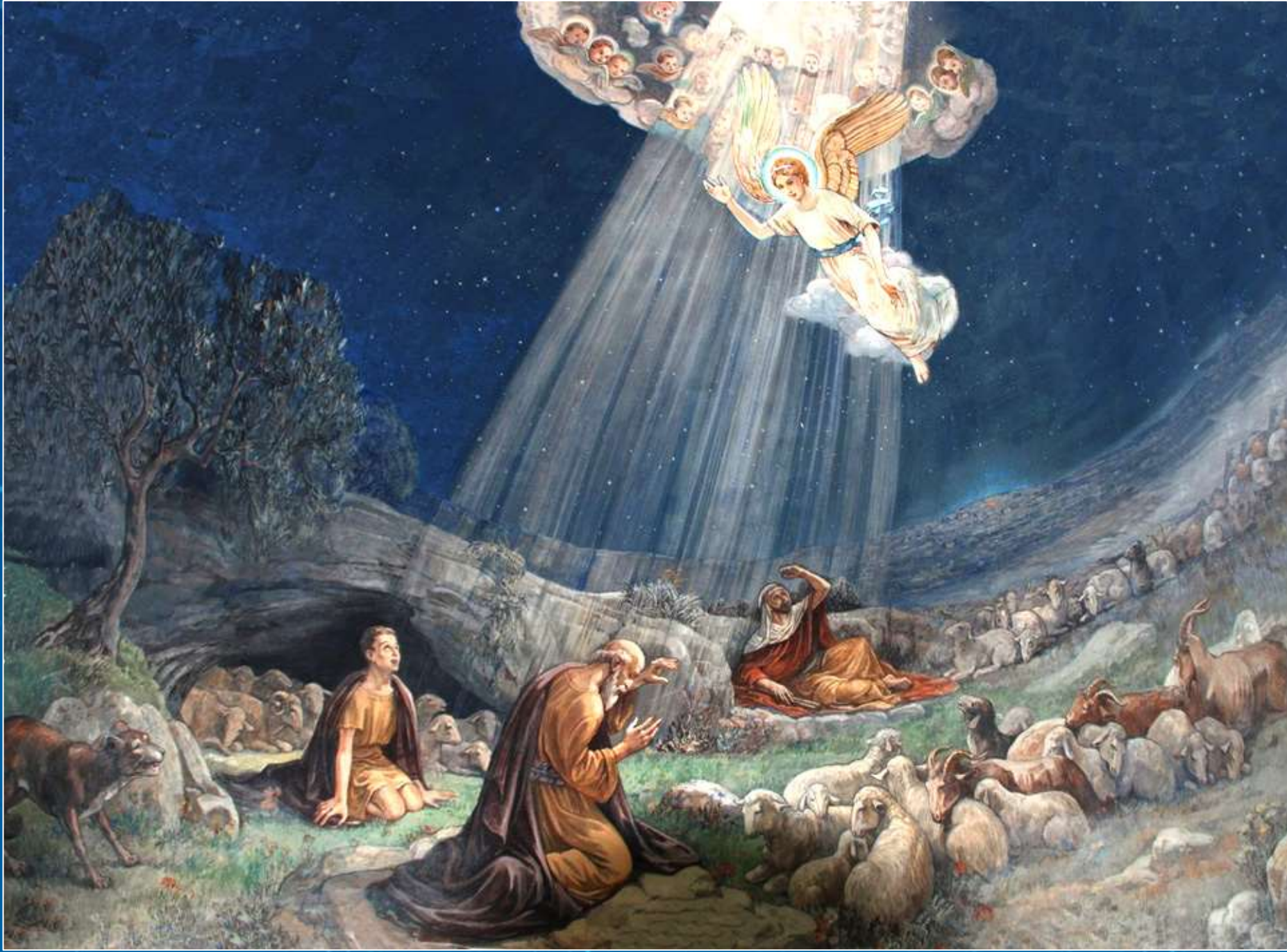


In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. Luke 2:8-9

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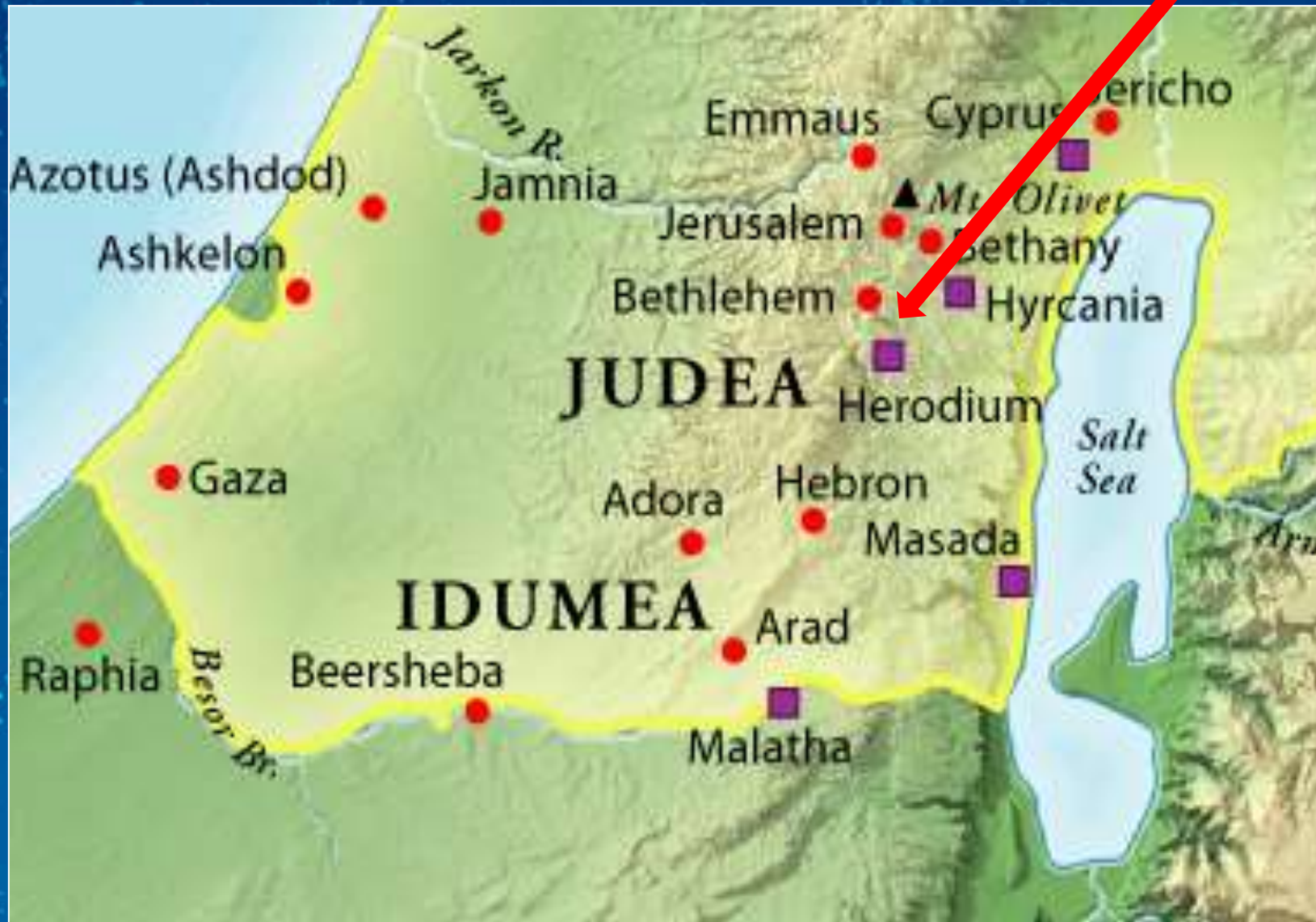
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Fields where shepherds watched their flocks were just outside the village of Bethlehem, to the southeast.

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Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem



But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;”

Luke 2:10

“for today in the city of David
there has been born for you a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

“This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
Luke 2:12-13

What do the angels say? What do we need this Christmas?

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

Luke 2:14 (NAS)

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to people He favors.”

Luke 2:14 (HCSB)

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. Luke 2:15-17

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And all who
heard it
wondered at
the things
which were
told them by
the shepherds.
Luke 2:18

But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. Luke 2:19-20

Last Sunday...

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Isaiah 9:6

Today...

“for today in the city of David
there has been born for you a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

- Savior

σωτήρ *soter*

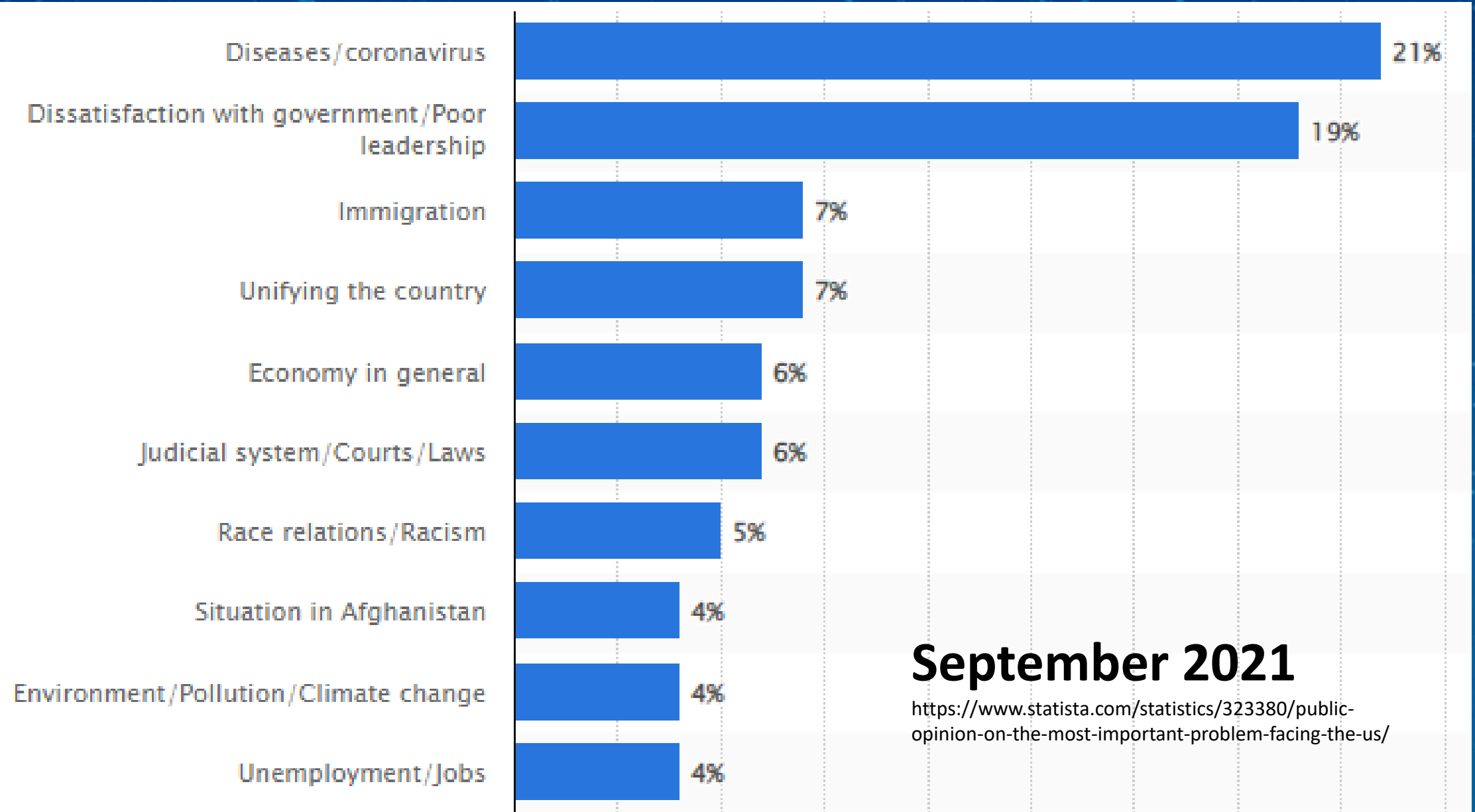
- Christ

Χριστός *Christos*

- Lord

κύριος *kurios*

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?



September 2021

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/323380/public-opinion-on-the-most-important-problem-facing-the-us/>

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

We have forgotten OR we have chosen to
ignore OR we were never taught

“for today in the city of David there
has been born for you a **Savior**, who
is **Christ the Lord**.” Luke 2:11

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

- A **Savior** to deliver us from this mess
- A **Christ** (a Messiah) who left heaven to come live among us on earth
- A **Lord** who has the wisdom to understand our problems and the power to overcome the darkness

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

Savior

This Christmas, we need someone who can exchange our troubled past for a peaceful future. We need a deliverer who knows the future because the present is so depressing. We need a light in the darkness.

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

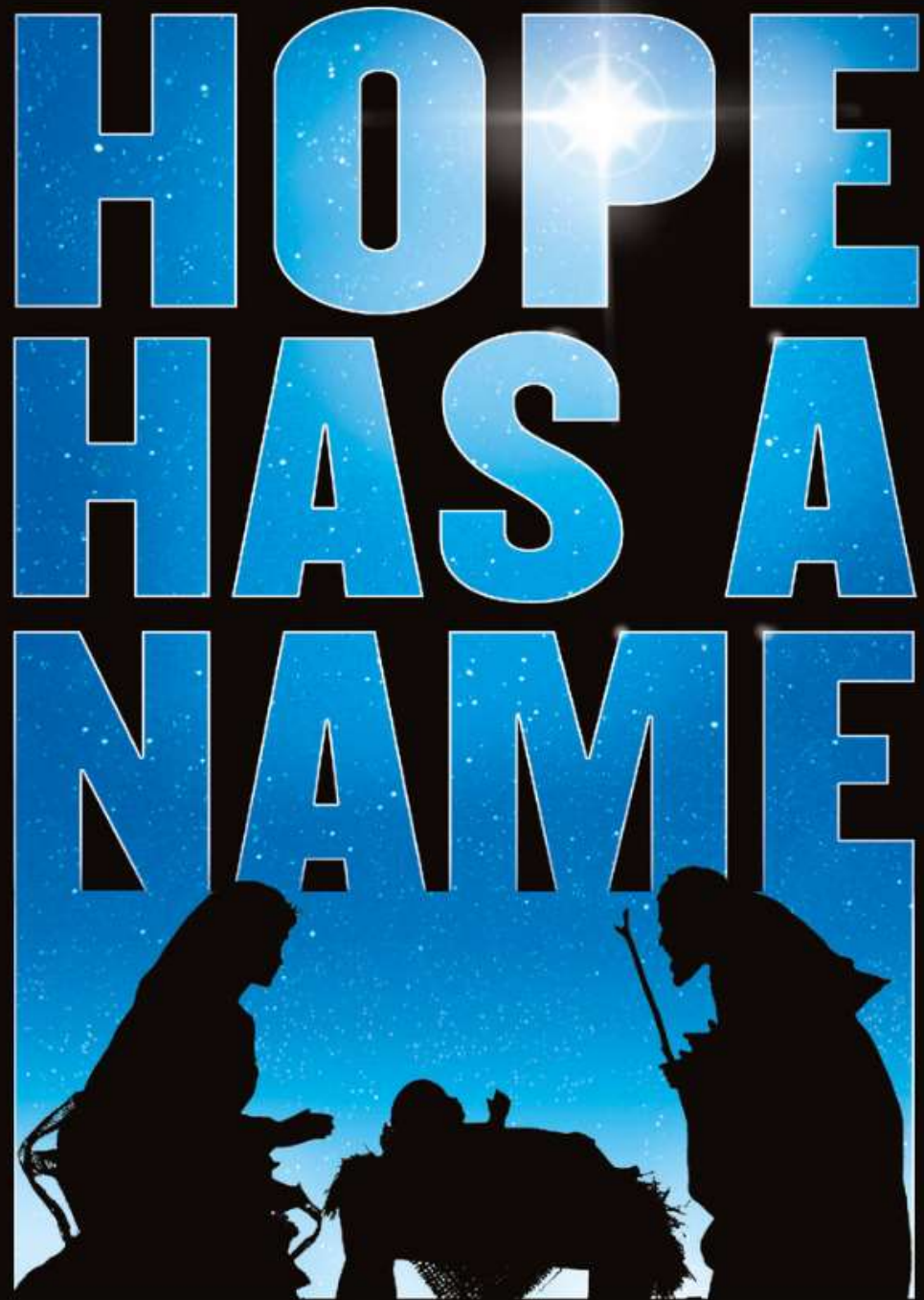
Christ

This Christmas, we long for access to the Creator God. We have been disappointed by so many leaders. By faith, we can receive an introduction to the God of the universe from the Anointed One.

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

Lord

This Christmas, as we hope to make better choices and wiser decisions, we look for a trustworthy guide on this spiritual journey. We realize that our decisions and the advice from other troubled people have led us to despair. We don't need a peer, we need the Lord.



If you need Hope, He has a name.
He is called Savior, Christ, Lord.

If you need Hope, He has a name.
His name in English is Jesus.
His name in Hebrew is Yeshua.

Do you know Him?
Do you know Hope?

“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

Our prayer for you this Christmas...

- Surrender to the **Savior**
- Become a true follower of **Christ**
- Make Jesus the **Lord** of your life