



Hismark

**WHEN “HISMARK” DOESN’T
TURN OUT AS EXPECTED**

Matthew 2



HALLMARK" VS "HISMARK"

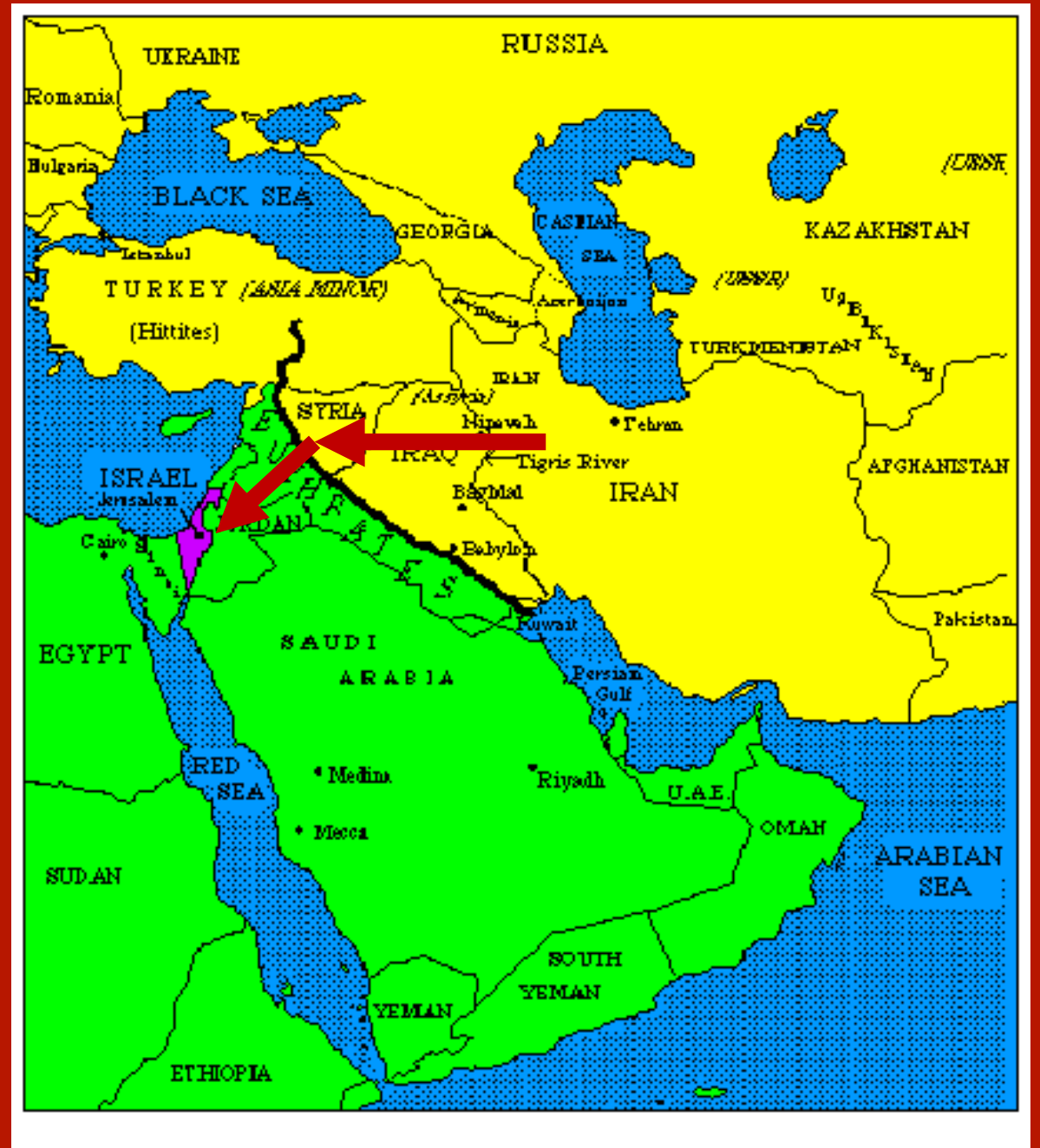
"Hallmark" version is the fictional imagination that we allow to become more than entertainment. The "Hallmark" version is "heavenly." Only problem-- this ain't heaven! Hallmark can become the expectation for a meaningful Christmas, whether in cards or movies, its the air-brushed, perfect, romance, version that can end up breeding disappointment. Hallmark kept as entertainment is not a bad thing. Its only when we make "Hallmark" the expectation for real life that is problematic.



“HISMARK” VS “HALLMARK”

- God decides my life story because his love and presence bring satisfaction and meaning. True and lasting satisfaction is found not in my circumstances (or even my love-connection) but in the living water and bread of life of Jesus Christ. When His “mark” is upon me, I have meaning and purpose even in the downturns of life. The Hallmark version may be heavenly – but Hismark is real, even in the valley of shadows.

Start point –
Iran (Persia) to
Jerusalem --
1,430 mi.





1. GOD SPEAKS TO BE KNOWN.

The evidence?

- A. Jesus. He has “explained” Him. John 1:14, 18.
- B. He “speaks” to us.
 - 6 “modes.”
- C. Chosen for each listener.



John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained *Him*.**





2. **WHEN GOD SPEAKS, HE
WILL OFTEN PUSH
AGAINST OUR “WALLS.”**

- Persians? 1400 miles away?





**3. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, HE
WE MUST JOIN HIM WHERE
HE IS WORKING.**



- A. A “star” appeared.
- B. God revealed the meaning.
- C. They acted.



4. GOD'S WORD IS LIKE A STEWARDSHIP AWAITING OUR PURSUIT.

1. Successive steps.
 - V1, 8, 9, 12.
2. Given personally, not to everyone.
3. Stewardship.
 - Gifts, burdens, passions, pain.





Hismark

**5. “HISMARK” WILL OFTEN
REQUIRE A “FIGHT” TO
ACCOMPLISH.**

1. Evil happens when God moves. 2:14, 16
2. His name is Immanuel, God with us.
3. God always has the last Word.

