



PROMISES FULFILLED



TURNING INTERRUPTIONS INTO
REVELATIONS
LUKE 2:8-20







The Holy Land

PALESTINE

ISRAEL

PALESTINE

JORDAN

Cana
Nazareth
Ramallah
Jericho
Jerusalem

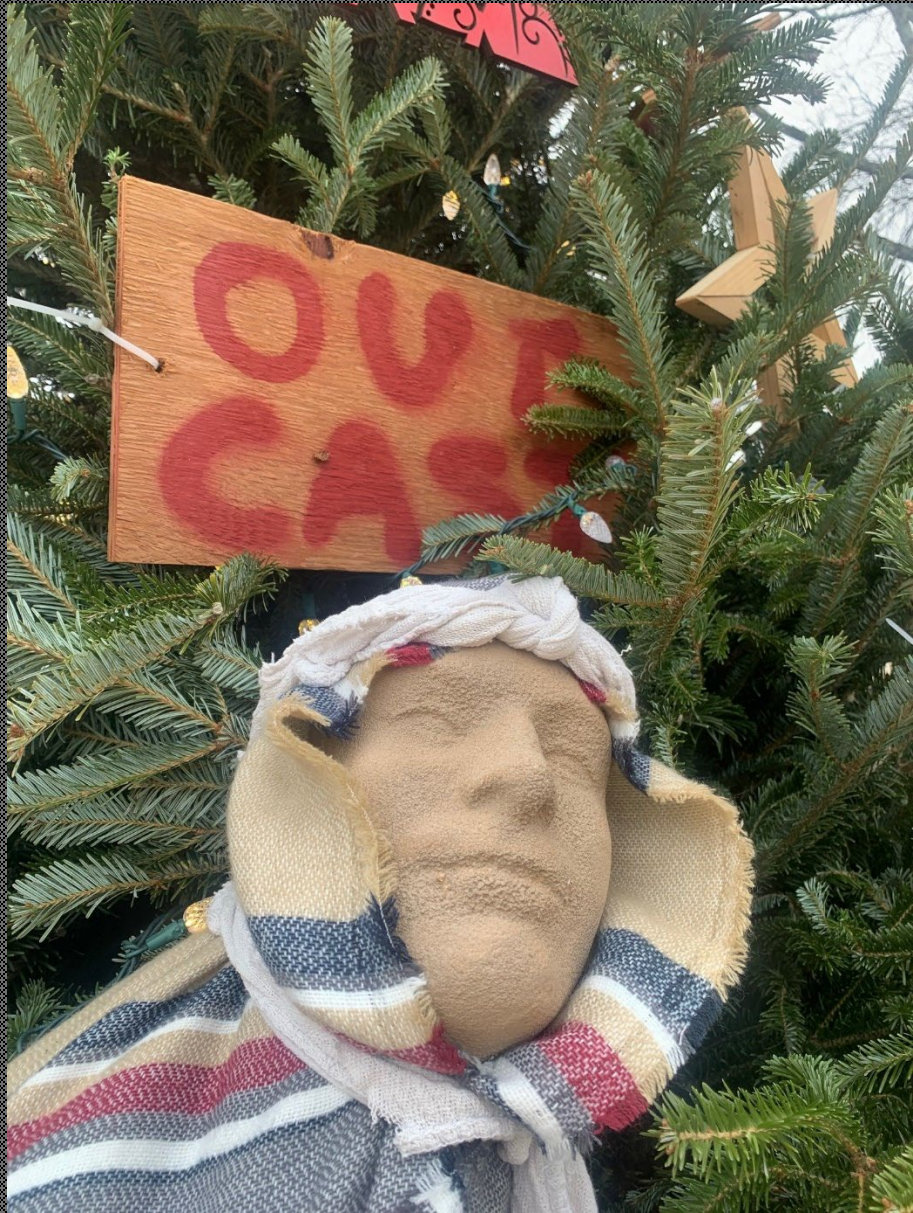
Bethlehem

Sea of Galilee

Jordan River

Dead Sea





“Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus,” by Joachim Jeremias (Fortress Press, 1969)



1. Laws of commerce.
 - Prohibited purchase of wool, milk or lambs.
2. Laws of worship.
 - Ritually “unclean” – “corpse uncleanness.”
3. Laws of testimony.
 - Could not testify in court.
 - “*Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus,*” by Joachim Jeremias (Fortress Press, 1969); p 305



1. HAS GOD BEEN SPEAKING TO YOU IN YOUR “NORMAL,” BUT YOU ARE TOO BUSY TO LISTEN?





- A. WHO IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THESE SHEEP? I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY JOB!
- B. I HAVE AN "ARRANGEMENT" W GOD; IT DOESN'T INCLUDE PUBLIC "WORSHIP."
- C. I NEED MY REST. I HAVE A HEADACHE FROM ALL THESE SHEEP.
- D. THEY MIGHT ASK ME TO "HOLD THE BABY." PLUS, I SMELL LIKE THESE SHEEP. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR THAT IS "CLEAN."
- E. I'M STILL UPSET W THE INNKEEPER FOR NOT SPEAKING TO ME THE LAST TIME I WAS IN TOWN.
- F. CHILD BORN FOR ME? WHAT'S THE CATCH? THERE IS NO "FREE LUNCH."





2. THE ANGELS INTERRUPTED THE SHEPHERDS' "NORMAL." HOW DO YOU DETERMINE IF AN INTERRUPTION IS OF GOD OR OF THE DARKNESS? HOW DO WE TURN LIFE'S "INTERRUPTIONS" INTO DIVINE REVELATIONS?





3. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE “UNLIKELY PRAISE” OF SHEPHERDS IF JESUS IS NOT FOR REAL? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN “UNLIKELY PRAISE” TODAY IF JESUS IS NOT WORTH FINDING?





4. THE SHEPHERD'S TELLING THEIR STORY WAS AN ACT OF WORSHIP. HOW ARE YOU AT WORSHIPPING CHRIST THRU TELLING YOUR STORY?





NEXT STEPS.

1. Take a walk on WOW this next week with your friends or family. Process the walk spiritually, praying at the different trees, one person, per tree. Ask God to be with you through the coming year. May he walk with you on your path just as you are walking with him, literally, on the WOW path. (Trees up one more week.)





NEXT STEPS.

2. On Christmas Day or Eve, read the story of the birth of Christ from Luke 2. Ask God to make the story come alive to you in ways you have never experienced before. Talk about the story with your family.

