

A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds a central white circle. The plants include green ferns, a red leaf, a yellow flower, a purple flower, and a green leaf with a red vein. The wreath is set against a light blue background.

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# Bethlehem's History

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# 1. Early History

Ephrath, which means "fruitful" in Hebrew, was the city's original name. Canaanites were the first people to settle there in the 14th century BCE; the Israelites were the ones to eventually capture it.



## 2. The Roman Empire

In the year 63 before the common era, the Roman Empire gained possession of Bethlehem, and the city was thereafter included into the province of Judea.





### 3. The Birth of Jesus

It is generally agreed upon that the Church of the Nativity, which was constructed in the fourth century CE, stands on the spot where Jesus was born.



# 4. Roman Rule

- In the year 135 CE, the Romans drove all of the Jewish people out of Bethlehem and renamed the city Colonia Aelia Capitolina.



# 5. The Byzantine Empire

It wasn't until the 4th century CE that the Byzantine Empire acquired possession of the town and called it Bethlehem.





## 6. The Crusades

The town was taken by Crusaders in 1099, during the First Crusade, and was eventually included into the Kingdom of Jerusalem as a result of this event.

# 7. Ottoman Rule

- The Ottoman Empire conquered the town in 1517 and changed its name to Beit-Lahm shortly after the conquest.

# 8. Modern history



- Bethlehem was included into the West Bank during British rule in 1948. During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured it; it is now a part of the Jerusalem Municipality.

# 9. Biblical references



- The city of Bethlehem is referenced in the Bible on several occasions, most notably as the location of Jesus Christ's and King David's births.

# Conclusion



- Bethlehem has played a significant role in politics and religion throughout its long and diverse history.