

# The Archaeology of Bethlehem

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# Location and Early History

-Bethlehem is a Palestinian city located in the West Bank.

-Has as a rich and fascinating history that dates back to the Canaanite period, around 3000 BCE.

-Important center of trade and commerce

-A site of religious significance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims for centuries.



# The Biblical Significance of Bethlehem

- Birthplace of Jesus Christ,
- Associated with the story of Ruth and Boaz
- According to the Hebrew Bible the birthplace of King David.
- For Christians of great religious significance and pilgrimage



# The Role of Herod the Great

- Roman client king of Judea who ruled from 37 to 4 BCE.
- Extensive building projects, including the expansion of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
- Herod ordered the massacre of all male infants in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill the infant Jesus, who he saw as a threat to his reign.



# The Development of the City under Roman Rule

- Bethlehem became an important pilgrimage site for Christians and underwent significant development.
- fortified with walls, and several churches and monasteries were built.
- Church of the Nativity
- Became an important center of Christian scholarship and learning.



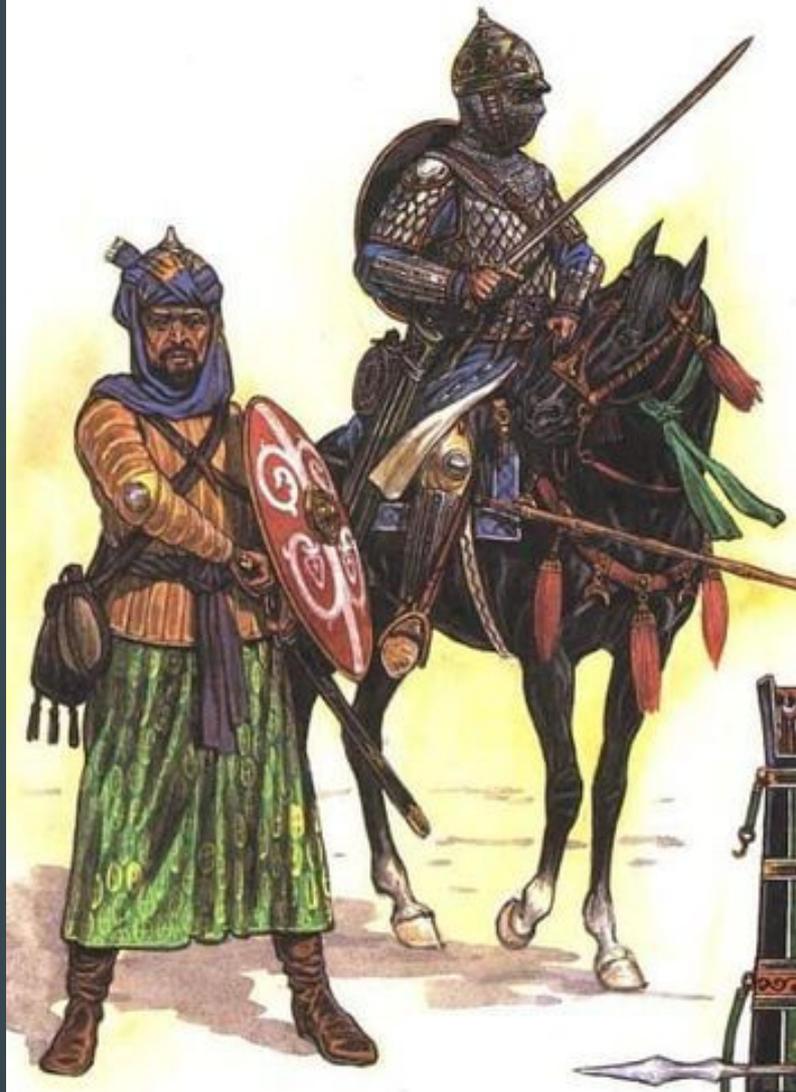
# The Church of the Nativity

- One of the oldest surviving churches in the world.
- Built over the site where Jesus was believed to have been born
- Important pilgrimage site for Christians for centuries.



# The Islamic Rule and the Mamluk Period

- Bethlehem experienced a period of relative stability and prosperity
- Construction of several important buildings and growth of its economy.
- Continued to be an important center of Christian pilgrimage



# Bethlehem During the Ottoman Empire

- Continued to be an important religious and cultural center
- Construction of several significant buildings and growth of its economy.
- The city was also a site of political and military conflict during this period.



# Archaeological Discoveries in Bethlehem

- Significant finds from various historical periods
- Ancient Israelite and Canaanite settlements
- Roman and Byzantine era buildings and artifacts
- Structures and objects from the medieval and Ottoman periods
- Offer important insights into the city's rich and complex history.



# Challenges Facing the Preservation of Bethlehem's Archaeological Sites

- Urbanization and development
- Environmental factors such as erosion and pollution
- Ongoing political tensions and conflicts in the region.

