

2016 Christmas Special
Three Portraits of the Birth
of the Messiah - Lesson #2

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**THREE PORTRAITS
OF THE
BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH**

**Luke:
“The Messianic Blessing”**

Luke 1–2

- 1. Angel announces birth of John to Zechariah (Luke 1:5–25)**
- 2. Angel announces birth of Jesus to Mary (1:26–56)**
- 3. Birth of John described (1:57–80)**
- 4. Birth of Jesus described (2:1–7)**
- 5. Reaction to the birth of Jesus (2:8–40)**

Key Words:

Blessing:

***eulogeo:* Luke 1:42 (2×), 64, 2:28, 2:34**

***makarios:* Luke 1:45**

***makarizo:* Luke 1:48**

Key Words:

Grace:

***chairo:* Luke 1:14, 28**

***charitoo:* Luke 1:28 (cf., Eph. 1:6
“graciously accepted one”)**

***eleos* (mercy): Luke 1:48, 50, 54, 72, 78**

Words for Joy:

***chara:* Luke 1:14, 2:10**

***chairo:* Luke 1:14, 28**

***agalliasis,* “gladness” Luke 1:14, 44,**

***agalliao:* Luke 1:47**

1. Angel announces birth of John to Zechariah (Luke 1:5–25)

Luke 1:5, “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Luke 1:6, “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.”

2. Angel announces birth of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1:26–56)

Luke 1:26, “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luke 1:27, “to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.”

Luke 1:28, “And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ ”

Luke 1:30, “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:31, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

Luke 1:32, “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Luke 1:33, “And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’ ”

Luke 1:42, “Then she [*Elizabeth*] spoke out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’ ”

**Luke 1:45, “Blessed is she who believed,
for there will be a fulfillment of those things
which were told her from the Lord.”**

Luke 1:47, “And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Luke 1:48, “For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”

Luke 1:50, “And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Luke 1:54, “He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,”

3. Birth of John described (Luke 1:57–80)

Luke 1:57, “Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

Luke 1:58, “When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.”

Luke 1:76, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

Luke 1:77, “To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins,

Luke 1:78, “Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;”

4. Birth of Jesus described (Luke 2:1–7)

Luke 2:1, “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”

δόγμα *dogma*

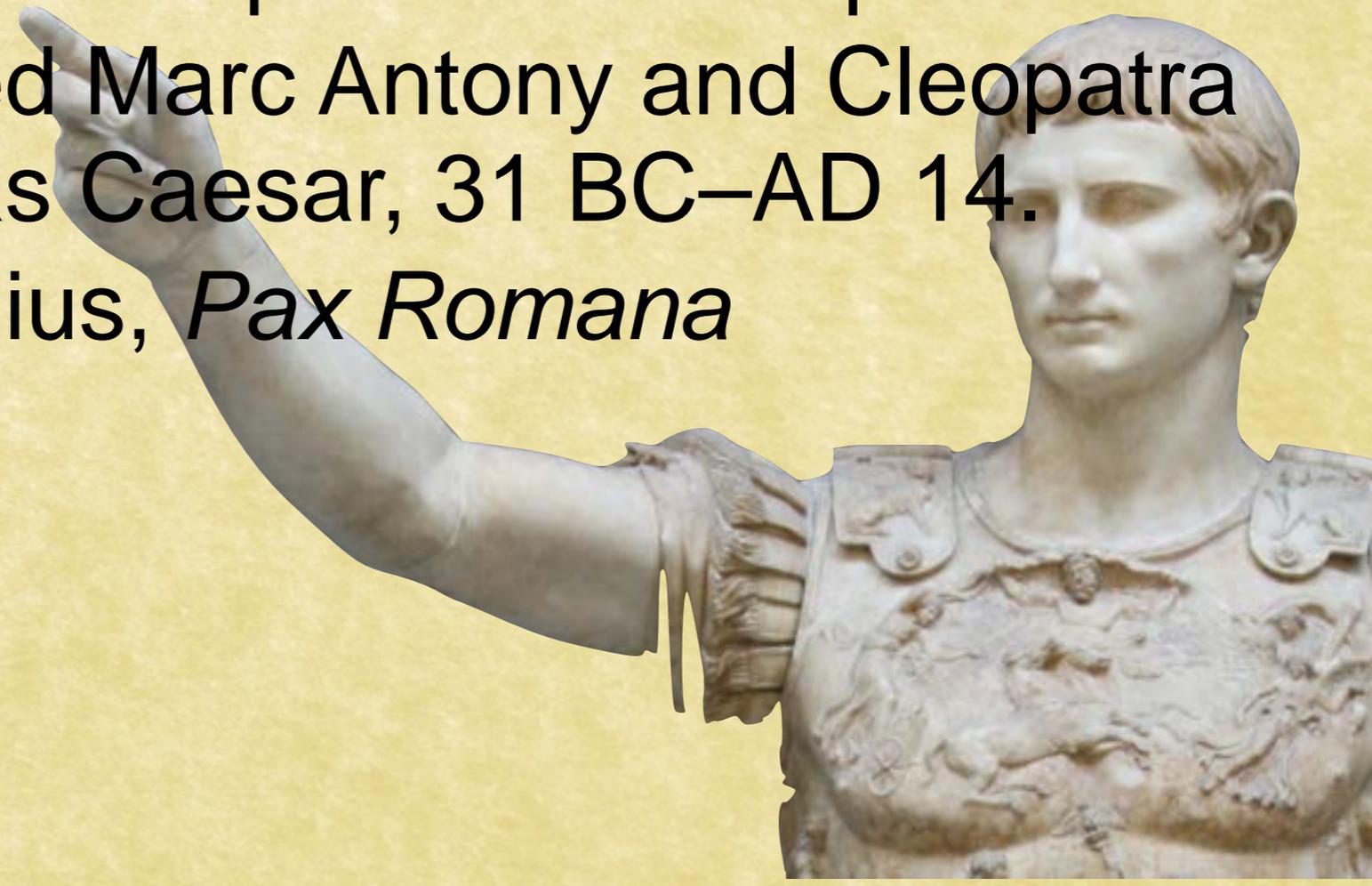
decree; dogma, doctrine

Latin equivalents *placitum* and *decretum* refer to a formal action of the Roman Senate

Luke 2:1, “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”

Caesar Augustus (Octavian)

- 63 BC–AD 14
- Julius Caesar’s great nephew and adopted heir
- Eventually defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra to be recognized as Caesar, 31 BC–AD 14.
- Administrative genius, *Pax Romana*



Luke 2:1, “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”

Gal. 4:4, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,”



Luke 2:1, “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Luke 2:2, “This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.”

**Luke 2:3, “So all went to be registered,
everyone to his own city.”**

when Herod died

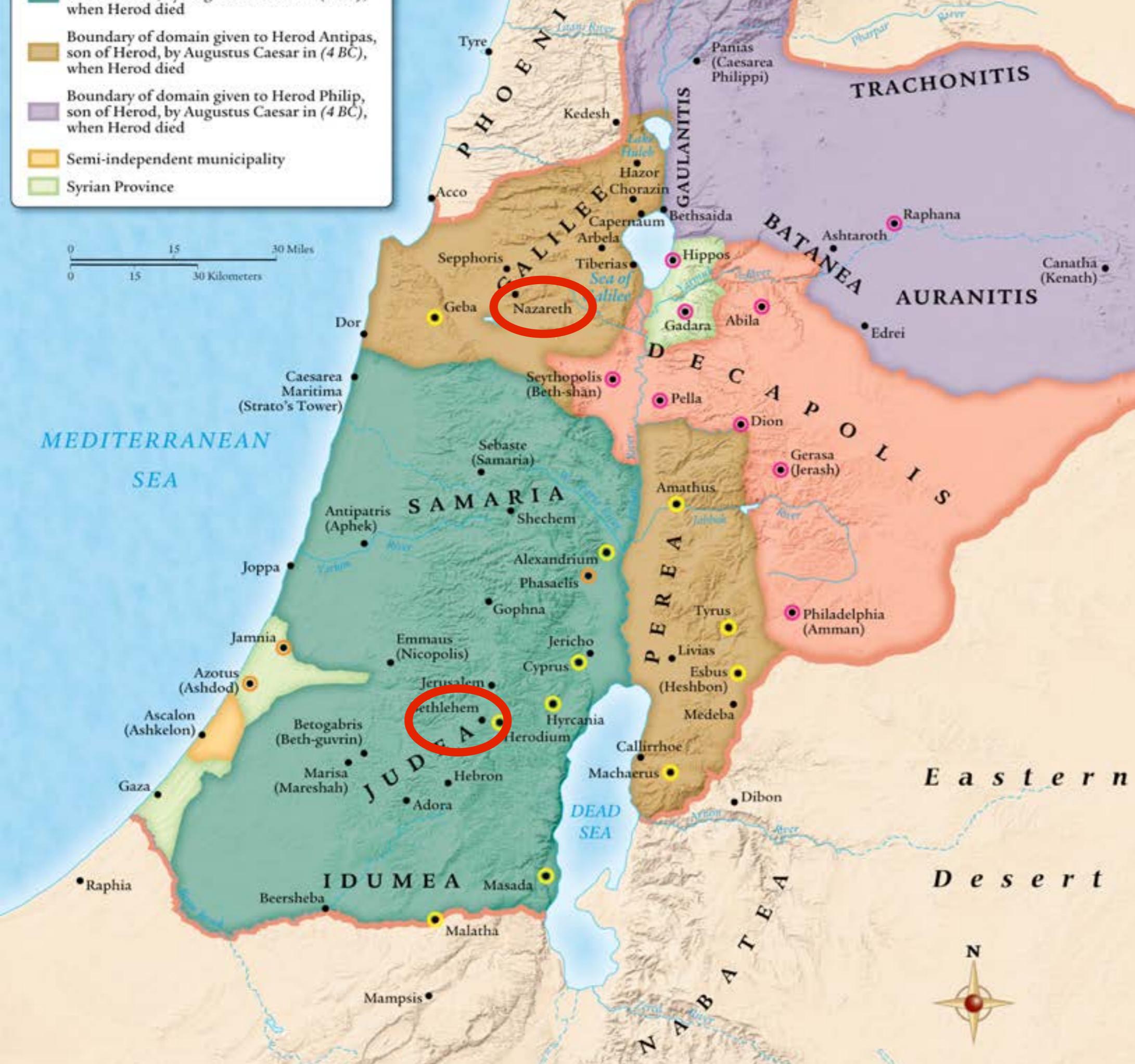
Boundary of domain given to Herod Antipas, son of Herod, by Augustus Caesar in (4 BC), when Herod died

Boundary of domain given to Herod Philip, son of Herod, by Augustus Caesar in (4 BC), when Herod died

Semi-independent municipality

Syrian Province

0 15 30 Miles
0 15 30 Kilometers



E a s t e r n

D e s e r t





Luke 2:4, “Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

Luke 2:5, “to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

Luke 2:6, “So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.”

Luke 2:7, “And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”



Luke 2:7, “And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**κατάλυμα *kataluma*
dat neut sing
inn?, guest room**

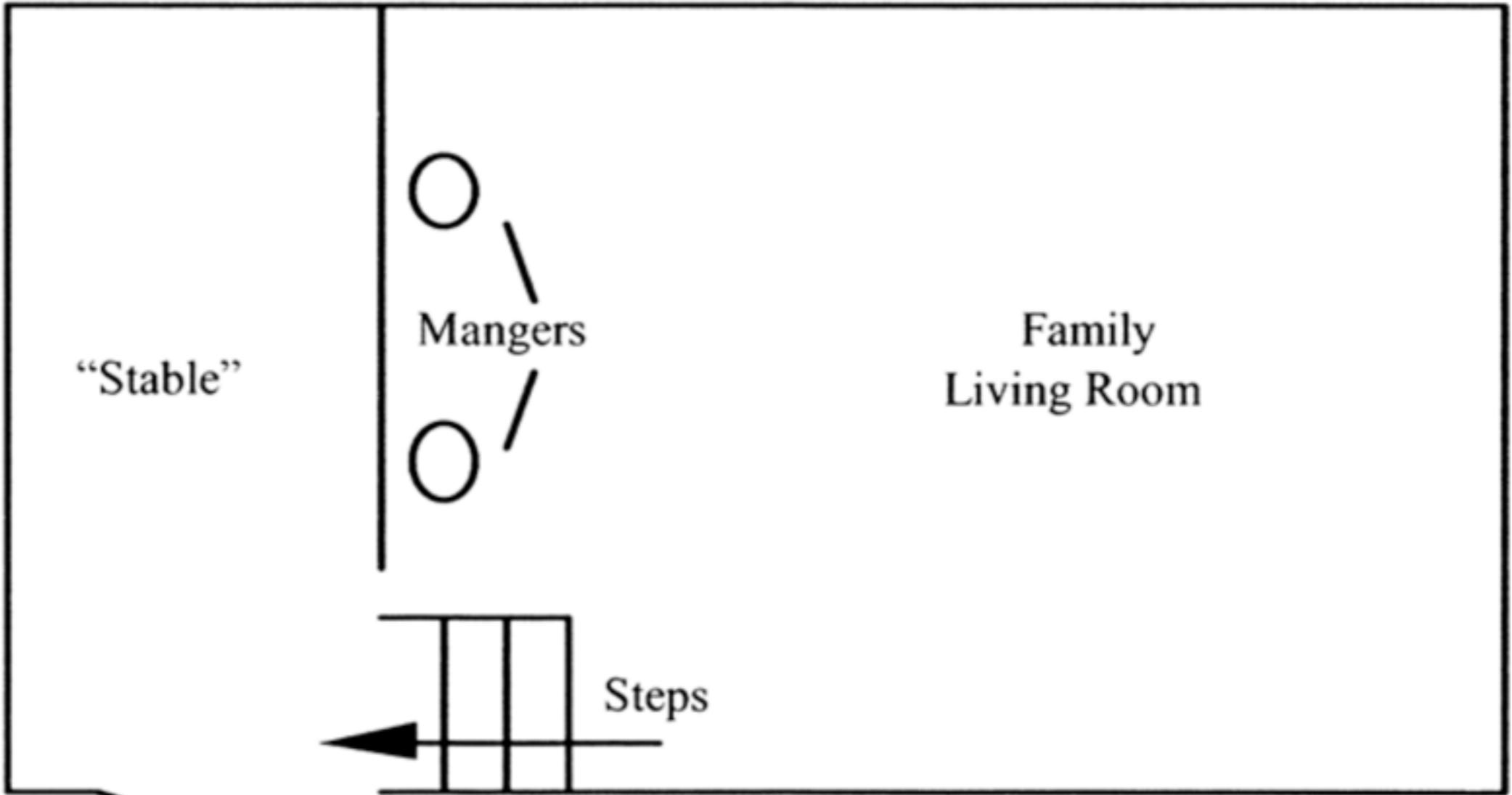
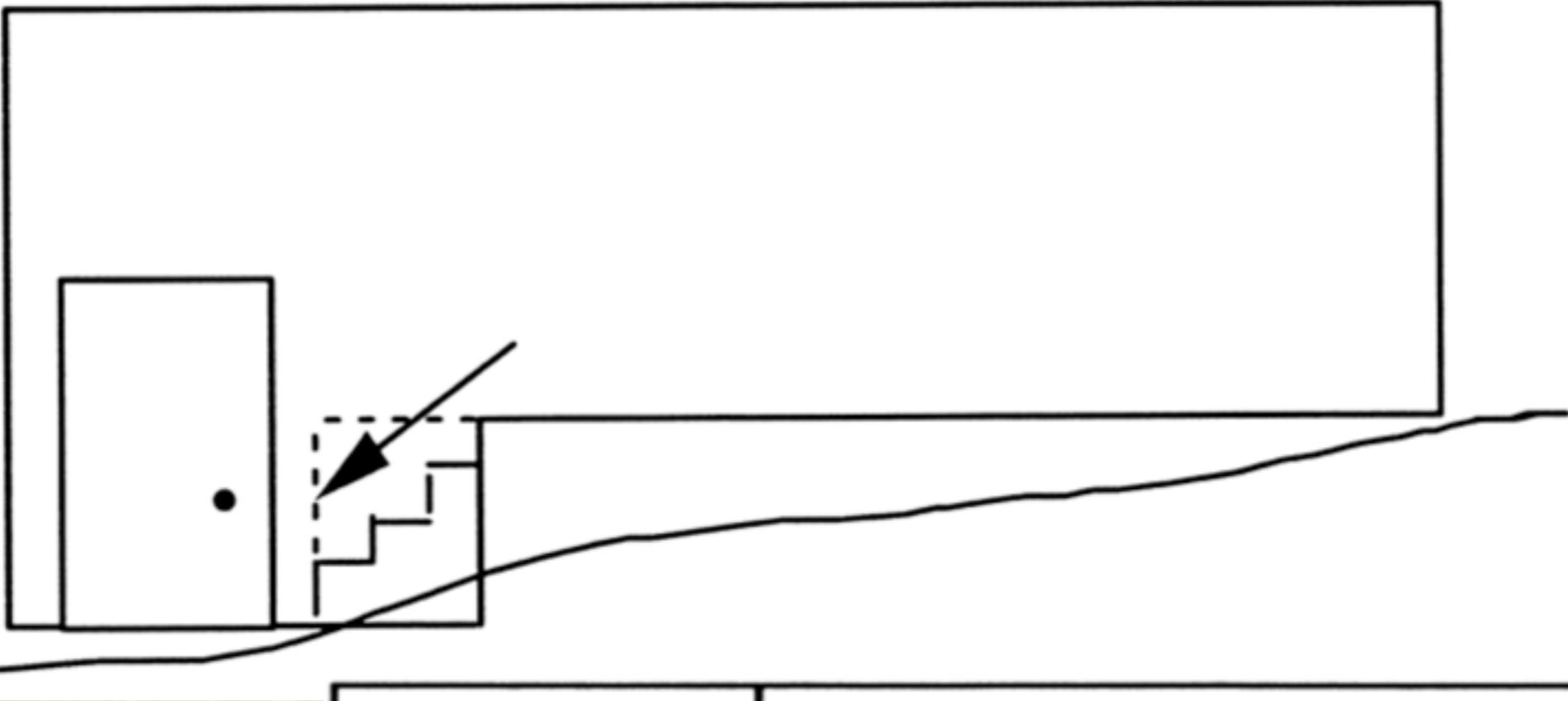


Luke 22:11, “Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” ’ ”

**κατάλυμα *kataluma*
dat neut sing
inn?, guest room**

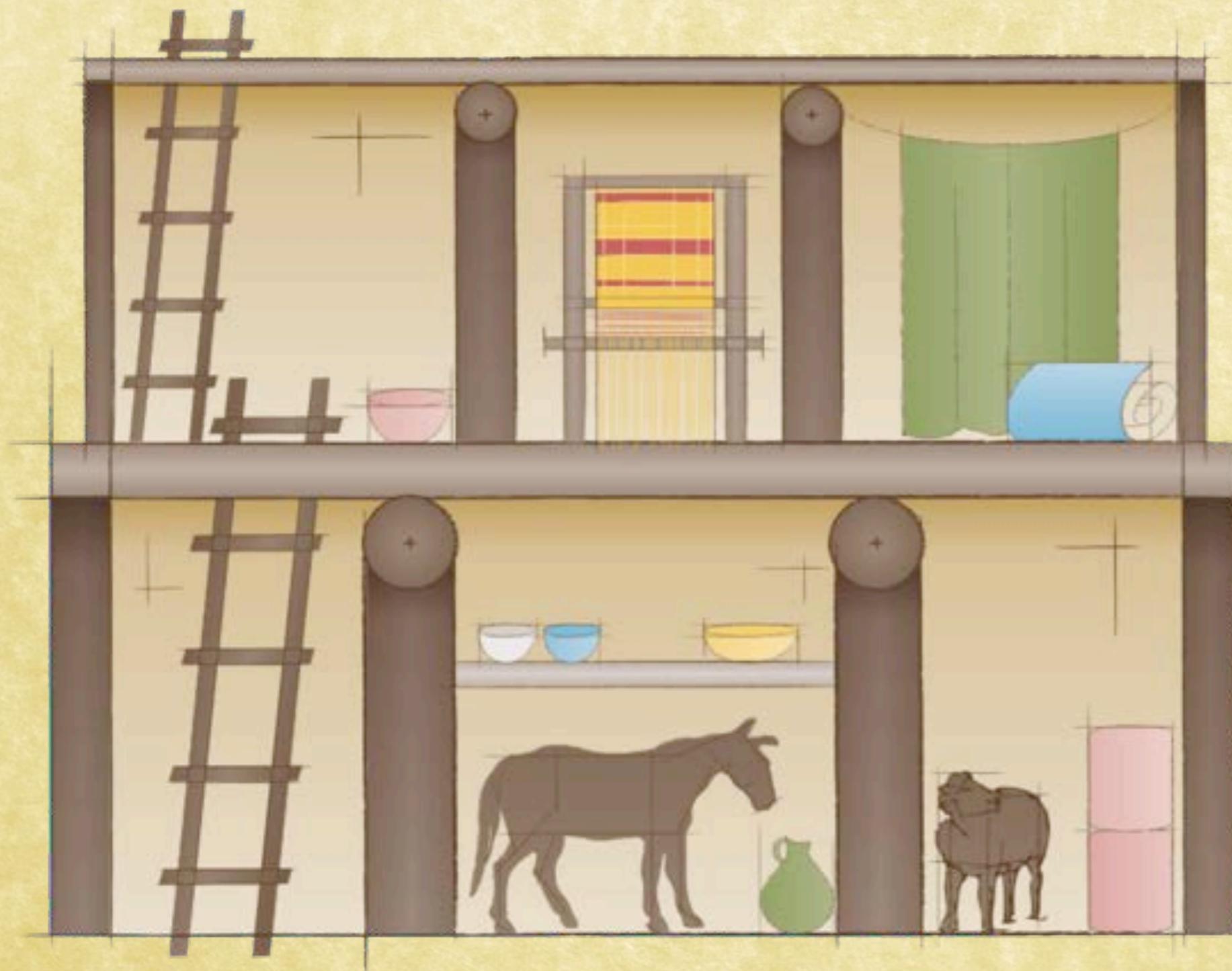
Luke 10:34, “So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

πανδοχείον *pandocheion*
inn



Away in a Manger, but Not in a Barn

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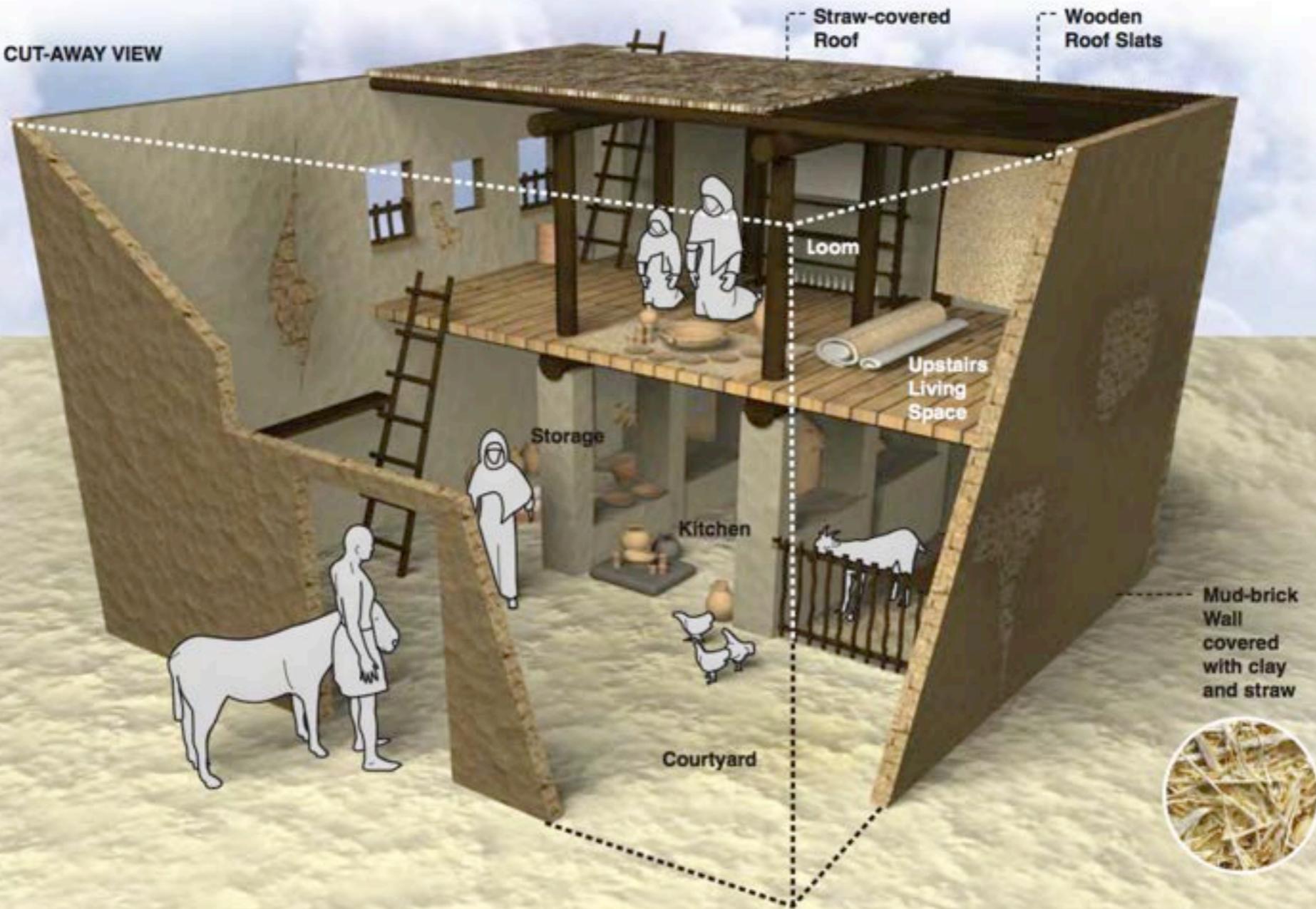


Typical 1st Century AD
Jewish Home

Living and Sleeping Quarters

Daytime Living Quarters
where vulnerable or especially
valuable animals were stored at night

CUT-AWAY VIEW



First-Century Israelite House

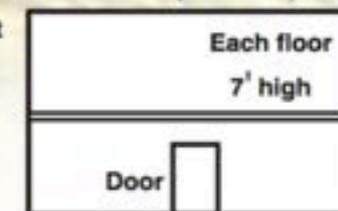
The homes of poor families were small and plain. They were built of rough stone (or mud-brick) walls and roofs of woven branches covered with clay. Living spaces were used for household work—cooking and weaving. At night, the family's domestic animals were housed in the lower level.

Size comparison:

First-century houses were smaller than modern double-wide trailers and accommodated an entire family.

Height
15'

Israelite home
(front view)



Width 24', Length 24'

Double wide mobile home
(front view)



Width 24', Length 60'

5. Reaction to the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:8–40)



Luke 2:8, “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.”

Luke 2:9, “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Luke 2:10, “Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’ ”

**Luke 2:14, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
(NKJV—reflecting the Majority Text)**

Luke 2:14, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” [NASB—reflecting the Westcott Hort (WH) text]

Luke 2:15, “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’”

Luke 2:16, “And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:17, “Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.”

Luke 2:18, “And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luke 2:19, “But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:20, “Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.”

Simeon

Luke 2:25, “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Luke 2:26, “And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

Simeon

Luke 2:27, “So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

Luke 2:28, “he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

Luke 2:29, “ ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

Luke 2:30, “ ‘For my eyes have seen Your salvation’ ”

Simeon

Luke 2:34, “Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

Luke 2:35, “ ‘(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’ ”

Anna

Luke 2:36, “Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

Luke 2:37, “and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 2:38, “And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”