**Christmas Road Trip** (Graphic)

**Return Trip to Nazareth**

(Matthew 2:19-20)

“After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

(Matthew 2:21-23)

“So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth...”

(Matthew 2:23)

“…So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a **Nazarene**.”

 Jesus, the **Nazarene**.

(John 1:45-46)

“Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ ‘**Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?**’ Nathanael asked.”

(Isaiah 49:7)

“This is what the Lord says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was **despised** and **abhorred** by the nation,”

**Nazareth**: supposed to be the Greek form of the Hebrew word *netser,* a “shoot,” “sprout,” or “root.”

(Isaiah 11:1)

“A **shoot** will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a **Branch** will bear fruit.”

(Isaiah 53:1-3)

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had **no beauty or majesty to attract us to him**, nothing in his **appearance** that we should desire him. He was **despised** and **rejected** by mankind, a man of suffering, and **familiar with pain**. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.”

1. Jesus the Nazarene—is **not** an **attraction**.
2. Jesus the Nazarene—is **familiar** with **pain**.
3. Jesus the Nazarene—a **sprout** that brought **new life**.

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

“Surely **he took our pain and bore our suffering**…But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the **punishment that brought us peace was on him**, and by his wounds we are **healed**.”

No matter where you come from, no matter what has been said about you, no matter what mistakes have been made—**The Lord provides healing and a home**.