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## **JESUS OF NAZARETH**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem (the house of bread), a city in the tribe of Judah, also called *Επηρατη* in Genesis 48:7 or *Επηραταη* in Micah 5:2 of which the inhabitants were called the *Επηρατητες* [Ruth 1:2, 1 Samuel 17:12].

In this place David was born and spent his early days as a shepherd. It was the setting for the narrative of Ruth and the place where the Lord was born of a woman.

Jerusalem is where the Bread from heaven or the Bread of Life came down from heaven. But Jesus Christ came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth –that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene [Matthew 2:23].

Jesus means Savior from the Hebrew Joshua, which means Jehovah, is salvation. Christ means Anointed, the Greek equivalent of Messiah. Jesus is His human name while Christ is His official title. Immanuel describes WHO HE IS, translated as God with us.

During His Hypostatic Union- to call Him as “Jesus of Nazareth” was acceptable for the Gentiles but an insult for the Jews. They considered it as a reproach to Jewish people [Acts 24:5]. Pilate insulted the Jews when He wrote “Jesus of Nazareth-king of the Jews”, that is why, the Jews were asking Pilate to change it [John 19:21].

Christ indeed is a King and for the Jews- a crucified and rejected King. The title came from Pilate’s sarcastic insult that was very much disliked by the Jews.

Bethlehem was first mentioned in Genesis 35:16-20, where Rachel-the wife of Jacob died by giving birth to *Βεν-ομι* (son of my sorrow) whom Jacob renamed Benjamin. Benjamin (son of my righteous hand). Both names refer to Jesus Christ [Isaiah 53:3 & Hebrews 1:3]. It refers to Christ humiliation and exaltation.

Jacob saw Bethlehem as a place of death –but the birth of Christ made it the place of life. The SON OF MY SORROW would one day become SON OF MY RIGHT HAND and it. Bethlehem is no longer a place of burial (the place where the beloved of Jacob was buried) but a place of life –where Jesus Christ the Life giver was born.

Today, Bethlehem is nothing but a religious commercialized area and it remains very idolatrous as it was in the ancient times. There is nothing spiritual about the place.

The perfect humanity of Christ was never affected by insults or mockery of Pilate, Herod, *αυδ Χααπηασ ορ Αννας* because true dignity and honor are never external.

Genuine honor and integrity is not material in nature but spiritual. People who are wearing their dignity and integrity in their neckties or badge are very miserable.

People whose pride is attached to their family, race, culture, bloodline, royalty, power or wealth are easily insulted by such names calling. Christians with Bible doctrine in their souls are seldom affected by such insults. Nothing can hurt the dignity and integrity of Christ living within the believer with  $\epsilon\pi\lambda\gamma\omega\sigma\iota\varsigma$ .

Jesus Christ was untouchable and solid since His perfect humanity stands in the Truth of the Word. Nothing in this world or anything else can demoralized Him or downgrade His values or viewpoints.

No amount of rejection and denial moved His to defocus His concentration from the will of the Father. Satan gave the full force of his devious scheming but Christ remained focused on His objective –to do the will of God. Insults will not hurt a person unless he deserves it. Christ suffered from every type of people testing all throughout His life on earth.