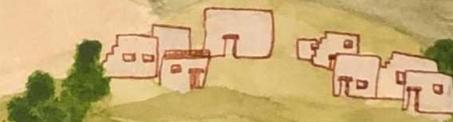


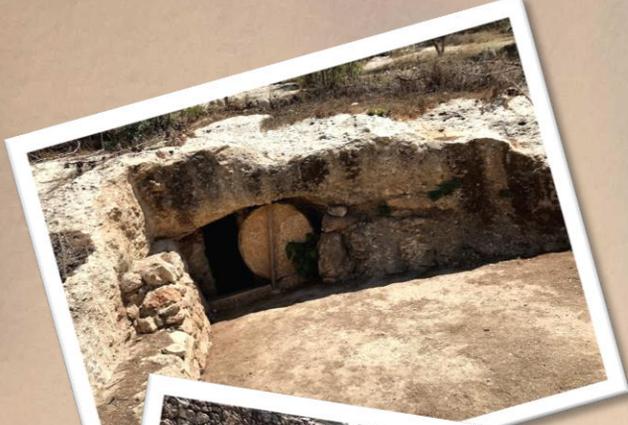
SHALOM Yeladim (children),

This morning as we attempted to wake up with our second cup of Café Afuk, literally "upside-down coffee", we opened our bibles and read Isaiah 11:1 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a Branch shall grow from his roots." We all know that this verse is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we all piled into the van and travelled north, winding up route 60, the route of the Patriarchs, and to the place of branches. This bustling, mainly Christian Arab city is full of life as we drove through to our destination. Have you ever wondered about the place where God chose to have Joseph and Mary raise his son? I have! Instead of placing them in Jerusalem, with its schools of learning, or the cultural Roman cities of Tiberias or Caesarea, God choose a small, insignificant little village. Hidden away in a dip of the Galilean hills is a small hillock and thereon sits Nazareth. The hills around it seem to protect it and it pops up like the little hill in the middle of a cowboy hat! We know from our Bibles that this was a despised place, nothing good ever seemed to come from Nazareth, and yet God's son was raised here.

Just like Nazareth, the world despises the Bible and thinks

Nothing good can come from spending time reading and studying it, but we know we have to do that to help our minds think like Jesus. Nazareth means "the place of branches", it isn't a coincidence that it has this meaning as it is the place where God brought 2 different "branches" of the family tree of King David together (Mary and Joseph) to raise up THE BRANCH - Jesus! It must have been amazing for him to grow up in the countryside of Galilee, hidden away from view, waiting the time when God would have him start his work to save all that wanted saving and had faith. Nowadays it is hard to see where this is as it is buried in the spreading city that runs down into the valley and back up onto the next hill. Remember when Jesus taught in Nazareth and they wanted to kill him and took him to the edge of the cliff to throw him off? Sure enough it is still there. When you drive past here in the night and look up at the lights you can clearly see that very same cliff, as you drive past on the way to Afula. We got lost and ended up driving up and down so that cliff edge became familiar to us, and we will never forget it! There was another reason that we have headed here, not only is it something that is open on Sabbath, but it also has a very interesting site. Have you ever been to a pioneer museum? Where people are dressed up from the time when Canada became a country not very long ago? In Nazareth instead of a pioneer village they have a village as it would have been from the time of Jesus! We park and walk in, not sure if we are in the correct place, and there was so much to see I have sent you many photos! They have the only full replica of a synagogue there. We sat on the stone benches and read some of the gospel of John. We saw people weaving cloth, baking flat bread and making wooden tools. There was terracing for vines, veggies and pomegranate trees. They even had a replica of a tomb from the time of Christ.





I hope you enjoyed all these pictures. It was very helpful to walk through and imagine what life must have been like for those in the New Testament living in towns and villages similar to this. How we long for the day when Jesus will return and once again walk through the land of Israel, but this time as King! Until next time,

Shalom,
Crazy Auntie Lindsay