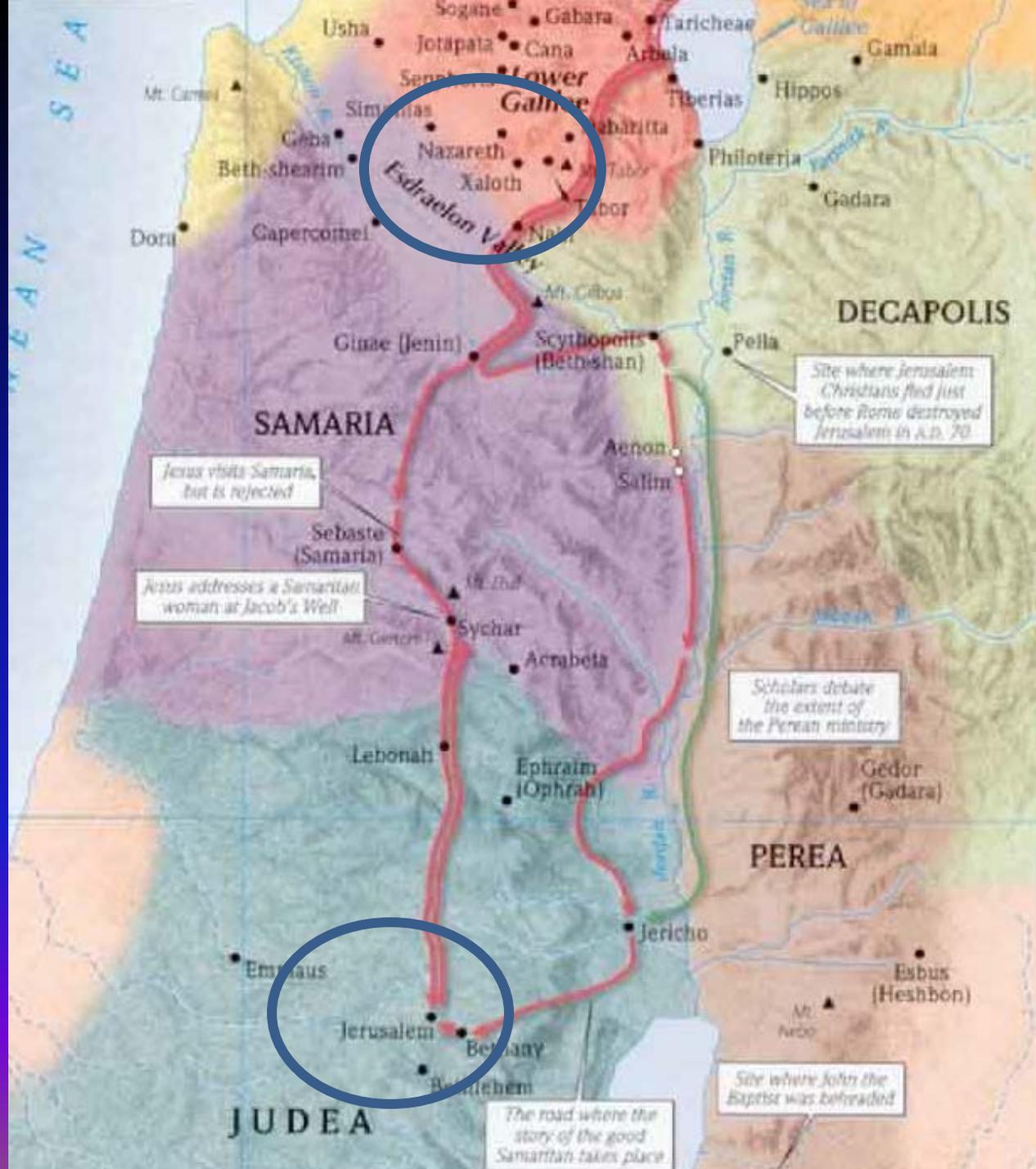


**The family-social-secular-religious world of Jesus of Nazareth: from 12 to 30 years old.
Lesson 2. Return to Nazareth via Samaria.**



From Jerusalem to Nazareth through Samaria, the shortest route. 140 kilometers (85 miles). Flavius Josephus, first century Jewish historian, says the Galileans usually took this route on their trips to and from Jerusalem.

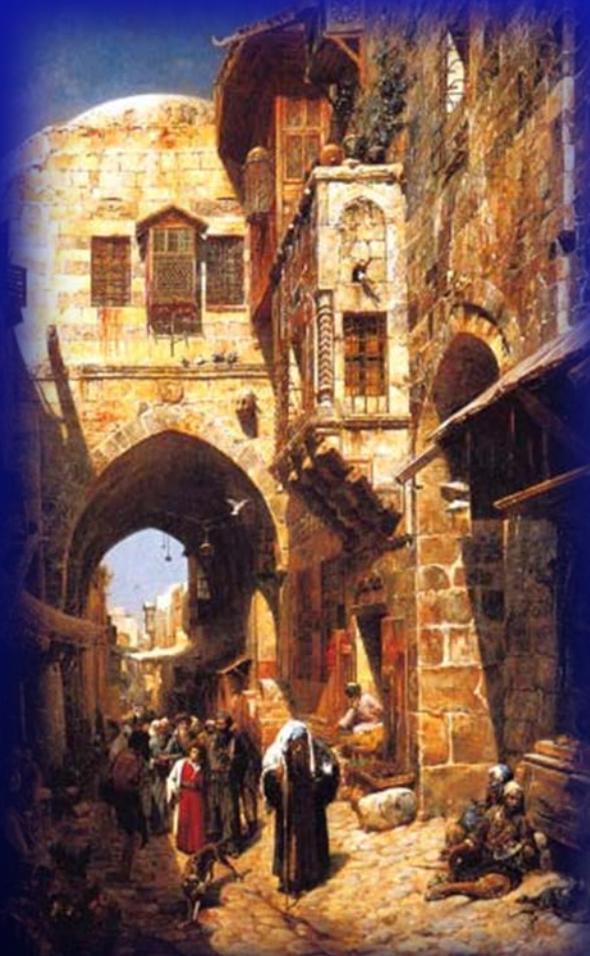


In Jerusalem, leaving behind the temple area, we walk toward the north gate.

What is the appearance of the people we encounter?

Narrow, twisting streets.

What do the houses and businesses look like?



We come to the Cardo Maximus of the city, a long, commercial avenue crowded with people, animals and merchandise from even



far away places. The Cardo Maximus constructed by emperor Hadrian (130 a. d.) was 22.5 meters (70 feet) wide, equivalent to a six lane highway.

Along the Cardo Maximus to the north gate of Jerusalem

Jesus saw such scenes when he was 12, 16, 18, 24, 26 years old. What do we see? Let us identify people, animals and all objects possible.



This portion of the Cardo Maximus built by emperor Justin (sixth century) toward the south of Jerusalem was 12 meters (40 feet) wide. Including columns and stores on both sides, the width was 22 meters (70 feet). During the Byzantine Age (330 – 620 a. d.), there were large churches along the avenue.

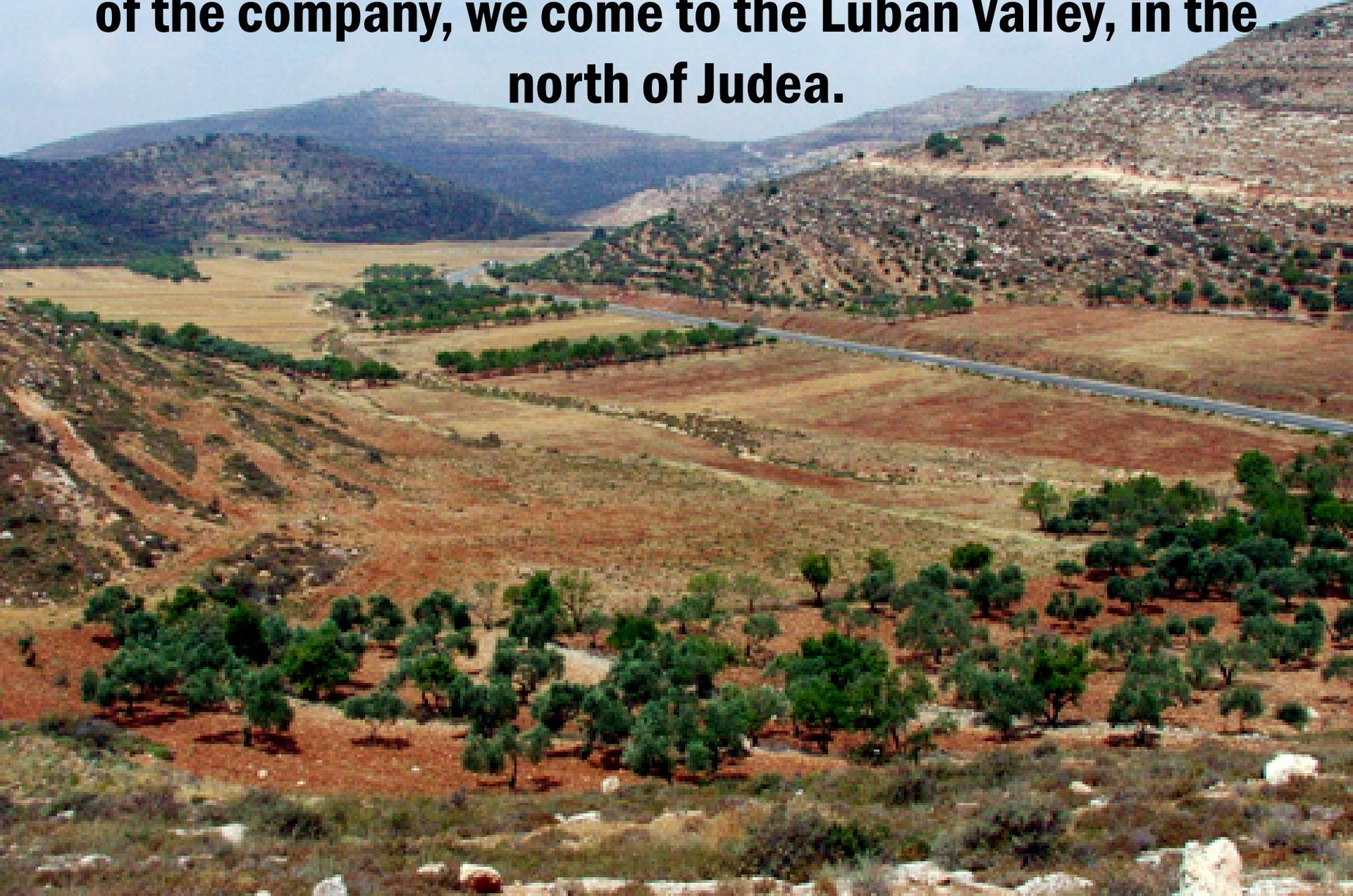
To the right, 200 meters of that avenue have been uncovered 7 meters below modern Jerusalem.



**Coming to the end of Cardo Maximus, we pass through the
Damascus Gate, heading for Nazareth via the route
through the province of Samaria.**



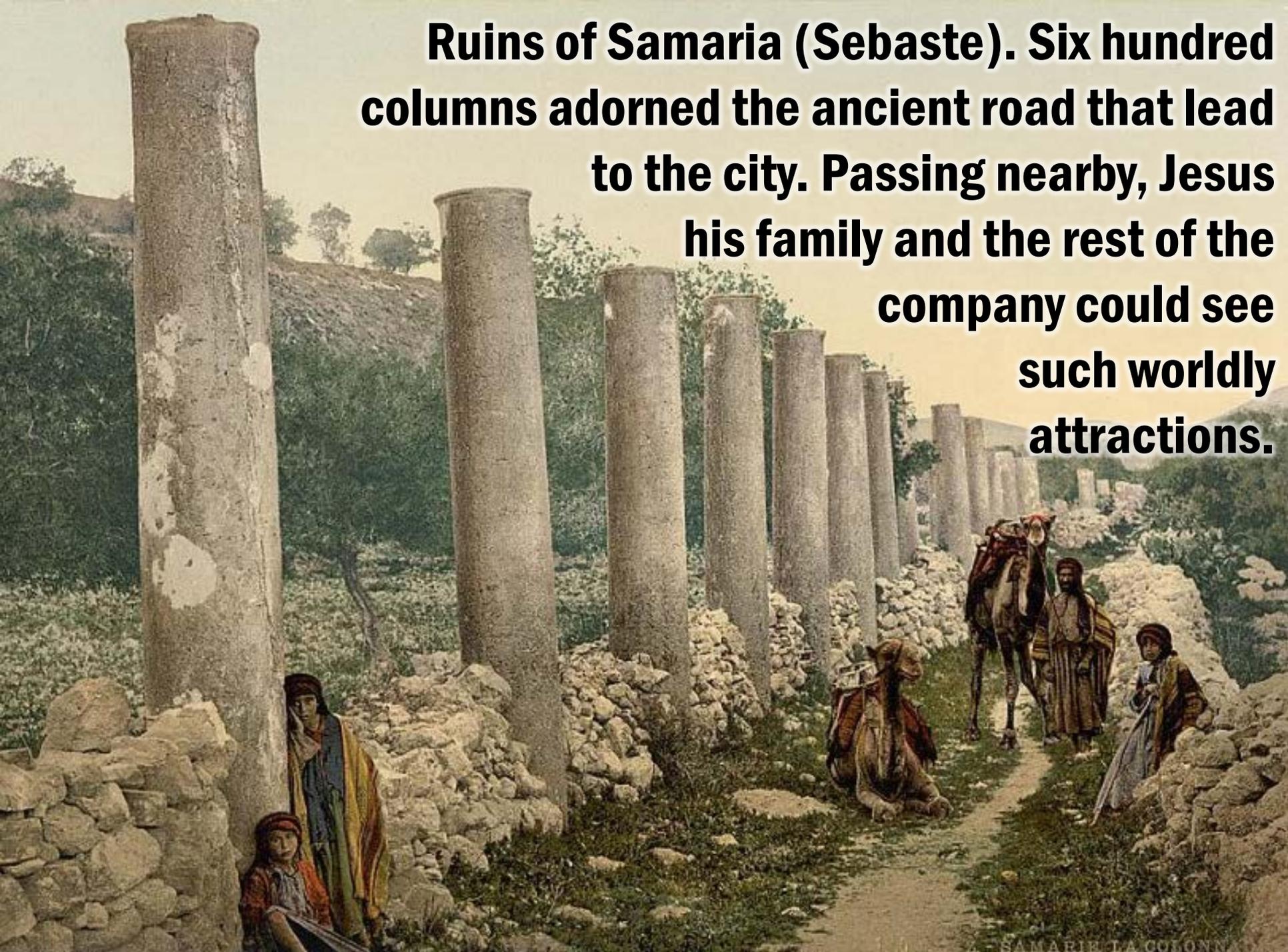
Walking along this route with Jesus, his family and the rest of the company, we come to the Luban Valley, in the north of Judea.



Then, we enter the province of Samaria, coming near the mountain where, in the time of Jesus, the city of Samaria had been built. In the year 30 b. C., the Roman emperor Augustus gave the city to king Herod the Great, who renamed it Sebaste in honor of Augustus.



Ruins of Samaria (Sebaste). Six hundred columns adorned the ancient road that lead to the city. Passing nearby, Jesus his family and the rest of the company could see such worldly attractions.



Ruins of the foundation of the temple of Augustus in Samaria. Travelers to Samaria could see that temple on the mountain, symbol of emperor worship.



SAMARIA. Cerca de la antigua ciudad.



Después de bautizarse a los treinta años de edad, Jesucristo pasó por Samaria. ¿Con quién sostuvo un diálogo, y sobre qué temas?

**¿Quién predicó el evangelio en Samaria por primera vez, estableciendo una iglesia?
¿Cuáles apóstoles la visitaron?**

¿Quién fue el personaje más famoso de aquella ciudad?

Tell of Dothan, in the northern part of Samaria. Here is where Joseph, Jacob's son, found his brothers and it is here they sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:12-28). From here, we pass over into Galilee, and walking another day, come to the village of Nazareth.

