

This view from the south shows the main architectural attraction of Nazareth, the Church of the Annunciation. After the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Temple in 70 C.E., one of the priestly "courses," or family divisions assigned Temple duties by lot, fled to Nazareth. It remained a strongly Jewish village until the fourth century C.E., when the first church was built there under the patronage of the Roman emperor Constantine. The remains of the Roman village, which today is directly beneath the second-story altar of the modern-day Church of the Annunciation (shown here), were excavated by Bellarmino Bagatti on behalf of the Franciscan Biblical Institute beginning in 1955.