

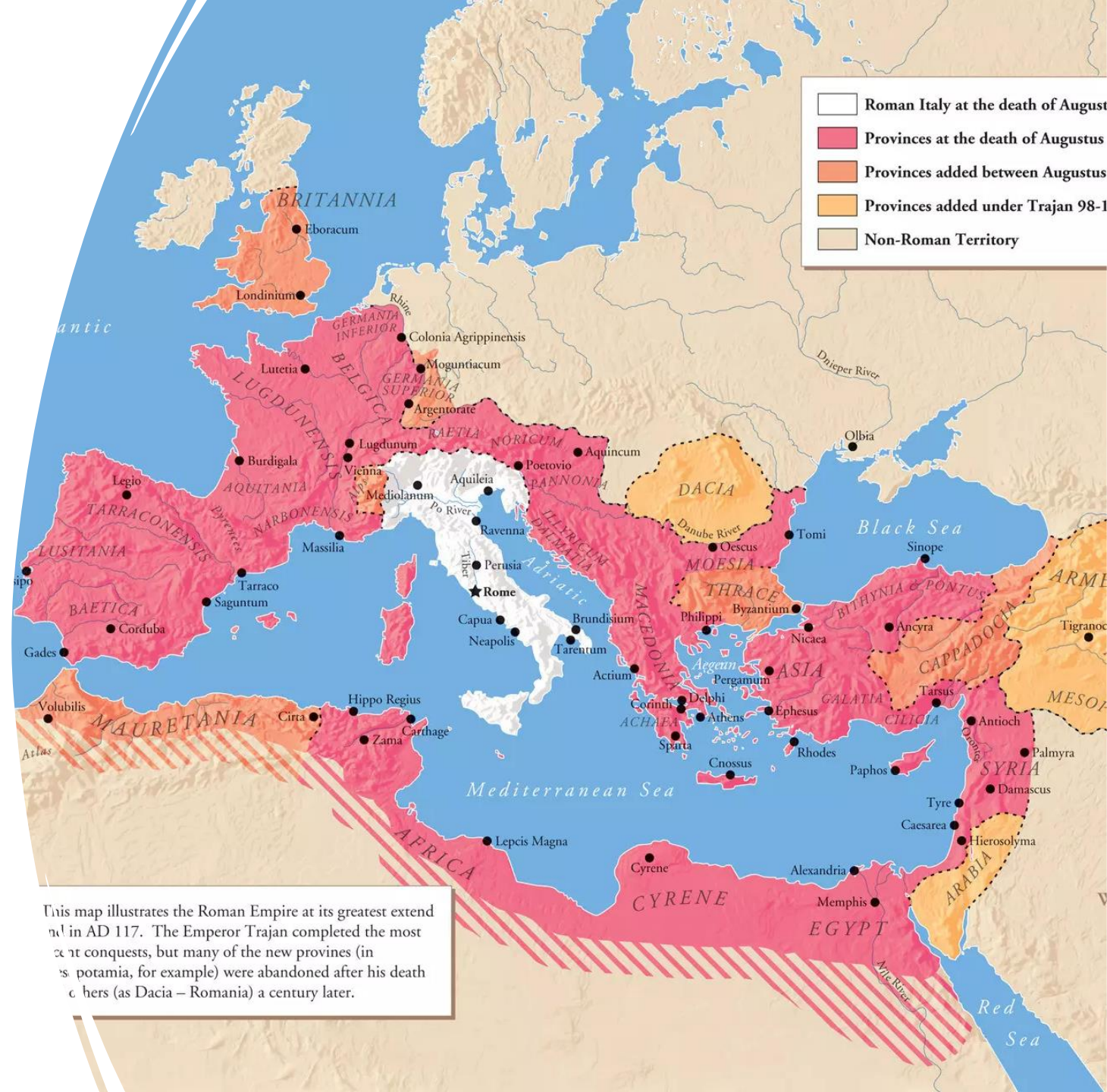


Chris Roesler



# Imagine

- You are a young vulnerable women living in an occupied country
- Strict religious rules
- Gender inequality
- An angel visits you.....



This map illustrates the Roman Empire at its greatest extent in AD 117. The Emperor Trajan completed the most recent conquests, but many of the new provinces (in Mesopotamia, for example) were abandoned after his death. Others (as Dacia – Romania) a century later.

# Luke 1 26-38

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26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[b] the Son of God. ...

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.





# Luke 1:46-56 – Mary's song

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

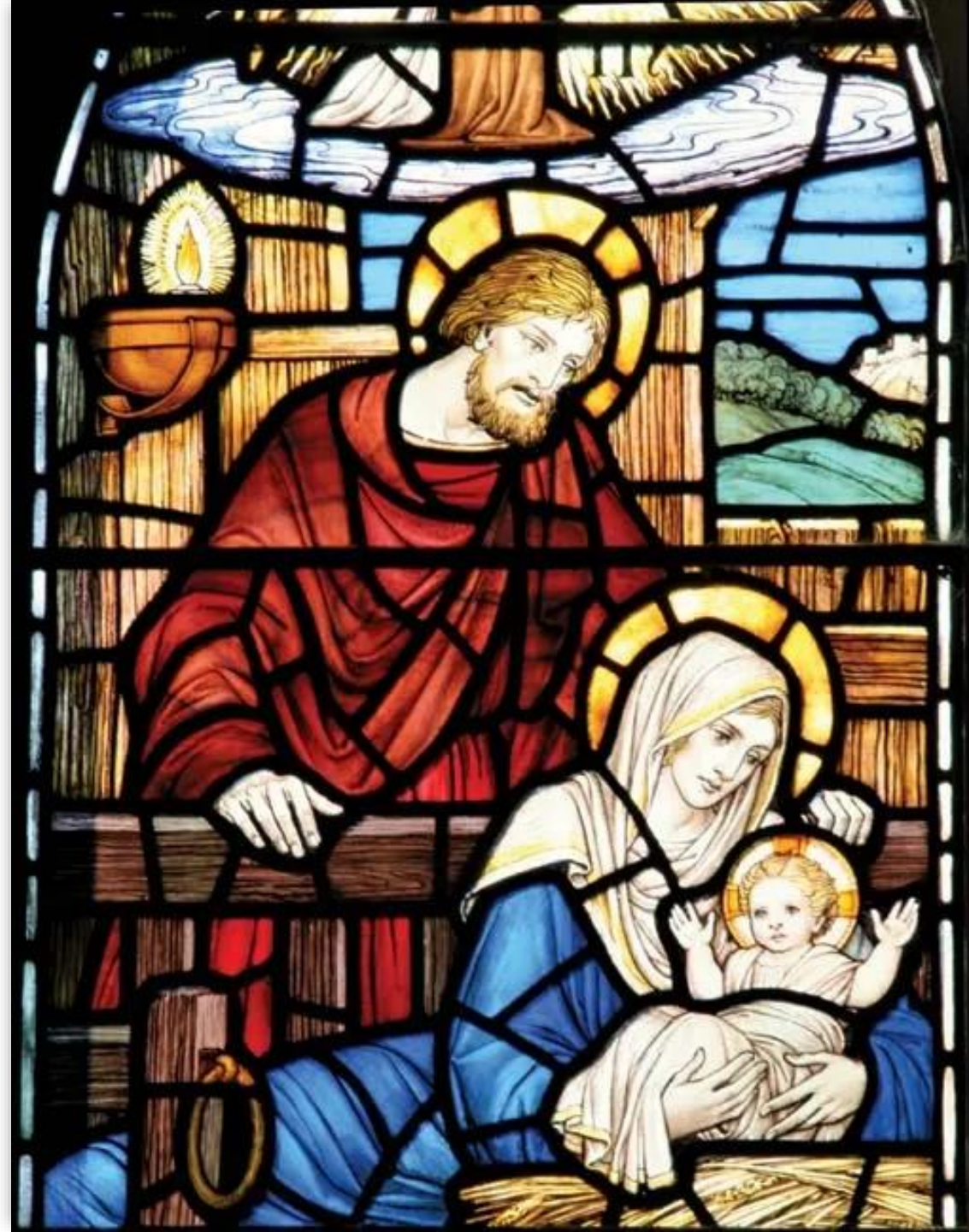
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me  
blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great  
things for me—  
holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.





# Luke 1:46-56 – Mary's song

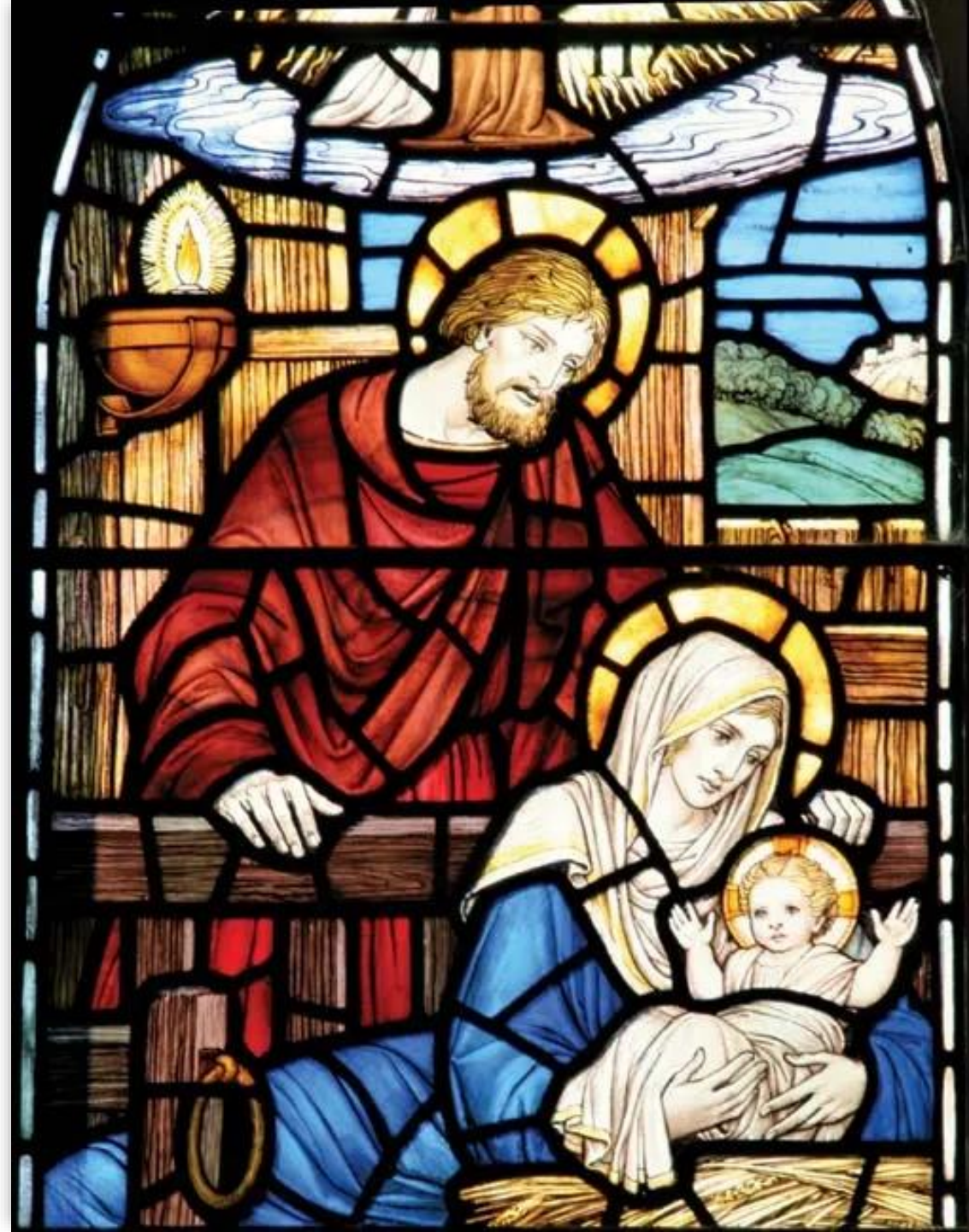
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”



# Faith filled woman

- Knew her scripture
- Knew God and his promises
- Believed the angel Gabriel
- Rejoiced in God's favour





# Chosen by God

- Gave birth in a manger
- Raised God's son
- Assisted him through his ministry
- Watched him do miracles
- Watched him die.....





# Bold & Courageous

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- Focused & counter cultural
- Faced adversity with courage and grace
- Faithful to the end
- Filled with hope and peace





When God calls you, what is  
your response?

Philippians 4:7

# Peace

And the peace of  
God, which  
transcends all  
understanding, will  
guard your hearts  
and your minds in  
Christ Jesus

