

Christmas, The History

Timeframe

Luk 3:1 Now in the **fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar** (*14-37 AD thus 29 AD*), Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, **2** Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, **the word of God came unto John** the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Luk 3:23 And Jesus Himself began to be **about** (*Gk.5616-as if:-about, as[it had been, it were], like [as])* **thirty years of age** (*15 years under Tiberius and 15+ years under Augustus therefor He was born in 1-3 BC or before/after depending on what "about" represents*), being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph...

*Num 4:47 From **thirty years old and upward** even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation,*

----- Christ's Birth

Luk 1:5 There was in the days of Herod (*the Great*), the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the **course of Abia**: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron (*the priestly tribe*), and her name *was* Elisabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. **7** And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well stricken in years.

- *Abia- Heb.29- father (that is worshipper) of Jah. Abijah.*

1Ch 24:2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. **3** And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, **according to their offices in their service.**

1Ch 24:10 The seventh to Hakkoz, **the eighth to Abijah,**

Luk 1:8 And it came to pass, that **while he executed the priest's office** before God in **the order of his course**, **9** According to the custom of the priest's office, **his lot was to burn incense** when he went into the temple of the Lord. **10** And the whole multitude of the people were **praying without at the time of incense.** **11** And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Luk 1:23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. **24** And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself **five months**, saying, **25** Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among men.

Luk 1:26 And in the **sixth month** (*of Elizabeth's pregnancy*) the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **27** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. **28** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. **29** And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. **30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS (*Gk.2424-of Hebrew origin [H3091-Jehovah saved, and H3442-He will save; Jeshua]*). **32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: **33** And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. **34** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? **35** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. **20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the (*an*) angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which **is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

Luk 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus (*27 BC-14 AD*), that all the world should be taxed (*Gk.583-to write off [a copy or list], that is, enrol*). **2** (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)

- first made- means there were others to come.

- Cyrenius- [koo-ray'-nee-os], a.k.a. Quirinus, wasn't governor of Syria until about ten or twelve years after the birth of Jesus. He wasn't sent to Syria as governor until Archelaus, son of Herod, was removed from governing Judea. Archelaus reigned for about nine to ten years after the death of his father. Quirinus was a confidant of the Emperor who was sent to Syria and Judea with extraordinary powers to oversee the census here mentioned. He later became governor of Syria thus the reference to his position here. Clarke

Luk 2: 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5** To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and **laid him in a manger;** because there was **no room for them in the inn.**

Luk 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field (*Gk.63-to camp out*), keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the (*an*) angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you

good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luk 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe (*Gk.1025-infant*) lying in a manger.

- The sign given to the shepherds was the baby lying in the manger, not to follow the star. That was a sign for the wise men coming from the east. But Joseph, Mary and Jesus did not continue to stay at the stable after Jesus was born.

Luk 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, His name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before He was conceived in the womb. **22** And **when the days of her purification** according to the law of Moses **were accomplished, they brought Him to Jerusalem**, to present *Him* to the Lord; **23** (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) **24** And to **offer a sacrifice** according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Lev 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, **and born a man child:** then **she shall be unclean seven days;** according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. **3** And **in the eighth day** the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **4** And she shall then continue in **the blood of her purifying three and thirty days;** she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. **5** But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. **6** And **when the days of her purifying are fulfilled,** for a son, or for a daughter, **she shall bring** a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: **7** Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. **8** And **if she be not able (could not afford) to bring a lamb,** then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea **in the days of (during the reign of) Herod (the Great, who was responsible for renovating the temple which he began in 20-19 BC thus it was called "Herod's temple". In all he reigned 37 years.)** the king, behold, there came wise men (*plural but not that there were three*) from the east to Jerusalem, **2** Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for **we have seen His star** in the east, and are come to worship Him.

Mat 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men (*Gk.3097-a Magian, that is, Oriental scientist*), enquired of them diligently **what time the star appeared.** **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and **search diligently for the young child;** and when ye have found *Him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also. **9** When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the

young child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. **11** And when they were come into **the house** (*not stable because at this time many of those who came to Bethlehem for the census would have been gone leaving accommodations for Joseph, Mary and Jesus, who was now a "young child". This would have been when Jesus was about two to three years old.*), they saw the **young child** (*Gk.3813-a childling, half grown boy*) with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they (*two or more*) had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh .

- Just because there were three gifts doesn't necessarily mean there were three wise men. A person can say they received clothes, cake and candy on their birthday but that doesn't necessarily mean that only three people gave them those items.

Mat 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. **13** And when they were departed, behold, the (*an*) angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the **young child** and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him. **14** When he arose, he took the young child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt: **15** And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called My Son. **16** Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all **the children** that were **in Bethlehem**, and in all the coasts thereof, **from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.**

- Jesus was at least two years old at the time Herod commanded such an atrocity. If He was still just a newborn Herod would have commanded that only the newborns be slain. And the star was the sign that only the wise men were to follow in order to find the young king. It took them approximately two years to travel from the far east to follow the star to where Jesus was.

Mat 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20** Saying, Arise, and take the **young child** and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. **21** And he arose, and took the young child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that **Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod**, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding (*moreover*), being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: **23** And he 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.

- Here, Joseph and Mary had other children besides Jesus, contrary to certain beliefs.

Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not His mother called Mary? and His **brethren, James** (*who later wrote the book of James*), and **Joses**, and **Simon**, and **Judas**? **56** And **His sisters**, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things?

December 25, Why?

- **Liberius**, a bishop in the **Catholic** church (considered by **Catholics** to be one of the early **Catholic popes**), ordered **December 25th** to be adopted as the date for the celebration of the birth of **Christ** in the year 354 A.D. (*World Book Encyclopedia; Enclypedia Britanica; Collier's Encyclopedia*). "December 25 was already a festive day for the sun god Mithra and appealed to the Christians as an appropriate date to commerate the birth of Jesus, the 'Light of the World'." (*The Lincoln Library of Essential Information*)

The History of Christmas > Watchman Magazine

- Also, in order to appeal to the pagans, who at the time had many raucous festivals of worship to their heathen gods around the month of December, the **Catholic** church instituted the celebration of the birth of **Christ**. Yet there is no scriptural reference that states we are to remember **Him** by celebrating **His** birth as a holy day let alone the exact date on which it happened. Opinions abound.

Rom 14:5 One man (*Jewish Christian*) esteemeth one day above another (*having a difficult time giving up their former Old Testament traditions, even after they were converted to Christ.*): another (*Gentile Christian*) esteemeth every day (*as consecrated to the Lord*) alike ("*alike*" is not in the original text). Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- In the context of this passage, the **Jewish Christians** were attempting to impose **Old Testament** practices on the **Gentile** converts. (*i.e. circumcision [Acts 15]*)
- fully persuaded in his own mind- isn't saying everyone's way is the right way for himself. Not everyone's opinions are according to truth. The correct understanding of this passage is that everyone is to be fully persuaded, according to the truth that is in the gospel, in his understanding of right and wrong when it comes to esteeming one day above another.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men**, after the rudiments of the world, **and not** after Christ.

- Just because we are **not** to celebrate **Christmas** as being **Jesus'** birthday, according to worldly traditions, we are not to be ashamed as though we are committing some sort of sacrilege. Our allegiance is to no man, religious of otherwise, but to **God** and **His** word. If **His** word gave us the exact date of **Christ's** birth and told us to keep it a holy day then we would. **But it does not!**

Gal 4:10 Ye (*Gentile converts*) observe (*in context: O. T.*) days, and months, and times, and years. 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

- What we **are** to celebrate is the remembrance of **Christ** and the **reason** **He** came in the first place. **His** birth means nothing if **He** didn't fulfill **His Father's** will. That will was to come in the form of a man, die on the cruel cross, be buried and then raise up having obtained the power to defeat death through **His** obedience.

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, **to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

Heb 5:8 Though He were a Son, yet **learned He obedience by the things which He suffered;**

We celebrate that remembrance every first day of the week when we come together to break bread in communion.

Act 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1Co 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread: 24 And when He had given thanks, He brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.** 25 After the same manner also *He took* the cup, when He had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.** 26 For **as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.**

- We are to celebrate Christ **every** first day of the week (*Sunday*) and not just once or twice each year as though we are doing Him a favor.

Mat 15:9 **But in vain they do worship Me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a king then? Jesus answered, **Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world,** that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth (*Gk.191-to hear: understand*) My voice.

What About Celebrating A Civil Holiday, Giving Gifts, Etc?

"...can one use this day as a national or civil holiday (like the 4th of July, or Labor Day, etc.) and get together with family and loved ones to eat, thank God for our blessings, and give gifts or cards to one another?... Yes we can."

Conclusion

"To observe Christmas as a 'religious' holiday is wrong! It is wrong because the Bible has not authorized it. Friends, the day of Christ's birth is not revealed in the Bible, and we need to respect that (cf. Deuteronomy 29:29). We also need to shun the speculation that says, 'Christ had to have been born sometime, and December 25th is as good a day as any to celebrate His birth!' Let's just obey what God has authorized, remember the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection, and leave our speculation out of it." Watchman Magazine >> [The History of Christmas](#)

Deu 29:29 The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

Gal 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

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