



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Randy Duke 12/24/23

randyduke@protonmail.com



- i. Class notes & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code
- ii. **Today's opening song:** Gloria, by Casting Crowns <http://tinyurl.com/pssueryh>
- iii. **Joe & Jill Novello return to the mission field with YWAM:** jnovello@mac.com
Jill Novelo: ERNovelo@Hotmail.com
Checks made out to "Missionary Resource" and sent to 5558 Pine Circle, Coral Springs, FL 33067
- iv. **Ever wondered what the Israeli National Anthem ('Hatikvah') translates to & the story behind it?**
 - a. Article: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/hatikvah/>
 - b. Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2FZsuaneAc>
- v. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Dr. Ron Rhodes to discuss the glories of Heaven where the former things will not be remembered. What will our roles be in heaven? What about infants and children? What about those who claim to have visited heaven? Additional topics discussed:
 - a. Why do we need a "new Heaven"?; After death, what is the "Intermediate State"? Will we see God's face?
 - b. OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s>; YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/yenha9u4>
 - c. **Additional studies:** Why does heaven need to be created new? <http://tinyurl.com/2r54cc8f>
After death, what is the "Intermediate State"? <http://tinyurl.com/bdfer43h>
What of stories of people who visit heaven & return? <http://tinyurl.com/kycztufk>
- vi. **Amir Tsarfati Newsletter**
 - a. Newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/mr9zmcuc>
 - b. Special Christmas message: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2k3b72>
 - c. For Unto us a child is born: <http://tinyurl.com/282e77mu>
- vii. **"The Christmas Truce": What happened in the trenches of 1914 WW I**
 - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaBJhmKDKmc>

II. **Christmas According To Scripture:** A comparison of tradition vs. Bible records

- a. **Was Jesus born on December 25?**
 - i. A more probable time would be late September, the time of the Feast of Tabernacles
 - ii. Commonly believed Jesus' birth was sometime in September, possibly the Feast of the Tabernacle.
 - iii. A different perspective is shared by Jonathan Cahn: <http://tinyurl.com/4ejnfh5e>
 - iv. Mary may have been told she was pregnant in late December. So, our Christmas celebration could be recognized as an observation of the incarnation of 'the Word made flesh' (John 1:14).
- b. **Did our calendar years start at Jesus' birth?**
 - i. The Bible doesn't give the exact year Jesus was born. Matt 2:1 says Jesus was born during the days of Herod. Herod died between 4 B.C. to 1 B.C.. When Joseph, Mary & Jesus fled Bethlehem, Herod ordered all boys 2 yrs & younger in the vicinity killed. Thus, Jesus could have been as old as 2 at Herod's death. This places the date of Christ's birth sometime between 6 - 4 B.C (some argue as much as 2 B.C.)
 - ii. Luke 2:1-2 states: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria."
 - iii. Caesar Augustus reigned from 27 B.C.-A.D. 14. Quirinius governed Syria during this same time.
 - iv. Luke 3:23 states "Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age". Jesus began His ministry when John the Baptist ministered in the wilderness, & John's ministry began "in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar" (Luke 3:1)
 - v. The only time period that fits all of these facts is A.D. 27-29. If Jesus was "about thirty years of age" by A.D. 27, a birth sometime between 6 and 4 B.C. fits the chronology.
 - vi. Using these dates, Jesus would have been approx. 32 years old at the time He began His ministry (confirming Luke 3:23 "about thirty years of age").
- c. **Did Mary ride a donkey to Bethlehem?**
 - i. Maybe, but the Bible doesn't record how Mary & Joseph got to Bethlehem. Read Luke 2:4-5
- d. **Did Mary give birth the night she arrived in Bethlehem?**
 - i. The Bible doesn't say so. Joseph & Mary could have arrived weeks earlier. God's Word simply states, "while they were there [in Bethlehem], the days were accomplished that she should be delivered" (Luke 2:6).
- e. **Did Joseph go from Inn to Inn seeking a room?**

