

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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- i. Class notes & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code
- Today's opening song: Gloria, by Casting Crowns <a href="http://tinyurl.com/pssueryh">http://tinyurl.com/pssueryh</a>
- iii. Joe & Jill Novello return to the mission field with YWAM: jnovelo@mac.com

Jill Novelo: <a href="mailto:ERNovelo@Hotmail.com">ERNovelo@Hotmail.com</a>

Checks made out to "Missionary Resource" and sent to 5558 Pine Circle, Coral Springs, FI 33067



- Article: https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/hatikvah/
- b. Song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2FZsuaneAc
- v. <u>Understanding The Times</u>: 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:
  - 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
  - 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: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/mr9zmcuc">http://tinyurl.com/mr9zmcuc</a>
- b. Special Christmas message: http://tinyurl.com/yc2k3b72
- c. For Unto us a child is born: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/282e77mu">http://tinyurl.com/282e77mu</a>

# 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

#### 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. <u>Did our calendar years start at Jesus' birth?</u>

- 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").

#### Did Mary ride a donkey to Bethlehem?

i. Mavbe. 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).
- Did Joseph go from Inn to Inn seeking a room?



i. Perhaps, but there's no biblical record that he did. Although innkeepers play a prominent part in many Christmas plays, no innkeeper is mentioned anywhere in the biblical record of Christ's birth. Read Luke 2:4-7

#### f. Was Jesus born in a stable ... or a barn ... or a cave?

- i. We're not really sure where Christ was born as the Bible doesn't actually mention any of these places in connection with Christ's birth, only a manger (in Greek φατνη, pronounced *phatnē*)
- ii. Luke 2:7 & 2:16 reports they laid Jesus in a manger "because there was no room for him in the inn" & [the shepherds] "found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger".
- iii. The Greek word translated as 'Inn' in Luke 2:7 is katalumati (the singular form of kataluma), &

means 'guest chamber', 'lodging place' or 'inn'. The only other times this word is used are in Luke 22:11 and Mark 14:14, where it means a furnished, large, upper story room within a private house.

# g. OK, but what about The Church of the Nativity?

i. Around A.D. 326-330, Empress Helena (Constantine's Mother) built a church over the cave thought to be Jesus' birthplace (by tradition). The church was rebuilt in the 6th century & pieces of the original building still remain. It's said to be the oldest Christian church in existence and one of the most holy sites in the Holy Land.

# h. Did angels sing to the shepherds (or at Jesus' birth)?

- i. Perhaps, but the Bible doesn't say that the angels sang, only that "the angel of the Lord said to them..." (referring to the shepherds)
- ii. It says that first an angel appeared and spoke to the shepherds (Luke 2:10), and "suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Luke 2:13).

#### i. Did three Kings come to honor Jesus at His birth?

- i. The Bible doesn't record any kings (or camels) at Jesus' birth. Matthew 2:1 reports "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem..."
- ii. When Christ was around 2 years old, the Bible says wise men ("magi") came, but doesn't say how many. 'Magi' is merely plural for of Magus. We get our notion of 3 from the gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

#### j. How old was Jesus when the Magi visited Him?

- i. Matthew 2:9 states "9When 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."
- The Greek word 'child' is PAIDION (παιδίον). The translation for paidion is "a little child, an infant, little one."
- iii. Occurs 27 times in the New Testament, properly, a child under training; implies a *younger* child (perhaps up to seven years old or younger).iv.