

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015 Matthew 03 The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December Matthew 01 The Genealogy of Christ**
- 3) 20 December Matthew 02 The Magi
- 4) 27 December Matthew 04 The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016 Matthew 05a The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January Matthew 06 Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January Matthew 05b Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January Matthew 07 Judging Others
- 9) 31 January Matthew 08 More Miracles
- 10) 07 February Matthew 09-10 More Miracles
- 11) 14 February Matthew 11 Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February Matthew 12 Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February Matthew 13 More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- Far too often traditions have become the basis for us believing in things not found in Scripture. For example:
 - ♦ Many believe Angels sung on the night Christ was born – but scripture doesn't say they did or did not [Luke 2:10–14](#)
 - ♦ The Bible makes no mention of any innkeeper who told Joseph and Mary the inn was full for the night
 - ♦ Many believe there were 3 wise men, but Scripture does not give us a number
 - ♦ Many believe Jesus was born in an open-air barn instead of the lower floor of a house where it was customary for people to bring their animals in from cold or theft
- Many believe Jesus was born 25 December, 1 AD. The exact day & month is indeterminable, but 12/25 is as good as any, though many scholars claim Jesus had to be born in Sept/Oct during the Feast of Trumpets – the Fall Harvest.
- But the year is probably not 1 AD. Jesus was possibly born between 6-4 BC because Cyrenius became governor of Syria ([Luke 2:2-5](#)) in 6 BC and Herod the Great died ([Mat 2:19](#)) in 4 BC
- Another consideration. Some scholars have worked out the timeline of Daniel's 69 weeks, and have calculated that Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on 6 April 32 AD. You back up "about" 33 years and you have a date of about 1 BC +/- 2 to 3 years for His possible birth. Recall that [Luke 3:23](#) says Jesus was "about 30 years old" at the start of His ministry.

Passage	Comments
Matthew 1:1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew records the lineage from Abraham, because he was addressing more of a Jewish audience • Luke records the lineage from Adam, because he was addressing more of a Gentile audience
A word on Creation Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Apostle Paul was addressing Jews he would go as far back as Moses or Abraham to make a point • But when addressing Gentiles, Paul will go back to God the creator. So know your audience...
1:6-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew lists Joseph's lineage through Solomon, making Jesus the legal heir to the throne of David • Luke apparently gives the lineage of Mary, making Jesus the physical heir to the throne of David through Nathan, one of David's other sons
1:17	<p>Is the Bible Accurate in Counting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Generations from Abraham to David • 14 Generations from David to Babylon captivity • 14 Generations from Babylon captivity to Christ • Skeptics challenge us (as they should) on the accuracy of this statement since there are more than 14 generations between all these events • According to Barnes' commentary, this was a common linguistic practice of this era to use truncated or rounded summaries as a way to easily memorize

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therefore, numeric accuracy is not an issue here • God gives skeptics wiggle room to disbelieve
1:18-25	<p>Joseph finds out his fiancée is pregnant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary's story of her pregnancy being by immaculate conception was too hard to accept • Was it by a Roman soldier or a moment of indiscretion? • Joseph was discreetly divorcing Mary when God conveyed to him in a dream the truth of Mary's situation • Can we have Godly dreams, like Joseph (3x) & the wise men, to provide us with direction in life? • According to Heb 1:1-2 God spoke to special recipients in various ways. In all cases dreams were to be tested and not blindly accepted... Zech 10:2; 1John 4:1
1:23	<p>ISAIAH 7:14 "THEREFORE THE LORD, HIMSELF, WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: BEHOLD, A VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND BEAR A SON, AND SHE WILL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL." – written about 740 B.C.</p> <p>Out of 365 Messianic prophecies, over 60 have been fulfilled, and 15 of those refer to His birth</p>
More than Coincidence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 7 Jewish feast days, Jesus was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, raised on First Fruits, and sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost • If He was born during the Feast of Trumpets, that leaves 2 more Jewish Feasts to commemorate the Lord's activities sometime in the future. • The Day of Atonement or judgment (possibly as seen in Rev 20) and Tabernacles – the establishment of God's eternal dwelling, as possibly seen in Rev 21

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Though we cannot be dogmatic whether angels did or did not sing at the birth of Christ; or whether Mary gave birth to Jesus in an open-air barn or not, we should always strive to validate our beliefs according to what the Bible actually says
- And, we are never told to commemorate the Lord's birth, but, instead, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 02. Can we prove with scientific or historical certainty the events of Jesus' birth – such as the magi, the virgin birth, and the special star? NO, BUT we can prove with scientific and historical certainty Jesus is the promised Messiah through 100% accuracy of fulfilled prophecies and the mathematical laws of probability

