

**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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therefore, numeric accuracy is not an issue here</li> <li>• God gives skeptics wiggle room to disbelieve</li> </ul>
1:18-25	<p><b>Joseph finds out his fiancée is pregnant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary's story of her pregnancy being by immaculate conception was too hard to accept</li> <li>• Was it by a Roman soldier or a moment of indiscretion?</li> <li>• Joseph was discreetly divorcing Mary when God conveyed to him in a dream the truth of Mary's situation</li> <li>• Can we have Godly dreams, like Joseph (3x) &amp; the wise men, to provide us with direction in life?</li> <li>• 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... <a href="#">Zech 10:2</a>; <a href="#">1John 4:1</a></li> </ul>
1:23	<p><b>ISAIAH 7:14</b> "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 style="background-color: #d9ead3; text-align: center;"><b>Out of 365 Messianic prophecies, over 60 have been fulfilled, and 15 of those refer to His birth</b></p>
More than Coincidence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

**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

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

