

The Birth Date of Jesus Christ (Part #1)

Some believe there are no adequate biblical clues for the dating of the birth of Jesus Christ. Others don't think it is important enough of an issue for study. Unfortunately, a date has been given for the birth of Jesus Christ that is not accurate (Dec.25, 1 AD).

We have a lot of historical information given in the Scriptures related to the birth of Jesus Christ that help us with the dating.

During the next two week, we will study all the historical data given in the Scriptures related to the date of the birth of Jesus Christ. We believe this data will show that Jesus died during the month of His birth.

This lesson will study the first five of ten Scriptural clues to the Birth Date of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:1-3).
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1. Zachariah was the priest of the 8th order or Abijah

(Luke 1:5; 1 Chron.24:1-10; 2 Chron.8:14; Luke 1:8-10). Zachariah and Elizabeth were both of the house of Aaron (Luke 1:5; Lev.21:7, 13-15).

Priests were on call twice a year (every 6 months) from Sabbath to Sabbath by lottery (1 Chron.24:5); (Prov.16:33).

2. Conception of JB occurred following Zachariah's priestly service.

(Luke 1:5-7, 18, 23-26), 36-37). Six months later the miraculous conception of Jesus occurred (Luke 1:26, 34, 36, 39).

John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus Christ (Luke 1:26, 34, 36-39). I believe JB was born in the month of Oct., 6BC.

3. Roman census decreed by Caesar Augustus (reigned 27 BC to 14 AD) required Mary and Joseph to register in Bethlehem since they were of the house of David (Luke 2:1-10).

It was the **first census** (prote apographe) [Official registration of citizens] taken by Quirinius (Luke 2:1-2).

The Deeds of Divine Augustus consists of 35 of greatest achievement of his reign. He was so proud of his 3 censuses that he listed them as number 8 (4,233,000 Roman citizens). The Deeds of Augustus were placed on two bronze plaques outside Augustus's mausoleum.

Egyptian records discuss Roman census taken about every 14 years. We know that a second census was taken in Israel by Rome about 6 AD (Acts 5:37) Gamaliel's discussion of history (Acts 5:34; 22:3) (Paul).

If Egyptian records are accurate, Luke's first census would have been issued about 8 BC.

Historians say that Herod was very sick during this period. We know that Herod died 4 BC. They also say citizens were not required to travel during difficult weather periods. We don't know the length of time allotted by Rome to complete the regional census.

4. Quirinius was governor of Syria of which Israel was part in Roman Empire ((Luke 2:2).

He was governor twice (6-4 BC) and (6-9 AD). He was in charge of both censuses in Israel (Luke 2:2; Acts 5:37).

Both of these dates fit the two censuses taken in Israel recorded in the Bible. This means that the census registration was recorded by both Rome and Israel. The primary purposes of census to Rome were taxes and military service.

(Luke 2:3) “**And all** were proceeding to register for the census (apographo/ p.p.infin), **everyone to his own city.**”

Egyptian records give details of registration requirements.

Names down to grandfather
Tribal city or village of birth
Age and profession

Married and children information
Anyone else living in residence
Signed by person, official, and 3 witnesses

- Mary was of the house of Nathan-David (Luke 3:23, 31).
- Joseph was of the house of Solomon-David (Matt.1:6, 16).

5. Bethlehem shepherds were watching their flock in the field by night at the birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:8-20).

Plummer explains that these sheep were penned from November to March.

Watching their flock in the field by night shows a different seasonal time.

- I believe JB was born October, 6BC and Jesus was born six months later in April, 5BC.
- I also believe that Jesus died in April, 30 AD (Passover; Luke 22:7; Lev.23:5-6).
- Therefore, I believe that Jesus died during the month of His birth.

Doctrinal point: The greatest census to consider today IS whether YOU are a **citizen of heaven** and YOUR name is written in the **Lamb’s Book of Life** (Phil.3:20; **Heb.12:23**; Rev.21:27).

(**Heb.12:23**) “**To the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled (apographo / perf.p.ptc.gplm) [REGISTERED CENSUS] in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.**”

MERRY CHRISTMAS