

The Birth Date of Jesus Christ (Part #2)

Both Luke and Matthew give historical clues to the Birth Date of Jesus Christ.

We will begin by reviewing last week's **five Scriptural clues** to the Birth Date of Jesus Christ.

- Zachariah served in the 8th order or Abijah of priesthood. Elizabeth became pregnant immediately after his service (Luke 1:1-25).
- John Baptist was six months older than Jesus (Luke 1:26, 31-36)
- Caesar Augustus decreed three censuses. The last two were recorded by Luke in (Luke 2:1-2) (8 BC) and Acts 5:37 (6 AD).
- Quirinius was the governor of Syria during these two censuses (6-4 BC) and (6-9 AD) (Luke 2:1-7; Acts 5:37).
- Bethlehem temple shepherds were watching their flocks in the field by night. The sheep were penned from Nov. to March (Luke 2:8-20).

Today we will study the final five Scriptural clues to the Birth Date of Jesus Christ.

6. Herod the Great reigned (37-4 BC) during the birth of Jesus Christ and Magi visit (Matt.2:1-6).

Herod determined the exact date of the birth of King of Jews from Magi (Matt.2:7). He murdered all the children of Bethlehem vicinity 2 years and under based on this date (Matt.2:12-13, 16-18). It fulfilled the messianic prophecy of Jer.31:15 (Matt.2:18).

Jewish historians wrote that Herod died before Passover of 4 BC at the age of 70 because of killing these children.

Therefore, Jesus had to be born between 6-4 BC. If you add 1 year to 4 BC, you get 5 BC for the likely Birth Date of Jesus Christ.

7. Joseph and Mary were warned in dream to leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt to fulfill messianic prophecy. (Matt.2:13-15; Hosea 11:1)

They were instructed to stay until the death of Herod. They apparently stayed a few months since Herod died just before Passover of 4 BC.

8. After Herod's death, his son, Archelaus, reigned over Judea (4 BC-6 AD). In 6 AD, Archelaus was banished to Vienna of Gaul (France) by Rome.

Quirinius was brought back to keep order (6-9 AD) and the second Roman census (Acts 5:37).

After Herod's death, Joseph and Mary were told to return to land of Israel (Matt.2:19-20).

But Joseph decided to return to Nazareth of Galilee out of the territory of Archelaus (Matt.2:21-23). This also fulfilled messianic prophecy - "This was to fulfill what was spoken through **the prophets** (plural), 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" (Matt.2:23)

“Nazarene is probably a synonym for ‘contemptible’ or ‘despised’ since Nazareth was a mostly unlikely place for the residence of the Messiah (Isa.53:3; Ps.22:6; John 1:46-51) (Ryrie Study Bible).”

Jesus attended the next Passover after Archelaus was banished (6 AD) at the age of 12 in 7 AD. **When you add 5 BC to 7 AD you get 12 or the age of Jesus when He attend this Passover (Luke 2:41-52).**

9. Jesus was baptized by John Baptist during the 15th year of Tiberius (14 AD-37 AD) (Luke 3:1, 21).

Tiberius was the adopted son of Caesar Augustus and co-regent with Augustus from (11or12-14 AD). In the 15th year of Tiberius, Jesus was about 30 (30-31 of age) when baptized and began ministry (Luke 3:23).

When you add 11 to 15 AD, you get 26 AD as the year of the baptism and start of ministry for Jesus.

When you subtract 12 as age of Jesus in temple (7 AD) from 31 as age of Jesus at baptism, you get 19 years. Now add 19 yrs and 7 AD and you get 26 AD.

10. Final Scriptural-historical clue to the birth date of Jesus Christ was the rebuilding of Herod’s temple (John 2:18-22).

The conversation between Jesus and Jews occurred in the first year of ministry (John 2:12-25) (26 AD). (John 2:20) says that it had been under construction for 46 years at that time. Historians tell us that it was started about 19-20 BC.

When you add 26 AD to 20 BC, you get 46 years. We have a strong Scriptural-historical time table from the birth (5 BC) to the baptism and beginning of ministry of Jesus Christ (26 AD).

Jesus connected Herod’s temple to His resurrection after three days of burial.

(John 2:19) “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in **three days** I will raise it up.’”

(John 2:21-22) “But He was speaking of the **temple of His body**. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remember that He said this; and they believed the Scriptures and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

(1 Cor.6:19) “Or do you not know that **your body is a temple** of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

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