

Three Wise Men: Really?

“Tis the season”. . . is a slogan heard from our earliest childhood regarding the birth of Yahshua (Jesus Christ) which involves all the happenings and traditions associated with the season that has come to be known as Christmas. The journey of the Three Wise Men, kings from the east, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to pay homage to the New Born King is an integral part of this tradition. This study examines the scriptural accuracy of this happening by carefully revealing biblical truth apart from tradition stipulated in the law, times and seasons as well as the geographical location of specific towns and areas in Israel and Egypt in which they occurred.

Luke, Chapter One, sets the background of a timeline centering on the birth of John the Baptist and Yahshua (Jesus.) Following the scriptural detail that is recorded for our admonishment, a far different story is revealed about Our Lord’s birth and the appearance of the wise men than tradition tells.

Luke 1:5~11 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that while he (*Zacharias*) **executed the priest’s office** before God in the order of **his course**, According to the custom of the priest’s office, **his lot** was to **burn incense** when he went **into the temple** of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the **time (or hour) of incense**. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the **right side** of the **altar of incense**.

John’s parents were both righteous believers before Yah, truly exemplary people. His mother Elizabeth was of the daughters of Aaron. John’s father, Zacharias of the line of Abijah, was a priest in the temple who executed the priest’s office before Yah in the order of his course.

Course #2183. *Ephemeria; the quotidian rotation or class of the Jewish priests’ service at the Temple, as distributed by families.*

“His lot” *was a period of a half a month’s temple duty performing the required offerings and tasks set forth in the law. There were 24 courses in all, each serving a half a lunar cycle (half a Month), 12 cycles in all per year. The lunar cycle was the time piece used to define the first and the fifteenth of each month, so that the new moon started the month and the full moon declared the 15th or middle of the month. Zacharias’ lot fell on the 8th course of the year associated with the last half of the 4th lunar month, counting from the first of the New Year, the new moon at spring, the Hebrew month called Abib. The Biblical New Year correlates to late March early April according to our Gregorian calendar.*

Please see appendix for correlation of Gods lunar cycle with that of our Gregorian calendar.

It was “his lot” according to his course as a priest to burn incense at the altar in the temple. It is at this time an angel of the Lord appears to Zacharias and declares to him the future birth of a son, John. According to the law, it was the custom of the priests to divide the temple service functions among themselves by lot: and as recorded in scripture, the decision of the lot falling to the family line of Abijah, denoted that Zacharias’ descendants would be assigned the 8th course.

1 Chron 24:1~19 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. And Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests. Then David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, **divided them according to the schedule of their service**. There were more leaders found of the

sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus they were divided. Among the sons of Eleazar were **sixteen heads** of their fathers' houses, and **eight heads** of their fathers' houses among the sons of Ithamar (*total 24 heads of family*). Thus they were **divided by lot**, one group as another, for there were **officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God**, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. And the scribe, Shemaiah the son of Nethanel, one of the Levites, wrote them down before the king, the leaders, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the **heads of the fathers' houses of the priests** and Levites, one father's house taken for Eleazar and one for Ithamar. Now the **first lot** fell to Jehoiarib, the **second** to Jedaiah, the **third** to Harim, the **fourth** to Seorim, the **fifth** to Malchijah, the **sixth** to Mijamin, the **seventh** to Hakkoz, the **eighth to Abijah**, the **ninth** to Jeshua, the **tenth** to Shecaniah, the **eleventh** to Eliashib, the **twelfth** to Jakim, the **thirteenth** to Huppah, the **fourteenth** to Jeshebeab, the **fifteenth** to Bilgah, the **sixteenth** to Immer, the **seventeenth** to Hezir, the **eighteenth** to Happizez, the **nineteenth** to Pethahiah, the **twentieth** to Jehezkel, the **twenty-first** to Jachin, the **twenty-second** to Gamul, the **twenty-third** to Delaiah, the **twenty-fourth** to Maaziah. This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

Zacharias' lot being of the sons of Abijah, the 8th course, was to burn incense as did each priest in his time of service. The priests were employed to perform the offerings, remove the ashes from the former service, to bring in and place on the golden altar the pan filled with hot burning coals taken from the altar of burnt offering outside the temple. They were to sprinkle the incense on the hot coals and while the smoke of it ascended, to make intercession for the people. This was the most distinguished part of the service (as shown in Rev 8:3), and was what comprised the duties that fell to the lot of Zacharias at this time.

*The 8th course of the year was associated with the last half of the 4th lunar month, with each course being a time frame of a half a month or a half of a lunar cycle. Counting from the first of the New Year, the new moon at spring; brings us to the Hebrew 4th month called, Tammuz. The last half of the 4th lunar month, Tammuz is equivalent to the **beginning month of July** in the Gregorian calendar used today.*

Lk 1:12~22 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, **Fear not**, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name **John**. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and **many shall rejoice at his birth**. For **he shall be great in the sight of the Lord**, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be **filled with the Holy Spirit**, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he **turn to the Lord** their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the **hearts of the fathers to the children**, and the **disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord**. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, **I am Gabriel**, that **stand in the presence of God**; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he **tarried so long in the temple**. And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

*While Zacharias was in the temple at the **altar of incense**, Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, appeared to him striking him with fear. The angel told Zacharias fear not; Elizabeth his wife was to have a child, that his name would be John. John would grow to become a great, most influential prophet. Zacharias doubted this would be possible because both he and Elizabeth were "well stricken with years." Because of his doubt Zacharias became mute as a prophetic sign to him of the event to be fulfilled. The multitude of the people were praying outside at the **time of the incense offering**, referring to the prayers of the saints on their behalf to Yah presented by the priest in the temple. The multitude stood outside the temple in the court by the altar of burnt offering waiting for Zacharias, and marveled that he **tarried so long in the temple**. Zacharias*

remained in this mute condition until the day of John's circumcision, which according to the law was on the eighth day after his birth, fulfilling prophecy.

Lk 1:23~25 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the **days of his ministration were accomplished** ("his course"), he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself **five months**, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

*As stated, Zacharias was of the line of Abijah being of the 8th course referring to the last half of the 4th month called in Hebrew; Tammuz of service as a priest at the temple in which his "lot" fell counting from the first of the New Year, known as, spring according to Yah's calendar. The time of spring, the beginning of new life, the New Year according to scripture called Abib in Hebrew, happens in late March early April in the Gregorian calendar. Counting 8 courses, each serving a time of a half a month, using the new and full moon as their time piece would chronologically equate to the last half of the 4th month; Tammuz, according to Yah's (God's) calendar, making the time of Zacharias' service at the temple to fall in the **beginning of July** based on the Gregorian calendar used today.*

*As soon as the **days of his ministration were accomplished** (the end of the month of Tammuz, the **beginning of July**) Zacharias departed to his own house to be with Elisabeth. With such a detailed account of the timing we are able to surely consider that John was conceived shortly thereafter in the beginning of the 5th month of God's calendar, the **latter half of July** per our Gregorian calendar. After his wife Elisabeth conceived, scripture records that she hid herself for **five months**, which would equate to the 9th month of God's calendar; Kislev, the **latter half of the month of November**, derive from the early Roman calendar meaning the ninth and so called in the Gregorian calendar.*

Lk 1:26~38 And in the **sixth month** (of Elisabeth's pregnancy) the angel **Gabriel** was sent from God unto a city of **Galilee**, named **Nazareth**, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was **Mary**. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art **highly favoured**, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, **Fear not**, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called **the Son of the Highest**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The **Holy Spirit** shall come upon thee, and the power of the **Highest** shall overshadow thee: therefore also that **holy thing** which shall be born of thee shall be called the **Son of God**. And, behold, thy **cousin Elisabeth**, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the **sixth month with her** (*Elizabeth*), who was called **barren**. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

*As recorded in the scriptures, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary in the **sixth month** of her cousin Elisabeth's pregnancy, which began in the **latter half of July** per our Gregorian calendar. This would be equivalent to the **latter half of December** relative to today's Gregorian calendar. And once again Gabriel reaffirms the reference point in time as Mary's cousin Elisabeth was **in her sixth month with child** who was called **barren**. Gabriel relates to Mary the prophecy of the child: She shall conceive the Son of God instilled with Yah's Holy Spirit and this Child will come in the name of the Father, the Son of the Highest, called Yahshua, meaning "Yah Saves" (translated in Greek as; Jesus).*

Lk 1:39~42 And **Mary** arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of **Judah**; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe (*John*) leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and **blessed is the fruit of thy womb.**

*Mary is from the province of Galilee, of the town of Nazareth which is well north of Jerusalem being in the province of Judah. Yet it is in Judah that Mary's cousin Elizabeth resides, being six months pregnant, hiding herself of this happening being well advanced in years. Scripture records that Mary was indeed pregnant as stated; **blessed is the fruit of her womb**, being with child as she appears in Elizabeth's presence. All these happenings as recorded in the scriptures are occurring to Mary in the **sixth month** of her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy, which was stated to be equivalent to the **latter half of December** relative to the Gregorian calendar used today. And where else would Mary run to with such a miracle revealed to her from an angel, but to her priestly cousins Zacharias and Elizabeth.*

Lk 1:43~56 And whence is this to me, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me. For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And **his mercy is on them that fear him** from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; **he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.** He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. And **Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.**

*To review: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was also sent to Galilee, a region in northwestern Israel, to a city named Nazareth to a virgin (Mary) espoused to a man whose name was Joseph. Gabriel told her she was to give birth to the Son of God. After accepting this miracle, Mary immediately (in haste) goes to see her cousin Elizabeth into the province of Judah. When Elizabeth hears the greetings of Mary, preborn John leaps in Elizabeth's womb and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesying of the Messiah, as Mary carries within her a miraculous pregnancy. Mary abides with her cousin Elizabeth and Zacharias **three months** until the time of John's birth, whereby she returns to her home in Nazareth, now herself, Mary, being three months pregnant.*

*Zacharias' days of ministration were accomplished at the end of the 4th month, Tammuz, the **beginning half of July** per our Gregorian calendar. Zacharias departed to his own house to be with Elisabeth. John was conceived shortly thereafter in the beginning of the 5th month of God's calendar, Ab, the **latter half of July** per our Gregorian calendar. After his wife Elisabeth conceived, scripture records that she hid herself for **five months**, which would bring us to a time of the 9th month of God's calendar, Kislev, equating to the **latter half of the month of November** in the Gregorian calendar. The following month, the sixth month of her pregnancy, would be the 10th month in God's calendar, Tebeth, correlating to the **latter half of December** in the Gregorian calendar. Three months later would place John's birth at the time of the beginning of the New Year, the first month of God's calendar, Abib, late **March** early **April** in the Gregorian calendar. Mary now three months pregnant returns home to Nazareth.*

Lk 1:57~66 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her **cousins** (including Mary) heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the **eighth day** they came to **circumcise the child**; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, **Not so**; but he shall be called **John**. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father (*still mute*), how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, **His name is John**. And they marvelled all. **And his mouth was opened immediately**, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. And fear came on all that dwelt round

about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

John's name in Hebrew means; "Yah is Gracious." Elizabeth gives birth to John who will grow into a great prophet known as John the Baptist preaching repentance, preparing the way for Our Lord, his cousin Yahshua the Messiah. Mary, Yahshua's mother, is now three months pregnant. The prophecy given to Zacharias by Gabriel in Lk 1:12~22 stated that he will have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at John's birth. For John shall be great in the sight of Yah, the Lord, being filled with the Holy Spirit; many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And John shall go before the Messiah in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Notice it's not until Zacharias declares John's prophesied name, fulfilling the prophecy given to him being mute, is his mouth opened, being now filled with the Holy Spirit proclaiming the grace of Yah.

Lk 1:67~80 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and **to remember his holy covenant**; The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might **serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.** And thou, child (*John*), shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give **knowledge of salvation** unto his people **by the remission of their sins**, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

*A revealing statement is spoken by Zacharias as he is filled with the Holy Spirit. The **knowledge of salvation** is given **by the remission of the people's sins**. Light, the **knowledge of salvation**, is given to them that sit in darkness, being in the shadow of death; waiting for the light to guide them into the way of peace as they **repent of their sins**.*

Lk 2: 1~7 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into **his own city**. And Joseph also **went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth**, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called **Bethlehem**; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, **being great with child**. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her **firstborn son**, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, **and laid him in a manger**; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Notice that Joseph is in Nazareth, Mary's home town, where Mary returns after being with her cousin as Elizabeth gave birth to John in the province of Judah with Mary then three months pregnant. That occurred at the beginning of the 1st month according to God's calendar, Abib; the time of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, late March early April as per the Gregorian calendar. The decree from Caesar Augustus that the entire world, meaning the realm of the newly developing Roman Empire, should be taxed would have reasonably begun in the spring, giving all ample time to travel and register in their own cities.

The event unfolds as Joseph leaves the province of **Galilee**, Mary's home town, the city of **Nazareth**, and travels south into Judaea, to the city of David, called **Bethlehem**, Joseph's home town, to register for taxes. Nazareth is some seventy miles north of Jerusalem; Bethlehem is five miles south west of Jerusalem. At this time scripture notes that Mary is now great with child and is about to give birth. The time now is some **six months after** Mary has left her cousin Elizabeth, the month of Abib, the beginning of the New Year according to God's calendar, relating to late March early April as per the Gregorian calendar at which time Mary was three months pregnant. Now six months later, Mary giving birth at the fulfillment of a nine month birth cycle would bring us to the beginning of the 7th month, Ethanim according to God's calendar, **late September early October** in the Gregorian calendar. Mary brings forth her **firstborn son**, and wraps him in swaddling clothes and **lays him in a manger** because **there was no room for them in the inn**.

Please let us stop and absorb what is being said. It is the beginning of the 7th month in God's calendar, the timing of the fall Feast celebrated at the temple in Jerusalem. According to the law all the males were to present an offering before Yah three times a year: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the 1st month, spring, the Feast of Weeks some seven weeks later, and the Feast of Ingathering in the 7th month, fall. Joseph's city, Bethlehem, is on the outskirts of Jerusalem some five miles to the south west. The area is becoming overwhelmed with worshipers coming to the fall Feast in Jerusalem. All the accommodations are taken as this critical moment for Mary to give birth takes place. Our Lord marks a humble beginning as salvation enters the world! Notice carefully that each birth, that of John the Baptist and that of Yahshua's (Jesus) occurred at the time of Yah's Holydays, fulfilling His plan of salvation according to prophecy, Lev 23.

Mary's "**First born**" son wording connotes that there were other children to come, nixing the traditional belief that Mary maintained her virginity status throughout her marriage to Joseph with no further issue of children as noted in; Mt 1:25, Mt 13:55&56, Mk 6:3 & Mk 15:40.

Lk 2:8~20 And there were in the same country **shepherds abiding in the field**, keeping watch over their flock **by night**. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, **Fear not**: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day **in the city of David** (*Bethlehem*) a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **And this shall be a sign unto you**; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, **lying in a manger**. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host (*angels*) praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto **Bethlehem**, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came **with haste**, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe **lying in a manger**. And when they had seen it, **they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child**. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The timing is the fall of the year in the 7th month in God's calendar relating to **late September early October** in the Gregorian calendar. Nevertheless tradition says that the birth of Christ was in the winter. Yet in the winter months a shepherd would bring their flocks in and not be with them in the fields at night... in the cold, truly out of place.

Notice three times it's been stated the Christ is found lying in a manger in the city of David...Bethlehem. The birth of Christ and the event that the shepherds saw were proclaimed in the area. **This was not a secret event in Bethlehem!**

Lk 2:21~24 And when **eight days** were accomplished for the **circumcising** of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the **days of her**

purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to **Jerusalem**, to present him to the Lord; As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord; And to **offer a sacrifice** according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, **A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.**

This same law of circumcision on the eighth day was fulfilled at the time of John's birth; Lk 1:59. Note carefully that now the holy family leaves Bethlehem and the manger where he was born and proceeds to Jerusalem to the temple to offer a sacrifice to fulfill the requirements of the law for Mary's purification.

Lev 12:1~5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a **woman** have conceived seed, and born a **man child**: then she shall be unclean **seven days**; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean . And in the **eighth day** the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying **three and thirty days**; **she** shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. But if **she** bear a **female child**, then she shall be unclean **two weeks**, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying **threescore and six days.**

Thus the period of purification as stated for a male child is: 7 days + 33 days = 40 days; a female child: 14 days + 66 days = 80 days.

Lev 12:6~8 And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, **she** shall bring a **lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove**, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for **her**; and **she** shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a **male** or a **female**. **And if she be not able to bring a lamb (being poor)**, then she shall bring **two turtles, or two young pigeons**; the one for the **burnt offering**, and the other for a **sin offering**: and the priest shall make an atonement for **her**, and **she** shall be clean.

***Fact to Notice:** if Mary had wealth from any source she and Joseph would have had to offer up a lamb for the sacrifice according to the law. Yet, Mary and Joseph are recorded as bringing a pair of doves or pigeons, thus denoting they were poor. Please be cognizant of the fact, that if the **wise men** had brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to **the manger** as tradition records it, the holy parents would be wealthy, fully able to purchase a lamb according to the requirement of the law to be offered.*

*Also notice it is now some **forty days after** Christ's birth; they are no longer in Bethlehem, but in Jerusalem at the temple having had thus far no contact with the **wise men** and their wealthy gifts. It is quite feasible to assume that the Holy Family spent their remaining time awaiting the completion of the 40 days in Bethlehem with Joseph's family and not at the manger.*

Lk 2:25~40 And, behold, there was a man in **Jerusalem**, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, **before** he had **seen the Lord's Christ**. And he came by the Spirit into **the temple**: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law (*purification 40 days after birth*), Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of **all people**; **A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel**. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, **Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against**; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a **prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a **great age**, and had lived with an

husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but **served God** with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them **that looked for redemption in Jerusalem**. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, **they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth**. And the **child grew**, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

*To review: 40 days elapsed after the birth of Christ, whereby is seen the holy family's temple sacrifice according to the law and also the testimony of the **two witnesses**; by **Simeon** and **Anna**, the biblical mandate of officially declaring something validated, in this case declaring that **Yahshua is the Christ**. After these pivotal events Joseph took his family back to Mary's home town, now becoming both their city, **Nazareth**, some seventy miles north of Jerusalem where the child **grew**. There is no sign of the **wise men** showing up during the first 40 days of His birth.*

Oh where, oh where can the wise men be? Perchance the Book of Matthew will provide more definition of the event taking place.

Mt 1: 18~25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he **thought on these things**, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, **fear not** to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: **for he shall save his people from their sins**. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: **And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son**: and he called his name JESUS.

Once again Mary is recorded as having children after her first born Son, meaning that there were other siblings through Mary and Joseph, thus the traditional belief of maintaining her virginity status is in error. Mt 13:55&56, Mk 6:3 & Mk 15:40.

Mt 2: 1~8 Now when Jesus was **born in Bethlehem** of **Judaea** in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men from the east** to **Jerusalem**, Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen **his star in the east**, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, **and all Jerusalem with him**. And when he had gathered all the **chief priests and scribes** of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ **should be born**. And they said unto him, **In Bethlehem** of **Judaea**: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou **Bethlehem**, in the land of **Judah**, art not the least among the princes of **Judah**: for out of thee shall come a **Governor**, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privately called the **wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared**. **And he sent them to Bethlehem**, and said, Go and search diligently for the **young child**; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

*Finally the wise men appear, yet notice that scripture never mentions the number of wise men that came from the east. They came to the nation's capital, Jerusalem, searching for the new born King, not to Bethlehem. The wise men did not know where the Christ child would be, and made inquiries of His location. Once again, it's to Jerusalem that the wise men come to first. Many in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas are already aware of the reason for the appearance of the wise men coming: the Christ is born. The prophecies foretold of His arrival as well as the shepherds being in the field surrounding Bethlehem seeing the angel tell of the event that occurred and of the **two witnesses** in the temple court proclaiming the arrival of their King.*

No, the event was not a secret, but was a forecast as to what has occurred being announced. From this time forward, the news of the Messiah was spreading.

*Herod, the ruler of the province of Judah which included Bethlehem, inquires from the wise men to pin point the time that they started to see the star shine in the east to better determine the time of Christ's birth and his age. Herod is poised to destroy this prophesied coming King that threatens, in his mind, the usurping of his ruler-ship over the people and the area. Herod directed the wise men to Bethlehem, based on the information given to him by the chief priests and scribes to search for a **young child**, not an infant. It is through the inquiries of Herod from the wise men that he determined the child is no longer an infant, but now a **young child**.*

Mt 2:9~12 When 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. When they **saw the star**, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into **the house**, they saw the **young child** with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; **gold, and frankincense, and myrrh**. And being warned of God in a dream that **they should not return to Herod**, they departed into their own country **another way**.

*Notice the wise men, upon leaving Herod's presence, are once again led by the Spirit directed by the star to the Christ child to present their gifts to the new found King. Yet it's not to Bethlehem are they led by the star, but north to Nazareth, to **a house** where the young Child has been residing.*

*Some points in geography are in order. The temple is in Jerusalem, where we last saw Mary, Joseph and Yahshua the Christ child fulfilling the requirement of the purification law before they departed as stated: "And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, **they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth, and there the child grew.**" Lk 2:39~40*

Bethlehem is located around five miles to the southwest of Jerusalem in Judea well within a day's walk with a mule while Nazareth in Galilee is seventy miles north of Jerusalem, fourteen times further away requiring many days of walking leading a mule or camel carrying gifts from the east.

*Also note the term "**young child**" is used to describe Jesus as no longer seen as an "infant" which would infer at least a year had passed since His birth because a "child" in our terms embraces the years up until puberty.*

*It was the star that led the wise men to the young child, Christ, not to Bethlehem, the direction given by Herod. The Christ child was not in Bethlehem, nor was He in the vicinity of Jerusalem under Herod's rule. The wise men are recorded as coming to "**the house,**" seeing the "**Young Child**" with Mary his mother, whereby they; falling down and worshipping Him, and then opening their treasures and presenting Him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**. Three types of gifts from the wise men are presented, yet the number of wise men called in Greek, Magi, is unspecified. Warned in a vision, fearing Herod's wrath, the wise men depart to their own land by way of a different route.*

Mt 2:13~15 And when **they** (the wise men) **were departed**, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and **flee into Egypt**, and be thou there until **I bring thee word**: for Herod will seek the **young child** to destroy him. When he arose, he took the **young child** and his mother **by night**, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Now the remarkable time line continues: The wise men leave the holy family's house in Nazareth and proceeded by a different route far to the north and east of Jerusalem back to their countries to avoid the

wrath of Herod when he found they purposefully concealed information from him. Joseph, obeying the dream, immediately took his family and fled by night presumably taking a direct route to Egypt passing by Jerusalem advantaged by the time window, the many days it took news of the Holy Family's true location in Nazareth to be revealed.

Mt 2:16~18 Then Herod, when he saw that he was **mocked of the wise men**, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in **Bethlehem**, and in all the coasts thereof, **from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men**. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying; In **Rama** was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, **Rachel weeping for her children**, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

The Holy Family traveled safely to Egypt having been afforded ample wealth from the wise men to sustain themselves for their 3½ year residence in this foreign land. While in Egypt cries from Rama are heard, a city north of Jerusalem, of the tribe of Benjamin, which tribe Rachel was the mother. This is a quote from Jer 31:15 referring to the distress of the Israelite mother's for their children slain in the Babylonian invasion. The gospel of Matthew draw a parallel correlating the same description of sadness depicting similar weeping of Jewish mothers when King Herod, having slaughtered all the new born children up to two years old in a bid to kill the Messiah. Symbolically Rachael, the wife of Jacob, the mother of the blessed nation, is portrayed crying for her loss.

Herod became exceedingly wroth upon recognizing he was betrayed by the wise men who did not return from Bethlehem where he had sent them according to the prophecy given to him from the priests and scribes concerning the child and the news of his location in his own province so closely adjoined to Jerusalem. Herod then sent forth a decree to slay all the children from two years old and under that are in Bethlehem and in all the coasts thereof according to his rule over the province of Judah associated to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

It was the star that led the wise men to the new born child, as they inquired His location from Herod in Jerusalem, searching for the New King. The wise men informed Herod of the timing of their understanding following the star, thus prompting the decree to slay all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, for this was the time of the Child's birth the wise men revealed to Herod.

*The Christ child and His parents were no longer in Bethlehem, nor were they in the vicinity of Jerusalem under Herod's rule when the wise men came seeking their location from Herod. No, some two years now had passed since they departed from the province of Judah to now reside in Galilee in the town of Nazareth, Mary's home town. Two years earlier He had been in Bethlehem in a manger, but at the time the wise men had come to Jerusalem seeking the Christ child, he was already in Nazareth and had been for two years in Mary's home town **in a house**, not a manger, **growing** Lk 2:39~40.*

After fleeing into Egypt for 3½ years protected from the wrath of Herod, they safely return to Nazareth after Herod's death, Yahshua (Jesus) now being some 5½ years old.

*The first step of wisdom is to know what is false
For wisdom is only found in truth*

Appendix:

Gods lunar calendar = Gregorian calendar

Starting with the
New Moon at spring

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Abib | late March early April |
| 2. Ziv | late April early May |
| 3. Sivan | late May early June |
| 4. Tammuz | late June early July |
| 5. Ab | late July early August |
| 6. Elul | late August early September |
| 7. Ethanaim | late September early October |
| 8. Bul | late October early November |
| 9. Kislev | late November early December |
| 10. Tebeth | late December early January |
| 11. Shebat | late January early February |
| 12. Adar | late February early March |