

When Was Christ Born?

December 25th, the day Constantine designated as the day of Christ's birth. A day combining the truth of Yahshua's birth along with the falsehoods and abomination of paganism.

Emperor Constantine, a worshipper of Pagan gods had a vision; upon receiving that vision he became a champion of Christianity. In order to increase the number of followers, he formed the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and declared December 25th, a pagan holiday, to be the birthday of Jesus Christ. Thus we have the pattern of Satan, combining fact with falsehood leaving a day of abominable, detestable deceit becoming a most cherished and beloved holiday for mainline Christianity.

For years, we have been told December 25th could not be Yahshua's day of birth, since Luke's account tells of the shepherds in the field. The flocks would not have been left outdoors since the weather normally is cold and rainy.

There is more than one basis for the shepherds not being in the field in December. The lambing season or the time of mating occurs with the decline of day light in the autumn, which starts in September in the Holy Land. Since the gestation period of sheep is 147 days, (give or take 5 days) the offspring would be born in the spring. The grass begins to grow in the spring, feeding the mother ewe in order for her milk supply to be maximized and her lambs to grow strong and healthy.

The shepherds need to be out there each night keeping watch on their flock, protecting them from wolves or other animals. The females that have already been mated must be kept separated from the rest of the male lambs.

Luke 2:8 ¶ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

In Luke 2:8 we are told the shepherds were keeping watch over their flock. The word watch is Strong's # 5438. fulakh phulake, foo-lak-ay' - watch from 5442; a guarding or (concretely, guard), the act, the person; figuratively, the place, the condition, or (specially), the time (as a division of day or night), literally or figuratively:--cage, hold, (im-)prison(-ment), ward, watch.

Watch comes from Strong's # 5442, the definition is far stronger since it states "be on guard", through an idea of isolation or confinement as in prison.

As stated, gestation is a period of 147 days or approximately five months, leading to births between the months of January and February.

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

In Exodus, the Israelites were told to take a male lamb of the first year. The age of the male of the first year is between eight days and twelve months. Perfect timing for Passover.

We have established a basis derived from the secular world as to why our Lord was not born in December; let us take note as to what scripture will reveal to us.

This study is not to present the actual day of Yahshua's birth; if it were to be known the Father would have revealed it to us.

The truth of Yahshua's birth as told in Luke 2:6, 7.

Luke 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 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.

Scripture tells us we need two or three witnesses to affirm the truth of what has been revealed. Man has been known to take a scripture, interpret it without proving it, then sharing it with others. The results of misinterpreted scripture are falsehoods or untruth which becomes the truth to those who choose to accept the word of others.

Let us begin our search for God's truth with John the Baptist. John a cousin of our Lord, was the son of a priest Zacharias and his mother Elisabeth was of the daughters of Aaron.

Luke 1:5 ¶ 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. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

As we can see from scripture, both Zacharias and Elisabeth were considered righteous and blameless by Yah as they were obedient to His laws and commandments. They, being quite elderly and believing their childbearing days were over, were most disheartened as they perceived the Lord had not blessed them with children

Zacharias, as a priest in the Course of Abia, the eighth of the priestly courses ministering in the temple, was performing his priestly duties when the angel of the Lord appeared before him.

1 Chron. 24:1 ¶ Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 6 And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar. 7 Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, 8 The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, 9 The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, 10 The seventh to Hakkoz, the **eighth to Abijah,**

The primary function of the priests, direct descendants of Israel's first High Priest Aaron, was to work in the Tabernacle of Moses and later at the Temple. There were more men available than needed resulting with King David setting up a system of rotation for the priests, the sons of Levi. Based on the Jewish calendar each course or division was to serve one week beginning on a Sabbath, ending or going out on the following Sabbath, with each course serving twice a year. During the year when all the men of Israel were commanded to go to Jerusalem for Yah's Holy

Days, (Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Tabernacles), all the priests would be needed in the Temple to accommodate the great number of people.

This system was followed even after the Babylonian's had destroyed the Temple built by Solomon. The system of courses were re-instated by Nehemiah at the time of the re-building of the Temple.

1 Chron. 23:6 And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi,

Neh. 12:23 The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.²⁴ And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise *and* to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward (watch) over against ward.

The yearly cycle of service in the Temple, starting in the first month of the year is as follows:

<i>Month 1 - Abib</i>	<i>Week 1 -</i>	<i>1st Course -</i>	<i>Jehoiarib</i>
	<i>Week 2 -</i>	<i>2nd Course -</i>	<i>Jedaiah</i>
	<i>Week 3 -</i>	<i>All -</i>	<i>Unleavened Bread</i>
	<i>Week 4 -</i>	<i>3rd Course -</i>	<i>Harim</i>
<i>Month 2 - Iyar</i>	<i>Week 1 -</i>	<i>4th Course -</i>	<i>Seorim</i>
	<i>Week 2 -</i>	<i>5th Course -</i>	<i>Malchijah</i>
	<i>Week 3 -</i>	<i>6th Course -</i>	<i>Mijamin</i>
	<i>Week 4 -</i>	<i>7th Course -</i>	<i>Hakkoz</i>
<i>Month 3 - Sivan</i>	<i>Week 1 -</i>	<i>8th Course -</i>	<i>Abijah</i>
	<i>Week 2 -</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Pentecost (7th week counting from Unleavened Bread)</i>

Lev. 23:15 ¶ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

Zacharias would have served during the first week of Sivan (June). The following week, being Pentecost, he would have remained in Jerusalem as all the priests were required to serve at that time, due to the increased number of people attending services. He would have left Jerusalem to return home around the middle of the month of Sivan (June). Elisabeth would have conceived near the end of June with the birth of John the following March.

We continue on with Zacharias and his encounter with the Angel Gabriel. We know that Zacharias was doubtful and unbelieving as to what he was seeing and hearing. The Angel Gabriel declared that Zacharias would not be able to speak until all was accomplished and fulfilled in its season.

Luke 1:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.¹³ 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.¹⁴ And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and

many shall rejoice at his birth.15 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 Ghost, even from his mother's womb.16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, 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. 18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.19 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. 20 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.

Luke 1:23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, 25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Luke 1:19 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.

The angel who had appeared to Zacharias was the angel Gabriel. An angel of great importance since he states he stands in the presence of God. This is the same angel who makes an appearance six months later to a virgin living in Nazareth, announcing she would become the mother of our Lord.

Luke 1:26 ¶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 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.

Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

As stated above, John would have been born in the month of March with Yahshua being six months younger than his cousin being born the end of September or the very beginning of October.

Witness one has been presented, let us find another witness who can verify or confirm when our Lord was born.

Christ, being God of the Old Testament, (see study of the same name) followed the Levitical laws in establishing the beginning of His Ministry.

Nu. 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation. (Also in Scriptures Nu. 4:23, 30, 35; 1 Chron. 23:3)

Luke 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

From the above scriptures we now know that Yahshua had to reach the age of thirty in order to begin His ministry. ;

Luke 4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Isa. 61:1)

Lev. 25:8 ¶ And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. 9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

From the Complete Jewish Bible:

Lev. 25:8 You are to count seven Sabbaths of years, seven times seven years, that is forty-nine years. Then on the tenth day of the seventh month, on Atonement, you are to sound a blast on the trumpet, you are to sound the trumpet all through your land; and you are to consecrate the fiftieth year, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

According to the Book of Leviticus, the announcement of the Jubilees would be made in the 49th year at the Day of Atonement. The sound of the trumpet throughout all of Israel would proclaim liberty and healing. This announcement, made in the 49th year would be for the following year, the 50th year, also known as the first year of the Jubilee.

*Since our Father and our Lord are perfect planners, it stands to reason Yahshua would begin His ministry immediately upon reaching the age of 30. He had just turned thirty a few days earlier, when He let those in the Temple know why He was sent and what He would accomplish affirming this by the last words in verse 21 of Luke 4, **"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears"**.*

We now have two witnesses as to the season during the year our Lord was born. We no longer have to rely only on the secular version of the weather being cold and rainy and having prevented the shepherds from keeping their flocks in the fields. We can prove all things through scripture.

Truth is Power

Proverb to ponder:

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;