

# The Christmas Quiz 2010

Christmas card theology...Christmas carol theology...Christmas pageant theology...  
How well do you know the real Christmas story?

- How long after the angel appeared to Joseph did he take Mary to be his wife?  
(a) Promptly (c) One month later  
(b) Immediately upon her return from visiting her relative Elizabeth (d) After Jesus was born
- How far did Joseph and Mary travel for the census registration while Mary was with child?  
*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. (Luke 2:4-5)*  
(a) 6 miles (c) 60 miles  
(b) 16 miles (d) 80 miles
- On what did Mary ride to travel to Bethlehem while she was with child?  
*Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. (Luke 2:4-5)*  
(a) Donkey (c) Horse  
(b) Camel (d) The Bible doesn't say
- What does Scripture indicate that the innkeeper told Joseph and Mary?  
(a) "I have a stable you can use." (c) "There is no room in the inn."  
(b) "Come back after the census and I should have some room." (d) Both (a) and (c)  
(e) None of the above
- How soon after Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem was Jesus born?  
(a) Within minutes (c) At 8:07pm JST  
(b) That night (d) Days later
- In what type of structure was Jesus born?  
(a) Stable (c) Inn  
(b) Cave (d) We don't know
- Since Elizabeth and Mary were cousins, why didn't Joseph and Mary stay with Elizabeth and Zacharias after traveling to Bethlehem, rather than seeking shelter in the inn?  
*And, behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. (Luke 1:36)*  
*And she gave birth to her first-born son, and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)*  
(a) The new baby, John, kept crying (d) Zacharias & Elizabeth weren't there  
(b) There wasn't room (e) Zacharias was serving at the temple  
(c) Mary's family was ashamed of her
- Mary and Zacharias both questioned Gabriel. Both questions seem reasonable, yet Zacharias was struck dumb while Mary was not. Why?  
*And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife advanced in years." (Luke 1:18)*  
*Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34)*  
I. G-d answers prayer III. Lack of Faith  
II. Mary was sinless IV. Zacharias was a priest  
(a) I and II (c) II and IV  
(b) I and III (d) III and IV

9. Gabriel chastened Zacharias. His punishment lasted until the day G-d's messenger's words were fulfilled. What was the punishment?  
*And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time. (Luke 1:20)*
- (a) Blind (c) Deaf & Dumb  
 (b) Dumb (d) Dumb & Blind
10. An angel invited the shepherds to worship the newborn king. How would you describe the angel, and the plethora of partners that accompanied him?
- (a) Glowing with light (c) Wonderful singers  
 (b) Powerful warriors (d) The Bible doesn't say
11. What animals were present when Jesus was born?
- (a) Donkeys and oxen (d) A lamb laying next to a lion  
 (b) Sheep and cows (e) None of the above  
 (c) Doves (f) The Bible doesn't say
12. Joseph and Mary presented two doves or pigeons at the temple. For whom were these sacrifices made?  
*And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the L-rd (as it is written in the Law of the L-rd, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the L-rd"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the L-rd, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:22-24)*
- (a) Jesus (c) Joseph  
 (b) Mary (d) The Bible doesn't say
13. Jesus' parents offered the lesser sacrifice (for the poor) when they offered the sacrifice after the days for purification had been completed. How then might they have afforded the long and expensive trip from Bethlehem to Egypt (a traditional place of asylum for Jews in political danger)?  
*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the L-rd appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt..." (Matt 2:13-15)*
- (a) Used frequent camel miles (c) Borrowed from family  
 (b) Sold the baby gifts (d) Used Joseph's inheritance
14. How much time had elapsed from the birth of Jesus to the close of this verse?  
*And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the L-rd, they returned into Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)*
- (a) 40 days (c) About 2 years  
 (b) About 2 months (d) About 5 years
15. How many kings were present when the magi visited Jesus and Mary?  
*After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matt 2:11)*
- (a) None (c) Three  
 (b) At least one (d) The Bible doesn't say
16. How much time elapsed between the last verse of Luke chapter 2 and the first verse of Luke chapter 3?  
*And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with G-d and men. (Luke 2:52)*
- (a) 2 years (c) 18 years  
 (b) 10 years (d) 30 years
17. What did His star look like?  
*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." (Matt 2:1-2)*
- (a) Very bright (d) Star of David  
 (b) Very large (e) All of the above  
 (c) Low on the horizon (f) The Bible doesn't say



29. What was the name of the angel who commanded Joseph to take Mary as his wife?  
 (a) Michael (c) Gabriel  
 (b) Harold (d) The Bible doesn't say
30. In what city was Joseph when the angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife?  
*But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the L-rd appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (Matt 1:20)*  
 (a) Jerusalem (c) Nazareth  
 (b) Bethlehem (d) Galilee
31. Who told Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem?  
 (a) The angel in Joseph's dream (d) King Herod  
 (b) Mary's shamed relatives (e) Zacharias and Elizabeth  
 (c) Caesar Augustus (f) They decided on their own to avoid the shame
32. The baby Jesus cried...?  
 (a) ...because of the little drummer boy's noise. (c) ...not once, just as the Bible says.  
 (b) ...just like other babies. (d) ...when the doctor slapped Him upon delivery.
33. What did the angels sing to the shepherds?  
 (a) "Joy to the world, the L-rd is come" (d) *Handel's Messiah*  
 (b) "Alleluia!" (e) "My Sweet L-rd"  
 (c) "Glory to G-d in the highest" (f) None of the above
34. Which one of these statements is false?  
 (a) Joseph was quite a dreamer. (d) Mary was a virgin when she delivered Jesus.  
 (b) Mary was pregnant before marrying Joseph. (e) None of the above.  
 (c) Mary left town after the angel informed her she was pregnant.
35. Which persons were descendents of Aaron?  
 (a) Mary and Joseph (c) Joseph and Zacharias  
 (b) Mary and Elizabeth (d) Zacharias and Elizabeth
36. To whom did the angel say, "...I am bringing you good news of great joy..."?  
 (a) Mary (c) Zacharias  
 (b) The shepherds (d) The wise men
37. What sign did the angel tell the shepherds to look for?  
 (a) A lion and a sheep together in peace (c) Wise men bringing gifts  
 (b) A manger with a star over it (d) None of the above
38. What happened a little over a week after Jesus' birth?  
 (a) The wise men arrived (c) Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt with Jesus  
 (b) Jesus was circumcised (d) His Star left the sky

**Bonus Question:**

Place these events in the Biblical accounts of our Savior's birth from Matthew 1 & Luke 1-2 in chronological order:

- |                                             |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| ___(a) Angel's vision to Joseph about Mary  | ___(i) Mary's visit to Elizabeth         |
| ___(b) Anna's thanksgiving                  | ___(j) John's birth                      |
| ___(c) Appearance of His star               | ___(k) Joseph & Mary's trip to Egypt     |
| ___(d) Dedication of Jesus                  | ___(l) Joseph & Mary's trip to Jerusalem |
| ___(e) Mary's discussion with Gabriel       | ___(m) Joseph & Mary's trip to Jerusalem |
| ___(f) Simeon's revelation about the Savior | ___(n) Joseph & Mary's trip to Nazareth  |
| ___(g) Joseph & Mary's trip to Bethlehem    | ___(o) Visit of the wise men             |
| ___(h) Joseph & Mary's trip to Bethlehem    | ___(p) Zacharias' encounter with Gabriel |

# The Christmas Quiz 2010

## with Answers

1. How long after the angel appeared to Joseph did he take Mary to be his wife?

*(a) Promptly. Matt 1:24 indicates that Joseph's obedience to the angel's command was accomplished as soon as he awoke. This must have occurred while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem for the census, prior to the birth of Jesus. In Luke 1:27 (describing Mary's relationship to Joseph when the angel appeared to her) and 2:5 (describing her relationship to Joseph at the time of the trip to Bethlehem), the word "engaged" is the Greek word  $\mu\upsilon\eta\sigma\tau\epsilon\upsilon\omega$  ("mnesteuō"), the same word used in Matthew 1:18 (there translated as "betrothed") where Matthew describes Mary's relationship to Joseph when she was found to be pregnant. In biblical times, betrothal was an agreement that two persons would later marry; perpetuating the earlier custom when a bridegroom purchased a bride from her family. Since Luke clearly indicates that Joseph and Mary were engaged – not married – when they journeyed to Bethlehem for the census, the angel's appearance to Joseph and Joseph's subsequent prompt taking of Mary as his wife must have occurred in Bethlehem. Matt 1:18-19 states that Joseph was contemplating quietly ending his relationship with Mary because of her condition. This was likely in response to the demands of Joseph's relatives (who would also have been in Bethlehem for the census) that Mary be put to the test of bitter water (Num 5:23-28) – for apparently having relations with another man. As Joseph contemplated this action as a result of the pressure from his relatives, the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, instructing him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife.*

2. How far did Joseph and Mary travel for the census registration while she was with child?

*(c) 60 miles as the crow flies (half credit)  
(d) 80 miles as the camel walks (full credit)*

3. On what did Mary ride to travel to Bethlehem while she was with child?

*(d) The Bible doesn't say. Although it is probable that Mary rode an animal because of her condition, Scripture does not record Mary's method of travel.*

4. What does Scripture indicate that the innkeeper told Joseph and Mary?

*(e) None of the above. Although most Christmas pageants include a scene where Joseph has a door slammed rudely in his face by an innkeeper, there is no innkeeper mentioned in Scripture (see Luke 2:7).*

5. How soon after Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem was Jesus born?

*(d) Days later (See Luke 2:6-7).*

6. In what type of structure was Jesus born?

*(d) We don't know - the Bible doesn't say (see Luke 2:6-7).*

7. Since Elizabeth and Mary were cousins, why didn't Joseph and Mary stay with Elizabeth and Zacharias after traveling to Bethlehem, rather than seeking shelter in the inn?

*(d) Zacharias and Elizabeth weren't there. The census registration for taxes was based on the husband's lineage, not the wife's. Joseph was of the house of David, so he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem (see Luke 2:4); while Zacharias was of the house of Abijah (see Luke 1:5). Zacharias and Elizabeth were probably not in Bethlehem at that time. Zacharias was from the Aaronic line, Joseph was from the Davidic.*

8. Mary and Zacharias both questioned Gabriel. Both questions seem reasonable, yet Zacharias was struck dumb while Mary was not. Why?

*(b) I and III. G-d was answering Zacharias' prayer and he did not believe. Zacharias' situation was believable. Mary's was unbelievable. Zacharias and Elizabeth were: 1) Praying for a child, and 2) Still trying to conceive (see Luke 1:13). Mary was a virgin, and she and Joseph had not come together. Zacharias wanted a guarantee; Mary wanted to understand how it could happen.*

9. Gabriel chastened Zacharias. His punishment lasted until the day G-d's messenger's words were fulfilled. What was the punishment?

*(c) Zacharias was struck both Deaf and Dumb (see Luke 1:20, 62). The phrase "you shall be silent" can be translated from the Greek as "it shall be silent to you." This is borne out by the fact that they made signs to Zacharias. This is done to a man who cannot hear.*

10. An angel invited the shepherds to worship the newborn king. How would you describe the angel, and the plethora of partners that accompanied him?

*(b) Powerful warriors (this explains why the shepherds were "terribly frightened"). The Greek word for the word "host" in Luke 2:13 is the word "στρατευω" (strateuō); from stratos (an encamped army); to make war, hence to serve as a soldier. This word is also translated in the New Testament as fight (1), serves as a soldier (1), soldier in active service (1), soldiers (1), wage war (2), war (1). Note: The Bible never claims that angels can sing! The NIV translation of λεγω (legō) in Rev 5:12 as sing is incorrect. It should be "say" as in the NASB and KJV. It would be "sing" if the Greek word were αδω (adō).*

11. What animals were present when Jesus was born?

*(f) The Bible doesn't say. The accounts of Christ's birth do not mention the presence of any animals in the structure where Christ was born, nor does it mention the structure itself (see Luke 2:7).*

12. Joseph and Mary presented two doves or pigeons at the temple. For whom were these sacrifices made?

*(b) The sacrifice was made for Mary's purification (see Lev 12:6-7).*

13. Jesus' parents offered the lesser sacrifice (for the poor) when they offered the sacrifice after the days for purification had been completed. How then might they have afforded the long and expensive trip from Bethlehem to Egypt (a traditional place of asylum for Jews in political danger)?

*(b) G-d's timing of the arrival of the wise men was perfect. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh very likely financed the trip to Egypt, home set-up, and then travel back to Nazareth.*

14. How much time had elapsed from the birth of Jesus to the close of this verse?

*(d) About 5 years. It took approx. 1 to 1½ years for the wise men to arrive (in Matt 2:11, the Greek word for "child" (παιδιον indicates a young child, not a newborn); then travel time to Egypt (the date of Herod's death is historically given as 4 BCE, resulting in a stay of 2 to 2½ years in Egypt); then travel time to Nazareth (Matt 2:23) and the acquisition of a house.*

15. How many kings were present when the magi visited Jesus and Mary?

*(b) At least one – Jesus (see 1 Tim 6:15). While we often sing about "three kings," the magi are never described as kings.*

16. How much time elapsed between the last verse of Luke chapter 2 and the first verse of Luke chapter 3?

*(c) 18 years. Jesus was 12 years of age in Luke 2:42 (the trip to Jerusalem), and was 30 years of age when He began His public ministry (see Luke 3:23).*

17. What did His star look like?

*(f) The Bible doesn't say.*

18. The wise men followed His star as it moved toward Jerusalem.

*False. Matthew does not indicate that the star moved to Jerusalem (see Mat 2:2) rather, that the wise men "saw" the star in the east and they moved to Jerusalem. The wise men likely traveled to Jerusalem because that is where one would expect to find the new King of the Jews. When they left Jerusalem after learning the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the star re-appeared and went before them and stood over the house where Jesus was, not the manger (see Mat 2:9).*

19. Who besides the wise men saw His star?

*(f) The Bible doesn't say. Although Matt 2:1-2 clearly states the magi saw the star, there is no evidence in Scripture that the shepherds or anyone else saw the star or were aware of its meaning.*

20. Why would magi from the East know about, care about, and come to worship the Hebrew Messiah?

*(d) All of the above. A Hebrew prophet (Daniel) probably saved their father's lives (see Dan 2:24); a Moabite prophet (Balaam) prophesied about Christ (see Num 24:17); and a prophet in Babylon (Daniel) saw visions of Christ (See Dan 10:4-6).*

21. Where was Joseph when the wise men visited Jesus?

*(f) The Bible doesn't say. He may have been working, or he may have been present but not mentioned (see Matt 2:11).*

22. Which of the following are true regarding how Jesus was given His name?

*(a) I, II, III. An angel told Mary to use the name (see Luke 1:30-31); an angel told Joseph to use the name (see Matt 1:20-21); and He received His name in the temple when He was eight days old (see Luke 2:21).*

23. What does the name "Jesus" mean?

*(a) The name "Jesus" in Hebrew is actually "Yeshua". In the Old Testament, this name is translated as "Joshua", which means "Adonai Delivers" or "Adonai Saves".*

24. According to the genealogies in Luke 3 and Matthew 1, Jesus' direct ancestors included which of the following?

*(d) All of the above. Rahab was a prostitute (Matt 1:5, see Josh 2:1); David committed adultery with Bathsheba (Matt 1:6, see 2Sam 11:1-5); Tamar seduced her father-in-law Judah (Matt 1:3, see Gen 38:11-30); and Ruth was a Moabitess (Matt 1:5, see Ruth 1:4).*

25. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

*(b) Joseph was related to the king (see Luke 2:4-5).*

26. Which of the following movie titles best represents events described in Matthew 2?

*(b) Out of Africa (see Matt 2:19-21).*

27. In all, how far did Mary travel to visit her relative Elizabeth?

*(d) 190 miles. It is 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem and another 15 miles to the hill country of Judea*

*beyond the town of Hebron. Mary had to travel 95 miles and return another 95 miles.*

28. How many brothers and sisters did Jesus have (Mary's other children)?

*(b) Jesus had at least six siblings (see Matt 13:55-56). 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters = At least 6 siblings.*

29. What was the name of the angel who commanded Joseph to take Mary as his wife?

*(d) The Bible doesn't say.*

30. In what city was Joseph when the angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife?

*(b) Bethlehem. Mary is described as being engaged to him during the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem (see Luke 2:5). Had he received the vision before the trip, they would have traveled as husband and wife.*

31. Who told Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem?

*(c) Caesar Augustus (see Luke 2:1-4).*

32. The baby Jesus cried...?

*(b) ...just like other babies. Jesus, being fully human, would have reacted to His delivery just like any other baby! There is no evidence to support the assertion in "Away in a Manger" that Jesus did not cry; and Scripture does not indicate that there was either a doctor or a drummer boy present.*

33. What did the angels sing to the shepherds?

*(f) None of the above. The angels did not "sing" (see item 10 above). Luke 2:13-14 indicates that the angels said "Glory to G-d in the highest..."*

34. Which one of these statements is false?

*(c) Mary left town after the angel informed her she was pregnant. While Mary did leave town to visit Elizabeth after the angel's visit, the angel did not tell Mary that she was pregnant at that time; rather, his message was that the Holy Spirit "will" (future tense) come upon her (see Luke 2:35). Joseph received messages from G-d during dreams on four different occasions (see Matt 1:20, 2:13, 19, 22); Mary was indeed a virgin when she delivered Jesus, and had become pregnant before marrying Joseph (see Matt 1:25, Luke 2:5).*

35. Which persons were descendents of Aaron?

*(d) Zacharias and Elizabeth. Being a priest, Zacharias was a descendant of Aaron (Abijah is listed as a descendant of Aaron in Neh 12:12-17 and 1 Chron 24:1-10); and Elizabeth is described as being from the "daughters of Aaron" in Luke 1:5.*

36. To whom did the angel say, "...I am bringing you good news of great joy..."?

*(b) The shepherds (see Luke 2:10).*

37. What sign did the angel tell the shepherds to look for?

*(d) None of the above; they were told to look for a baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger (see Luke 2:12).*

38. What happened a little over a week after Jesus' birth?

*(b) Jesus was circumcised (see Luke 2:21; Gen 17:12).*

**Bonus Question:**

Place these events in the Biblical accounts of our Savior's birth from Matthew 1 & Luke 1-2 in chronological order:

- (f) Simeon's revelation about the Savior*
- (c) Appearance of His star\**
- (p) Zacharias' encounter with Gabriel*
- (e) Mary's discussion with Gabriel*
- (i) Mary's visit to Elizabeth's*
- (j) John's birth*
- (g) Joseph & Mary's trip to Bethlehem for the census*
- (a) Angel's vision to Joseph about Mary*
- (l) Joseph & Mary's trip to Jerusalem for the sacrifice for Mary*
- (d) Dedication of Jesus*
- (b) Anna's thanksgiving*
- (h) Trip to Bethlehem to return home*
- (o) Visit of the wise men in Bethlehem*
- (k) Joseph & Mary's trip to Egypt*
- (n) Joseph & Mary's trip to Nazareth after Herod's death*
- (m) Joseph & Mary's trip to Jerusalem for the Passover each year*

*Mary was told that Elizabeth was in her sixth month (see Luke 1:36). Assuming that she became pregnant within a short time after meeting Gabriel, this sequence of pregnancies took about 15 months to accomplish. Since Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months (see Luke 1:56), John was born about the time that Mary returned to Nazareth. The text implies that Simeon had waited for some time to see the Messiah (see Luke 2:25-32). It seems reasonable that he was given insight by the Holy Spirit at or near the beginning of this sequence.*

*\*The appearance of the star is debatable and can truly be placed anywhere in the list prior to the visit of the wise men. It must have been seen by the magi long enough to associate it with the Hebrew King, put together a caravan, gather the treasure, travel to Israel and meet with Herod. Herod's destruction of children two years old and younger was based on the time the magi said the star had appeared (see Matt 2:16). We have placed it conservatively at the time of the first announcement by Gabriel.*

*The first trip to Bethlehem was from Nazareth for the census registration with Jesus (in utero) (see Luke 2:4-5). The trip to Jerusalem from Bethlehem was for Mary's sacrifice. It was taken after her time of uncleanness and purification was completed – 40 days (see Lev 12:2-8).*

*Jesus was presented (dedicated) in the temple at Jerusalem while Joseph and Mary were there for Mary's sacrifice (Num 18:15). Anna gave thanks at this time (see Luke 2:36-38).*

*The second trip to Bethlehem was from Jerusalem to return to Bethlehem. The couple set up home there. The wise men visited Jesus and Mary in a house in Bethlehem (see Matt 2:11, 16).*

*Joseph was warned after the wise men visited to go to Egypt (see Matt 2:13). The trip to Nazareth did not occur until after Herod died and Joseph was instructed to return (see Matt 2:19-20).*

*Additional trips to Jerusalem were made each year for Passover (see Luke 2:41).*

*You can read the Christmas story in chronological order this way:*

*Luke 1:5-80; Luke 2:1-5; Matt 1:18-25a; Luke 2:6-7; John 1:14; Luke 2:8-21; Matt 1:25b; Luke 2:22-38; Matt 2:1-23; Luke 2:39-52*

**Merry Christmas! Emmanuel!**