

# The *Biblical* Christmas Quiz

## References & Answers

1.	<b>False</b>	Matthew 1:18	While Jews viewed engagement as the first step in marriage, the taking of the bride into the groom's home had not occurred yet.
2.	<b>B, C</b>	Luke 1:39, 56 & Matthew 1:19	Mary went to see Elizabeth who was also pregnant, Joseph had in mind to put her away privately.
3.	<b>True</b>	Luke 2:5 & Matthew 1:24	Jews would not wait till after the baby was born to be married. But a legal enrollment would mean that they were married. Also, "consummation" was not necessary to make the marriage legal.
4.	<b>True</b>	Matthew 1:25	Marriage was not consummated till after the marriage. See also Matthew 13:55-56 concerning Jesus' siblings. Mary did not remain a virgin her whole life.
5.	<b>D</b>	Luke 2:1	His word would have been passed down by other government officials. Nonetheless, it was still his law that required it.
6.	<b>C</b>	Luke 2:3-4	This is confusing since they go to Bethlehem. However, birthplace was used as the city you were "from". Bethlehem would have been his ancestral city for census information. Jesus, though he was called a "Nazarene," would have been Jesus of Bethlehem, a fitting title since He was the Son of David.
7.	<b>N</b>	No reference	In spite of all the programs and cards that portray this event, Scripture never mentions by what means they traveled.
8.	<b>N</b>	Luke 2:7	Scripture never mentions an innkeeper, just that the inn was full.
9.	<b>N</b>	Luke 2:7	Again, Scripture omits the specific details, just saying that Christ was laid in a manger.
10.	<b>C</b>		This is the definition used by both Webster and Halley. Many conjecture that the manger was made of stone due to the scarcity of wood. However, there were many more trees in Palestine prior to the Roman scattering in 70 AD.
11.	<b>N</b>	No reference	Again, no animals are specifically mentioned as being at the actual location with Jesus. St. Augustine is credited with our current idea of what the stable looked like. He wanted people to treat animals with kindness.
12.	<b>A</b>	Luke 2:9	Only one instructed the shepherds. The rest praised God.
13.	<b>N</b>	Luke 2:12	Only the "swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" is mentioned as a sign.
14.	<b>D</b>	Numbers 10:1-28	The general Biblical meaning for host was an army. Webster includes this as meaning #2. Note also that the host praised God by "saying". Scripture does not say that they sang. This might be more in keeping with the military theme, also.

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15.	<b>C</b>	Luke 2:14	The rest are embellishments for hymns.
16.	<b>D</b>	Hebrews 2:17	He was like us in every way but sinning. Crying is not a sin in itself, but a way that babies express their needs until they learn to talk. Jesus would have cried to communicate his needs for food, warmth, and dry swaddling clothes.
17.	<b>C</b>	Luke 2:8 & Joshua 11:17	The shepherds would not have been out all night if there was a chance of snow. However, Mount Hermon in northern Galilee is about 1.5 miles high. This is high enough that snow would have been present all year round.
18.	<b>N</b>	Matthew 2:1-2	Only the “wise men” are mentioned as having seen the star.
19.	<b>C</b>		The Bible only refers to more than one by using the plural to describe them. Three types of gifts are offered, which is where we get our idea of three.
20.	<b>C</b>	Matthew 2:1-2, 7, 9-10	The Greek word the “wise men” is <i>magos</i> . Literally, this means a Magian, an Oriental scientist. Often this word was used to describe fortunetellers, sorcerers, and magicians (a word we use that comes from <i>magos</i> ). However, from the account in Matthew, all we can see is that the men studied the stars, not that they necessarily told fortunes from them. The best understanding then of the “wise men” would be astrologers/astronomers.
21.	<b>B</b>	Matthew 2:2	They wanted more information about the king whose star they had seen. The scribes found the location of the child by referring to Micah 5:2.
22.	<b>C</b>	Matthew 2:11	This was up to 2 years later (Matthew 2:16), but was probably not the same night as the shepherds’ visit. By this time, the family was in a house.
23.	<b>D</b>	Exodus 30:34-35	It was mixed with other things to burn as sweet incense. (This is a foreshadowing of his sweet prayers that ascend to heaven for us.)
24.	<b>E</b>	John 19:39	This also had a sweet aroma and was used to help hide the decay smell. (This is a foreshadowing of his death and quick burial.)
25.	<b>D</b>	Matthew 2:13	An angel spoke to him, but it was in his dream. The gifts of the wise men would be used to finance them.
26.	<b>A, C</b>	Matthew 1-2 & Luke 1-2	Mark begins with Jesus’ ministry, John has a poetic opening.
27.	<b>E</b>	Luke 2:8	Watching flocks in the fields at night would only be done during nice weather and usually only in spring during the “lambing period.” Palestine is in the northern hemisphere like us, so May would be the closest approximation of this time.



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28.	<b>B</b>	Luke 2:1-2 & Matthew 2:1	Herod died in 4 BC. Caesar is known to have taken a census around 6 BC. This also corresponds to when Quirenius ruled. The inaccuracy of the dating reflects an effort by monks many years later to establish a calendar based on Jesus' birth.
29.	<b>False</b>		The earliest church did not celebrate Christ's birth, but rather his death and resurrection. The actual date of His birth was disputed, also. In the 4 <sup>th</sup> century, the Roman church set the date to offset a pagan holiday. However, the Orthodox church still celebrates Christmas in January.
30.	<b>C</b>		In spite of many people having an aversion to this term, it has very Christian roots. The X is the first letter of Christ in Greek. Our Chi-Rho symbol, the P with the X at the base, is where we do the same thing. XP would be the first two letters of Christ's name. Christ's Mass, as the Catholic Church originally called it, could be abbreviated to X Mas without losing any meaning for those early Christians. Only in our society, where Christ is forgotten, does the X make a bigger statement about secularism.

Please note: This quiz, anonymously circulated on the Internet, has been adapted and formatted by Dr. Dave Ebeling, Executive Counselor for Christian Education, Indiana District – LCMS.