

1. In what city was Jesus born? Bethlehem. (The reason for that question.....Abby)
2. Who was the innkeeper? There was no record of an innkeeper
3. Which animals were present at the birth? None that we know of. (But the song says....The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.)
4. Was Jesus born in a manger? No, he was placed in a manger after His birth.
5. What did the angels sing at the birth of Jesus? Nothing....at least as far as we know. For sure, it's not...."Hark the herald angels sang." In fact according to Luke 2:13-14, the heavenly host praised God **saying**, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." The text doesn't say that the angels sang. While they may have sung that line, we can't know. But it seems like they were saying and not singing.
6. Did Mary give birth to Jesus the day or evening that they arrived in Bethlehem? *Luke 2:6-7 So it was, that while they were there, **the days were completed** for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son...*
7. How did Mary get to Bethlehem? No way to know....Bible doesn't say. Likely that she rode on a cart or a donkey that they borrowed for the trip as they were very poor. From Nazareth to Bethlehem was 70-80 miles
8. What year was Jesus born Not the year 0. For one thing, there was never a year 0. There was year 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 BC then there was the year 1, 2, 3, 4, a and so forth AD. No year zero.

We don't know but we can look at some clues.....

The first clue concerns the year Herod died, which was the year 4 B.C.

You remember Herod? Matthew chapter 2, the wise men from the East go to see him asking the question....."Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?"

And we'll talk about the wise men later, but for now we know that Herod was alive when Jesus was born and afterward, right?

So we have a historical record about that fact from Josephus and other historians. And the Gospel accounts clearly state that when Jesus was born, Herod the Great was alive. So that means that Jesus was born sometime **before** the year 4 B.C.

The second clue pertains to the decree that was issued in the days of Quirinius, or more precisely, around the year 8 or 7 B.C. Luke's point is that the Messiah was born **after** Quirinius ordered the census.

So, taking the first two clues together.....Jesus would be born somewhere between 8 and 4 BC.

Now, we can narrow the date down even further because according to Josephus, Herod left Jerusalem for Jericho in the year 5 B.C., which is where he spent the last year of his life.

He then died in Jericho and so he never again returned to Jerusalem.

Add to that the fact that Matthew tells us that when the wise men met with Herod, he was still in Jerusalem (Mt. 2:7, 16).

So, we can therefore deduce from Josephus' writings and the Gospel account that they Wise Men would have arrived in Jerusalem in or before the year 5 B.C.

So that's our third clue.....

The last clue concerns Jesus' age.

When the wise men met King Herod in or before the year 5 B.C., Jesus was already about two years old and we get that again from Matthew chapter 2, verse 16.

So, putting all these clues together, we can conclude that Jesus was born sometime **between the years of 7 and 6 B.C.**

And if we're going to base our Christian calendar from the birth of Jesus, then we are likely off by about seven years. So, this would really be then the year 2031.

Now, we will get very similar but much more flexible results if we start with the beginning of John's ministry along with Jesus' own ministry using the left side of the time line. Those dates are not as clearly fixed I don't think.

Also I think of note is the early church Fathers who were closest to the events, the normally placed the year of Jesus' birth closer to 3-4 BC.....so a difference of 3 or 4 years.

Now, next week we will move to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord that shows up on planet earth for the first time in over 600 years when Ezekiel saw it leave the city of Jerusalem.....and now, it's back. It's in the city of David and the whole world needs to wake up and see the glory come back to planet earth.