



The birth of Jesus

O'Malley Family Bible Study
December 23, 2011

Many Movies have been made, many plays performed and enumerable nativity scenes have been constructed. All have a common thread woven thru. A Typical Naivety movie story plot would be:



Scene 1, Act 1: opens in Nazareth, The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will carry the promised Messiah and shall name him Jesus - Lk1:26-38

Act 2: Joseph, Mary's betrothed husband, discovered Mary's pregnancy and was preparing to divorce her however an angel appeared in a dream saying don't fear but take Mary as your wife and name your son Jesus Mt1:18-25



Scene 2 Act 1: opens with Mary in labor pains in Bethlehem with Joseph frantically searching for a room. Joseph finally finds a stable. Mary gives birth to a son Lk2:4-7.

Act 2: An angel appeared to shepherds telling of Jesus birth, the shepherds make great haste to go see Jesus Lk2:8-20



Scene 3 Act 1: opens with 3 wise men speaking to King Herod asking where the baby is that will be king of the Jews. Mt2:1-2

Act 2: King Herod instructs the wise men to find the baby and come and tell him Mt2:3-8



Scene 4 Act 1: opens with the wise men finding Jesus and began to worship him. Mt2:9-11

Act 2: The wise men get a warning in a dream to not go back to King Herod and so they divert around Jerusalem Mt2:12

Act 3: Joseph also get a warning in a dream telling him to pack up the family and flee to Egypt Mt2:13-15

All good movies have a truth embedded in them but they all have disclaimers stating "based on a true story". The above 4 scenes are based on a true story; however the sequences of Jesus birth is convoluted in those 4 scenes. They do not represent the true biblical account of Jesus' birth. This study will cover the true biblical recording of Jesus' birth.

The Birth of Jesus begins with the former account of the angel Gabriel telling Mary(Lk1:26-38) and Joseph (Mt1:18-25) that they were going to be parents of a baby boy that was conceived by the Holy Spirit and to name the boy Jesus.

Joseph and Mary then have to travel to Bethlehem due to a census and there Mary gives birth to Jesus. Below is map showing the distance that they had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



RSV Luke 2:1-7

- 1 IN THOSE days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.
- 2 This was the first enrollment, when Quirini-us was governor of Syria.
- 3 And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.
- 4 And 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 lineage of David,
- 5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
- 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.
- 7 And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

An angel appeared to Shepherds watching sheep in a field announcing to them that Jesus was born. The Shepherds quickly go to Bethlehem.



RSV Luke 2:8-10

- 8 And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.
- 10 And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;

RSV Luke 2:11-16

- 11 for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
- 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"
- 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."
- 16 And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

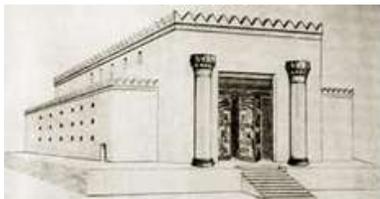


Here's where the previous story deviates from the Biblical account. Luke doesn't record any Wise men appearing while they were in Bethlehem because the Wise Men didn't meet Joseph, Mary and Jesus in Bethlehem. What Luke records is that Jesus was circumcised 8 days after He was born (Lk2:21) in accordance to the law in Leviticus (Lev12:3). Joseph, Mary and Jesus were still in the Bethlehem area for at least 8 days after Jesus' birth.

RSV Luke 2:21 And at the **end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus**, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

RSV Leviticus 12:3 And on the **eighth day** the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Luke continues on and states in Lk2:22 that Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Bethlehem until Mary's purification was complete. What is the time of purification? Just as Jesus told the Religious leaders in Jn5:46-47 that had they believed Moses then they would have believed in him. I would say a high percentage of Christians haven't read the entire Bible so Lk2:22 wouldn't be understood. Lk2:22 is referring back to Lev12:2&4 where it states that after the birth of a male child the woman has a 40 day purification timeframe. After the 40 days is completed then an offering is brought to the temple.



RSV Luke 2:22 And **when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses**, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

RSV Leviticus 12:2 "Say to the people of Israel, If a woman conceives, and bears a male child, then she shall be **unclean seven days**; as at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean.

RSV Leviticus 12:4 Then she shall continue for **thirty-three days** in the blood of her purifying; she shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

The offering that was brought tells much about the young couple. The offering prescribed in Lev12:6-8 was either a lamb & 1 pigeon/turtledove or 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons. Joseph couldn't afford the lamb which points out that they probably didn't have 2 shekels to rub together. Why did God not provide Joseph the means to buy a lamb? I say to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus lying in a manger. If Joseph didn't have the money to buy a lamb he probably didn't have enough money for lodging. When any event happens in a city the price of goods and services go up and lodging more than likely went up with people lodging at Bethlehem for the census. The lodging that might have been available could have definitely been out of Joseph's price range that he could afford (remember he had to have enough for food for any extended stay - no ATMs back then). The 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons were the lowest costing option which if one needs to could throw a net and capture 2.



RSV Leviticus 12:6-8

6 "And **when the days of her purifying are completed**, whether for a son or for a daughter, **she shall bring to the priest at the door of the tent of meeting a lamb** a year old for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering,
7 and he shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement for her; then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child,

either male or female.

8 And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean."

While at the temple Joseph and Mary receive a prophecy and blessing from Simeon (Lk2:25-35) and Anna (Lk2:36-38) about Jesus. Joseph, Mary and Jesus then return back home to Nazareth (Lk2:39) not to Egypt as with the standard story line.

RSV Luke 2:39 And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

In Matthew the wise men check in with King Herod which is what you do when you have a caravan of dignitaries carrying valuable cargo with armed guards to ward off highway men wanting to rob you. King Herod then sent them away to find the boy King.

This reminds me of an incidence during my time with the Marine Corps. I and another Marine was at a checkpoint waiting for buses coming from another Marine unit to pick up our company and then drive over to the Marine Corps base in California (29 Palms). When the convoy stopped at our checkpoint I went in the lead bus to tell the bus driver to go around the building. I made the mistake of not addressing the Commander of that unit first before speaking to the bus driver and I got a royal chewing out. This goes for the wise men. When they came into King Herod's jurisdiction they followed the protocol of first going and addressing the King (maybe giving a gift or offering) then going about to see someone in his Kingdom.



RSV Matthew 2:1-2

1 NOW WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

2 "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

RSV Matthew 2:9-10

9 When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

Next in the account the wise men appear to Joseph, Mary and Jesus in a house not in a barn. When one aligns the accounts in Matthew and Luke one should see that there is no way that the wise men came in Bethlehem since right after the wise men left by a different way (eastwards) an angel told Joseph to pack up and leave to Egypt. The wise men gifts were enough to sustain them in Egypt during their exile. How long after Jesus was born to the coming of the wise men? It's not mentioned but it would be at least 40 days plus the travel time back to Nazareth. The departure from Nazareth also gave time to Joseph, Mary, Jesus and the wise men to slip out of the country before King Herod could quarantine and check points in the land (TSA, Viper and Joint task force security stops in today's world) .



RSV Matthew 2:11-14

11 and going into the **house** they saw the **child** with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, **they departed to their own country by another way.**

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, **"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."**

14 And he **rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,**

Moses was a type of Jesus. Moses saved his people and he was spared his life in Egypt - same with Jesus.

Moses mother hid him for 3 months (Ex2:2). Eventually they moved Moses into an ark in the river's edge (Ex2:3-4) until the Pharaoh's daughter saw him and had compassion on him (Ex2:5-6). The Pharaoh's daughter then allowed Moses to be nursed by his mom until Moses was weaned (Ex2:7-10). How long was that weaning process? At least a year maybe two?

That is my guess when the wise men came. Jesus was old enough and strong enough to make that long journey to Egypt when Jesus was 1 or 2 years old.

Location, Location, Location is key in a successful business, but more so in successfully retelling historical events.

Location of the events

Location of the events to other events (the correct sequence)

Location of the events at the right time of year

One way to verify the time of Jesus' birth is by looking at prophecy and His death.

The 70 week prophecy (1 day = a year [Ez4:6] so 70 weeks = 490 years) in Dan9:24-27 describes Jesus' ministry and His death. Jesus ministry was to begin on the 69 week but get cut off in the middle of the week Dan9:27

RSV Daniel 9:24-27

24 **"Seventy weeks of years are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.**

25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off, and shall have nothing; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war; desolations are decreed.

27 And **he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week; and for half of the week he shall cause sacrifice and offering to cease;** and upon the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

Question. How accurate is the half of the week? Is it exactly ½ week or is it +/- 1 or 2 days off? Jesus created time so Jesus can never be late. Some of the amazing time frames of the bible:

40 years wandering in the desert (Num14:33-34) from Passover (Num9:5) to Passover (Josh5:10)

430 year prophecy (Ex12:40-41) of stay in Egypt.

RSV Exodus 12:40-41

40 The time that the people of Israel dwelt in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.

41 And **at the end of four hundred and thirty years, on that very day,** all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

483 year prophecy (Dan9:24-27) from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the beginning of Jesus ministry

3894+ years from Adam and Eve being clothed by Jesus until Jesus' death in Gen3:21 . The clothing was the covering of Adam and Eve's sins by the result slaying of an animal (spilling of blood). This was a foreshadowing of what Jesus was going to do for the world - the spilling of His blood.

6000+ years from Adam to the judgment time since there is a set day and hour as mentioned in Mt24:36

In Is46:9-11 God tells you what will happen before they happen so that tells you that He know the fixed day which they will happen.

RSV Isaiah 46:9-11

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,** saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. **I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.**

If Jesus' ministry began when Jesus was 30 (Lk3:23) on His birthday then one can calculate Jesus birthday since we know how long His ministry lasted (three and a half years – Dan9:27) and when Jesus died. From the passages completed times above on the exact day at the end of a certain length of years leads you to believe that half of a year means just that. Jesus died on the Passover day (Lk22:15) so by adding 6 months to Jesus' death should give you his birthday. The studies 4/2/11, 4/30/11 and 5/23/11 cover Passover calculations based on the bible. Biblical Passover occurs early during the first week of April. May, June, July, August, September and October is 6 months. The month of October would be the month that Jesus would have been born.

Is there any confirmation of a possible October birth?

What occurs in October? In the Old Testament the 7th month (our October) would contain:

Lev16:29-30 The day of Atonement on the 10th day- to cleanse you from all your sins

Lev23:24 Blowing of Trumpets on the 1st Day

Lev23:39 Feast of booths (Tabernacles) from the 15th to 22nd day

Lev25:10 Jubilee (year of release) begins on the 10th day every 50 years
Zech14:16 All nations will come to worship Jesus at the feast of Tabernacles

Very important events in the month of October. The 7th month contains festivals which more accurately point to Jesus coming back for judgment. Many prophecies are dual prophecy so the festival depicting Jesus coming back can easily point to his entering into the world as a baby as well.

Compare the 7th month to the 9th month (December) and you'll find no major festivals being commanded to be followed in the 9th month.

The Angels singing Glory to God in the Highest in Lk2:14 were singing part of a Feast of Tabernacle (Sukkot) hymn. This hymn indicates a time of year (7th month) thus giving another witness to the location of Jesus' birthday on the calendar.

As mentioned in a previous study the time of the year that the shepherds in the field could not be in December since they have already pulled them in the stables by that time (end of October or early November at the latest).

Conclusion

The biblical story of Jesus birth is different from the one broadcasted in at this time of year.

1. The Wise men were not present at Jesus' birth so the entire gift giving industry has no bases even if Jesus was born at this time of year.
2. Jesus birth in December is not supported biblically but a birth in October is.

What is possible in December would be Mary's conception of Jesus on December 25. A December 25 conception would equate to an October 1 birth (looking at the typical gestation charts) with October being the 7th biblical month.

What is also possible in December is to spread the good news about Jesus and what He expects you to do in order to be saved (hear, believe, confess, be biblically baptized and abide). This time of year seems the defensives are lowered so bringing up a conversation about Jesus is easier to do.



There are evils around us that continually pervert even the thought of any possible connection of Jesus' to Christmas. Take for example the billboard for a local Austin "Christian" radio station. A Santa Claus. Why couldn't they put a nativity scene at the very least? Because they know not what spirit they are of (Lk9:55).

Best Regards,
David O'Malley

<p>Completed Bible studies</p> <p>3/6/2010 – Introduction to the Bible 3/20/2010 – The bible story 6/27/2010 - Prayer Proclamations to bring down Curses from Jesus Christ 1/8/2011 – God exists 1/15/2011 – Moses: The Untold Years 1/29/2011 - The Biblical Timeline: From Adam to 2011 2/12/2011 – Jesus: Going to the 4th level part 1 2/28/2011 - Jesus: Going to the 4th level part 2 3/5/2011 – Indiana Jones vs The Bible: Location of the Ark 4/2/2011 - Accused/Sentenced: The Death of Jesus 4/30/2011 - Passover: from Egypt to Pentecost 5/23/2011 – 2 Calendars of the Bible: 2 confusing or 2 simple 7/30/2011 - Baptism, if you are called 8/14/2011 – The Salvation cycle 8/28/2011 - Fantastic Hookers of the Bible 9/11/2011 - Breaking thru Deception: Gog and Magog 9/26/2011 – Back to Basics: 7 days of Creation 10/12/2011 – Is Life a game? Will you be a winner? 10/31/2011 – Halloween: What’s wrong with this picture? 12/23/2011 – The birth of Jesus</p>	<p>Future O’Malley Family Bible studies (not in order)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fukushima Daiichi: Apocalypse or Normal? Another Prayer Proclamation that failed. - Understanding, knowledge and wisdom connection - Abraham sentenced Jesus to death - The fall of Babylon - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1??? - pt 2 - Snake Survival Manual: Their Anatomy & Characteristics - pt 3 - Dress Code Strictly Enforced: What you should & should not be wearing - pt 4 - Spiritual Warfare Academy: repair the breeches & deploy counter offenses - The Law before the Law, Law now and future - Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings - Feast days then and now - Psalms 69 – Jesus’ troubled life - 5 stones for 5 giants: Peace in the land at last - Fear of the Lord - To forgive or not to forgive – that is the question - Caesarea Philippi: Portal to the underworld
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