

## How Much Do You Know? Christmas Quiz

### Q. Was Jesus born on a December evening?

It is possible that Jesus was born on December 25th, but we simply do not know. The Bible does not tell us exactly what month or date Jesus was born. However, it is doubtful that Jesus was truly born on December 25th. One problem with this date is that it would not be the season for the shepherds to be keeping their flocks in the field because the weather would be too cold. The flocks were generally kept in the fields from spring to autumn, but not during the winter.

Whatever the date truly was, it does not matter, theologically. It also, therefore, does not matter what day we celebrate His birth. Rather than disputing December 25th as the day of Jesus' birth, we should be grateful that an increasingly non-Christian society even celebrates His birth at all.

For more information see

[christiananswers.net/christmas/mythsaboutchristmas.html](http://christiananswers.net/christmas/mythsaboutchristmas.html)

### Q. How old was Mary when Jesus was born?

The Bible doesn't tell us how old Mary was when Jesus was born. However, based on historical and cultural study, we know that a Jewish girl could get married quite young; and so Mary may have been between 14 and 17 years old when she gave birth to Jesus.

It is fun to imagine what life was like in Jerusalem at that time, but we must remember that God has not revealed every detail. And, that's OK because according to Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, ..."

### Q. Where are the wisemen?

Almost every depiction of Jesus' birth includes three well-dressed dignitaries, with their camels, looking on and presenting gifts at the manger. But, it is clear that the wise men were not at the site of Jesus' birth. In Matthew 2:16, after Jesus' birth, we read that the wise men met with Herod, told him about the star and the prophecy that spoke of the King of the Jews being born. It was after this that King Herod had all babies up to 2 years old killed in his attempt to destroy Jesus. We also know that Jesus was called "the young child" when it describes the wise men's

visit. With this knowledge, it is very possible that Jesus was walking and possibly even talking by the time the wise men arrived to present their gifts.

For more information go to  
[christiananswers.net/christmas/mythsaboutchristmas.html](http://christiananswers.net/christmas/mythsaboutchristmas.html)

**Q. What is the brick tower near the middle of the picture above?**

This tower we see is known as a Migdal Eder (which means "tower of the flock"). Shepherds often used various types of elevated viewing platforms and watchtowers to better monitor the wandering flocks and to better protect them from wolves and similar predators.

For more information on the Migdal Eder, see *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, by Alfred Edersheim. On public domain at  
[www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes.toc.html](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes.toc.html)

**Q. Did the angels sing when they announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds?**

Because of the popular Christmas carol, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," we may picture the angels singing the announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. However, a close look at the Bible, God's Word, draws us to another conclusion. Luke 2:8-14 states:

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!"

This passage tells us that the angels began "praising God and saying" ..., but whether this was by song, we are unsure.

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