

## What Date Was Jesus Born?

Early in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the church established the birth of Jesus as December 25. By an Internet search the true date is not known,<sup>1</sup> but I believe it is resolved here.

*“Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.”* [Amos 3:7](#) The Hebrew word “feasts” literally means “appointed times.” One of the most startling prophetic pictures is the seven Jewish feasts, spread over seven months of the Jewish calendar, at set times appointed by God. They are still celebrated by observant Jews today.

But for both Jews and non-Jews who have placed their faith in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, these special days demonstrate the work of redemption



through God’s Son. **All significant events** in the life of Jesus took place on **Jewish feast days**. The Hebrew calendar is based on the moon, and that is where we get the word “month”.

**On what date was Jesus born?**<sup>2</sup> *“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.”* [Luke 2:8](#) Shepherds kept watch at night only in the spring during the time the lambs were born. Shepherds were the first to welcome the **Good Shepherd**. In Bethlehem were also born lambs for sacrifice in the Temple. Bethlehem means “house of bread”, and Jesus said *“I am the bread of life”* [John 6:48](#)

The priestly divisions were ritual work groups in Judaism, of 24 divisions named after the grandsons of Aaron. Each began on a Saturday and lasted seven days, and ran consecutively. So 24 groups in 52 weeks, gives a little over two groups per year.<sup>3</sup>

*“...there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.”* [Luke 1:5](#) The

division of Abijah was number 8 out of 24, and when it began is revealed in the Dead Sea Scrolls as the fourth day of the equinox. Another Hebrew writing gives a date for the destruction of the Temple, stating which priestly group was serving. Calculating the Dead Sea date forward, and the Destruction of the Temple backward, they match giving March 20, 6 BC, or **Nisan 1, the birth date of Jesus**.

Nisan is the first month of the Ecclesiastical Year: *“This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.”* [Exodus 12:2](#) On the Jewish new year, Messiah makes everything new, the old is gone, and **BC** has changed to **AD**.

The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is a sign of God dwelling with us and is a “shadow” of the birth of Christ, and it confirms Nisan 1 as the birth date of Jesus: *“On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.”* [Exodus 40:2](#) Just as it takes nine months from human conception to birth, it took nine months from God’s command until the dedica-

tion of the tabernacle:<sup>4</sup> *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt [tabernacled] among us ..."* [John 1:14](#)

**Preparation for the Passover.** *"...On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves"* [Exodus 12:3](#) God took the lamb of God to his house on **Palm Sunday**.

**The Passover is the day Jesus was crucified and died.** *"...the fourteenth day of the same month...you shall eat it in haste...when I see the blood I will pass over you..."* [Exodus 12:6-13](#) Jesus was crucified at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour (about 9:AM) and died at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour (about 3:PM), corresponding to the morning and evening sacrifices [Mark 15:25,33](#) The Passover lamb was one year old and so was born and died in the same month. Every Hebrew month begins with the new moon and reaches its fullness in the middle, so Jesus was born on the new moon and died on the full moon.

**The Feast of First Fruits** is the next Sunday when **Jesus rose from the dead**.

**The Feast of Pentecost**, also known as the Feast of Weeks, is 50 days after

First Fruits when **The Holy Spirit was given to the Church**.

All this demonstrates the power of God in that about 1400 years earlier He was able to control history to picture the crucifixion later. It is clear that the odds of all this happening by random chance are **infinitesimal**.

So, Jesus has fulfilled all the Spring Feasts, but so far not any Fall Feasts, but we know he will fulfill them at His future Second Coming.

Most important of all, the **salvation of your soul** is personal between you and God and does not depend on rites, clerics, traditions, good works, baptism, or belonging to any church or religion: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works..."* [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) No matter what kind of person you are or what you have done: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* [1 John 1:9](#) Pray today to put your faith in Jesus Christ alone: *"For God so loved the world, that He*

*gave His only begotten Son, that who ever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* [John 3:16](#) Then study the Bible to live pleasing to God: *"...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

**Please pray like this with all sincerity:** "Dear Lord Jesus, I confess I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died to forgive my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Please guide my life and help me to do your will. In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

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[bammelse@yahoo.com](mailto:bammelse@yahoo.com)

1 [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Date\\_of\\_birth\\_of\\_Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Date_of_birth_of_Jesus)

2 [youtube.com/watch?v=4SiSSluc6d0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=4SiSSluc6d0)

The primary reference.

3 [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priestly\\_divisions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priestly_divisions)

4 [livingroomtheology.com/2017/01/27/ever-wonder-how-long-it-took-to-build-the-tabernacle-why-should-you-care/](http://livingroomtheology.com/2017/01/27/ever-wonder-how-long-it-took-to-build-the-tabernacle-why-should-you-care/)