

SEPARATING THE FACTS FROM FICTION REGARDING JESUS' BIRTH **(Luke 2:1-20)**

- Let's take a test:

- 1) T or F Jesus Christ was born on December 25th.
- 2) T or F Jesus Christ was born in a stable.
- 3) T or F The early church celebrated “Christmas” as the birth of Jesus Christ.
- 4) T or F Most of the customs connected with Christmas come from the Bible.
- 5) T or F It is forbidden in Scripture to celebrate Christmas and its customs.
- 6) T or F There were 3 wise men from the East that visited Christ at His birth.
- 7) T or F The birth of Jesus Christ was the most significant birth in human history.

I. The ANGELIC PREDICTION and UNBELIEVING REACTION to the BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT of JOHN THE BAPTIST (1:5-25)

II. The ANGELIC PREDICTION and BELIEVING RESPONSES to the BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT of JESUS CHRIST (1:26-56)

III. The BIRTH of JOHN THE BAPTIST as PREDICTED (1:57- 80)

IV. The BIRTH of JESUS CHRIST as PREDICTED (2:1-20)

A. The FICTION Surrounding the BIRTH of JESUS CHRIST.

- ... regarding the date (December 25)
- ... regarding the celebration of “Christmas”
- ... regarding the customs and trappings connected with “Christmas”
- ... regarding Santa Claus

- Comparing Santa Claus vs. Jesus Christ:

B. The FACTS Surrounding the BIRTH of JESUS CHRIST. (2:1-20)

1. **The timing of Jesus Christ’s birth was when a _____ went out from _____ that all the world should be _____.** (2:1-2) What do we know about this historically? What does this indicate about God’s sovereignty and providence? (Gal.4:4-5)
2. **The place of Jesus Christ’s birth involved him leaving his hometown of _____ and traveling to _____.** (2:3-4) How long a trip was this? Why did he travel there?

3. The *parents* of Jesus Christ's birth included his legal father _____ and his betrothed wife _____. (2:4-5) Who was the actual "father" of her child?

- What did a "betrothal" consist of?
- What do we know about this couple? There were:

- 1) _____.
- 2) Raised in _____.
- 3) _____ who had _____ many verse from the WOG by faith.
- 4) Willing to _____ the will of God though they would be _____.
- 5) Seeking to _____ in everything.

4. The *reality* of Jesus Christ's birth is that "while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her _____. (2:6-7a) Being 9 months pregnant, why did Mary travel with Joseph to Bethlehem?

- What was and wasn't supernatural about all this? What does "firstborn" indicate?

5. The *scriptural fulfillments* of Jesus Christ's birth involved:

- a) Mary _____ a child as a _____ via the _____ as predicted by _____.
- b) Mary gave birth to a _____ as predicted by _____.
- c) Jesus Christ was born in _____ as predicted by _____.
- d) Jesus Christ was born of the seed of the _____, _____, and _____ as predicted by _____.
- e) Jesus Christ was born the unique _____ as predicted by _____.

- What does this teach about your Bible? It is the very _____, fully trustworthy, and that which separates God's truths from Satan's lies. So _____ and _____ it. If these predictions were faithfully fulfilled as promised, what can you expect about God's promises to you?
- What does this teach you about Jesus Christ? That He is the Holy Spirit virgin born, unique _____ who is Israel's rightful _____ and the _____ of the world.
- What good news did the shepherds hear that day? (2:8-10)
- What do people really need? (2:11)
- How did the multitude of angels respond to this message? (2:13-14)
- How did the shepherds respond to this good news? (2:15-16)
- How are you responding to this message from God?