

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?