

# A Christmas Quiz

*Dr. Dale Taliaferro's 38-question quiz concerning the Christmas story from a biblical perspective.*

Take the quiz yourself: click [here](#) for a format with the questions and answers separated.

**1. Can you name the parents of Jesus?**

- a. Mary (Matt. 1:16; Luke 1:31, 2:6-7).
- b. God (Luke 1:32, 35).
- c. Joseph (by adoption) (Matt 1:16, 19-20, 24-25).

**2. Where did Joseph and Mary live before they were married?**

- a. Mary—In Nazareth (Luke 1:26-27).
- b. Joseph—In Nazareth, presumably (Luke 2:4).



**3. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?**  
Gabriel (Luke 1:26).

**4. Where did Joseph and Mary live after their marriage?**  
Nazareth (Luke 2:4-5, 39).

**5. Where was Mary when the angel appeared to her?**  
In Nazareth, inside some structure or building (Luke 1:26, 28).

**6. Whom did Mary visit immediately after Gabriel appeared to her?**  
Elizabeth, her relative (Luke 1:36).

**7. How far along in her pregnancy was Elizabeth when Gabriel appeared to Mary?**  
Six months (Luke 1:26, 36).

**8. How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?**

About three months (Luke 1:56).

**9. Why didn't Mary stay to celebrate the birth of John?**

Probably fear of stoning, since she was pregnant and beginning "to show."

**10. How far along in her pregnancy was Mary when she broke the news to Joseph?**

At least three months (Luke 1:38-39, 56).

**11. Why were Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem?**

To be enrolled for the taxes (Luke 2:1-3).

**12. Why did Mary accompany Joseph?**

- a. A practical reason (she was well along in her pregnancy).
- b. A biblical-prophetical reason (Micah 5:2).

**13. What determined the city to which each Jew had to travel in order to be taxed?**

Lineage. Joseph had to go to the city of David since he was of "the house and family of David." (Luke 2:3-4).

**14. Who, then, would be in Bethlehem?**

- a. Joseph's relatives—descendants of David (Luke 2:3-4).
- b. Possibly Mary's relatives also (Luke 3:31-32).

**15. How did they travel?**

Probably in a caravan (cf. Luke 10:30-37, esp. 30). The Scripture doesn't say anything about their journey to Bethlehem.

**16. Why couldn't Joseph and Mary find space in the inn?**

Probably because Joseph's relatives rejected them and wouldn't give up their space (Luke 2:5; cf. Luke 1:61, 2:5; John 8:41).

**17. Who were the first people to come to see Jesus according to Scripture?**

Shepherds (Luke 2:8, 15-16).

**18. What chorus did the angels sing to the shepherds?**

None. They said, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will" (Luke 2:14).

**19. What sign did the angels tell the shepherds to look for?**

The baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12, 16-17).

**20. What was the manger?**

A feeding trough made of stone.

**21. In what way do the meaning of the Hebrew term for Bethlehem and the sign given by the angels prepare us for Jesus' later ministry?**

a. Bethlehem means "house of bread," which correlates with Jesus' Bread of Life discourse (John 6:22-65).

b. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes—the same kind of clothes He would be buried in (John 19:40).

**22. What happened eight days after Jesus' birth?**

His circumcision (Luke 2:21).

**23. What happened 32 days after Jesus' circumcision (40 days after Jesus' birth)?**

Mary's ceremonial purification and Jesus' redemption (Luke 2:22-24).

**24. What are two reasons that Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem?**

a. To fulfill the Law—Jesus' redemption and Mary's purification (Luke 2:22-23).

b. To fulfill prophecy (the personal prophetic revelation given to Simeon) (Luke 2:25-32, esp. 26).

**25. Where did Joseph and Mary go after the purification ceremony?**

Nazareth (Luke 2:39).

**26. What are magi?**

Politically powerful scholars and astronomers ("king-makers").

**27. How many wise men came to see Jesus?**

Scripture does not say, but Augustine and Chrysostom say twelve. Another tradition names three: Melchior (Shem's descendant), Caspar (Hem's descendant), and Balthasar (Jopheth's descendant).

**28. How many gifts did the wise men bring and to whom did they present their gifts?**

At least one gift from each wise man. They presented the gifts—plural in number—to Jesus. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh designate appositionally the kinds of gifts, not the number (Matt 2:1-2, 11).

**29. What was curious about the star?**

It was not constant (Matt. 2:2, 10).

**30. How did Herod use the star?**

He calculated the age of the child by the length of time it had been appearing and reappearing (Matt 2:7, 16). The wise men did not discourage this thinking.

**31. Where were Jesus, Mary, and Joseph when the wise men reached them?**

- a. In a house, not the stable (Matt 2:11).
- b. In Nazareth. The impression given in Matthew 2 is that of a hurried, immediate escape for all (Luke 2:39). Thus there was no time to fulfill the law or the prophetic utterance (cf. no. 24).

**32. How old was Jesus at this time?**

Two months to two years.

**33. In what year was Jesus born?**

Five or four B.C. (Herod died in March or April of 4 B.C.)

**34. How long was Jesus in Egypt with His parents?**

From one month to over one year.

**35. How did Joseph and Mary finance the trip to Egypt?**

Probably with the gifts of the magi.

**36. Where was Jesus raised upon His return to Israel?**

Nazareth (Matt 2:23).

**37. How old was Jesus when He *began* His ministry?**

Thirty-three to thirty-four years old (born 5 to 4 B.C., began ministry A.D. 29). Luke 3:23 tells us he was "about thirty"; the Greek indicates a rough (rather than close) estimate.

**38. How old was Jesus when He died?**

Thirty-seven to thirty-eight years old, depending on whether His ministry was three or four years in length.

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