

Bible Christmas Quiz



(Answers are at the end.)

1. Which New Testament books describe the birth of Jesus?
 - A. All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
 - B. Matthew and Luke
 - C. John and Mark
 - D. Mark, John, and Acts
2. Who was king of Judea when Jesus was born?
 - A. Herod
 - B. Pontius Pilate
 - C. Quirinius
 - D. Julius Cesare
3. An angel predicted Jesus birth to:
 - A. Only Mary
 - B. Only Joseph
 - C. Both Mary and Joseph
 - D. Mary, Joseph, and Herod
4. An angel said "Do not be afraid" or similar words to:
 - A. Mary
 - B. Joseph
 - C. Zechariah
 - D. Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and some shepherds
5. Who were Elizabeth and Zechariah?
 - A. Relatives of Mary; the parents of John the Baptist
 - B. Mary's parents
 - C. Joseph's parents
 - D. The innkeeper and his wife

6. Where was Jesus born?
 - A. Nazareth in Galilee
 - B. Bethlehem in Judea
 - C. Egypt
 - D. Mount Zion

7. In what sort of building was Jesus born?
 - A. A stable
 - B. A manger
 - C. An Inn
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

8. In Luke's account, what did the innkeeper say to Mary and Joseph?
 - A. "There is no room for you in the inn."
 - B. "You may stay in the stable."
 - C. Both 'A' and 'B'
 - D. None of the above

9. What animals does the Bible say were present at the place Jesus was born?
 - A. An ox and a donkey
 - B. Sheep and goats
 - C. Various animals are mentioned
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

10. What was the name of the angel who spoke to the shepherds?
 - A. Gabriel
 - B. Balthazar
 - C. Lemuel
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

11. How did the angel tell the shepherds they would recognize Jesus?
 - A. They would find him in a manger
 - B. There would be a star above the place he was born
 - C. They would see wise men and camels
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

12. How many wise men were there?
 - A. 3
 - B. 7
 - C. A "great host"
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

13. In what sort of building did the wise men find Jesus?
 - A. An inn
 - B. A stable
 - C. A house
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

14. After Jesus' birth whom did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus meet in the Temple
- A. The wise men
 - B. Zechariah and Elizabeth
 - C. Simeon and the prophet Anna
 - D. The Bible doesn't say
15. What did Herod do when he realized that the wise men had tricked him?
- A. Sent chariots to bring the wise men back to Jerusalem
 - B. Ordered all boys under the age of 2 in and around Bethlehem to be killed
 - C. Asked the chief priests and teachers of the law where the wise men had gone
 - D. The Bible doesn't say
16. Where did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus go to flee from Herod?
- A. Egypt
 - B. Mount Zion
 - C. The hill country in Judea
 - D. The Bible doesn't say

Answers are on next page.

Bible Christmas Quiz – Answers

1. B: Chapters 1 and 2 of Matthew and Luke describe Jesus birth
2. A: Herod (Matthew 2:1 etc. and Luke 1:5)
3. C: Both Mary (Luke 1:26-38) and Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
4. D: Zechariah, (Luke 1:13), Mary (Luke 1:30), Joseph (Matt. 1:20), & shepherds (Luke 2:10)
5. A: Elizabeth was Mary's relative; she and Zechariah were the parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5, 13, 17, 36)
6. B: Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7 and Matthew 2:1)
7. D: After he was born Mary laid Jesus in a manger but the type of building isn't mentioned (Luke 2:6-7)
8. D: No "innkeeper" is mentioned in the story (Luke 2:4-7)
9. D: No animals are mentioned at the place of Jesus birth (Luke 2:4-7). Shepherds were tending their sheep nearby, but it doesn't say whether they took them into Bethlehem with them (Luke 2:8-16)
10. D: Gabriel is named as the angel who spoke to Mary but no name is given for the "angel of the Lord" who appeared to the shepherds (Luke 2:9)
11. A: They would find Jesus wrapped in cloths lying in a manger (Luke 2:12)
12. D: There were 3 gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11) but the number of wise men (magi) is not mentioned
13. C: The wise men found Jesus in a house (Matthew 2:10-11)
14. C: Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:22-40)
15. B: Herod ordered the boys killed (Matthew 2:16-18)
16. A: Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)

Where was Jesus Born?

Jesus may have been born in a private house rather than an “inn” or “stable”

- The Greek word often translated “inn” (Luke 2:6-7) is “kataluma”
- Kataluma can refer to various lodging places
- The only other times “kataluma” is used in the Gospels it clearly refers to a guest room (upper room) in a private house
 - say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the **guest room**, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ (Luke 22:11)
- Luke uses a different Greek word “pan-dokk-i'-on” to refer to a public inn with an innkeeper
 - He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Luke 10:34)
- The Greek word often translated “room” (Luke 2:6-7) is “topos”
- Topos can mean: place, spot, space, place, etc
- In Luke 2:7 “there was no **topos** for them in the **kataluma**” could be translated:
 - There was no **room** for them in the **inn**
 - There was no **space** for them in the **guest room**
- In Jesus time animals were often kept overnight on the lower floor inside the house
- Stone mangers were built at the edge between where the animals stayed and the family lived
- Jesus talks about such living arrangements (one room houses with animals inside):
 - Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Matt 5:15) – suggests a one-room house
 - Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the manger [same word for “manger” as Luke 2:7] and lead it out to give it water? (Luke 13:15).
One late manuscript variant reads ‘lead it out from the house and give it water.’
- The concept of **hospitality** was extremely important in the Middle East in Jesus time
- Luke says Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because that’s where his family was from
- It may be unlikely that even distant relatives would be turned away as a guest especially a woman about to have a baby

*Even if he has never been there before he can appear suddenly at the home of a distant cousin, recite his genealogy, and he is among friends. Joseph had only to say, “I am Joseph, son of Jacob, son of Matthan, son of Eleazar, the son of Eliud,” and the immediate response must have been, “You are welcome. What can we do for you?” – Kenneth Bailey
(<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/11/08/the-manger-and-the-inn.aspx>)*

Based on all this, it is possible (and maybe probable) that Joseph and Mary went to stay at the home of one of Joseph’s relatives. With all the people in town for the census, the house was crowded with out of town guests. There was no space for them in the guest room, so Mary had her baby on the lower level of the house. Possibly there was even a midwife in attendance, even though it’s not mentioned in the story. A manger full of hay may have been a comfortable spot to lay a baby in such a house.