

JESUS' BIRTHDAY

A BIBLE BELIEVING CALCULATION

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."*

~ Luke 2:11

1. Why This Lesson

- a. Paul's warning about genealogies – 1 Tim 1:4, Titus 3:9
 - i. Not to settle age-old chronological disputes – there is no end to them.
 - ii. Bible evidence is better than evidence outside the Bible → Bible belief / priority

2. Problems With Calculating Jesus' Birthday

- a. Jews did not celebrate birthdays, nor did early Christians
 - i. Only mention of "birthdays" are Gentiles -Gen 40:20, Matt 14:5, Mark 6:21
- b. Years and months are more significant in prophetic calculation than days – Matt 24:36
- c. Calendars have a twisted history (God's means are still the most reliable – Gen 1:14)
 - i. The Bible in English (1526) is older than our modern calendar (Gregorian – 1582)
 - ii. Calendars differ according to politico-religious affiliation (Julian vs. Catholic)
 - iii. Adjustments were made (10 days gone Oct 1582, 11 days skipped in Sept 1752)
- d. Many arguments for this or that day come from incredible historical records not the Bible
- e. Calculations in the Bible inevitably go back to Israel's scriptures/calendar/genealogies/law

3. Bible References to His Birth

- a. Most concern either his mother, genealogy, divine incarnation, purpose (not the day)
 - i. His mother: Mary, conceived in a virgin → Isa 7:14, Matt 1:18-26, Gal 4:4
 - ii. His genealogy → Rom 1:3, Matt 1:1, Gal 4:4, 2 Tim 2:8
 - iii. His divine incarnation → Isa 9:6-7, John 1:14, Phil 2:7, 1 Tim 3:16
 - iv. His purpose → John 18:37, Gal 4:4, Heb 2:14
- b. The day of birth detailed only in Luke 2:6-20, casually mentioned in Matt 2:1
 - i. Where, why, and from whom is given more attention than when.
- c. Conclusion: "which day?" not addressed in scripture (*i.e there is no ordained celebration*)

4. The Biblical Calculation

- a. 4 men, 2 ladies, and an angel involved in the calculation
- b. Babies take 9 months (40 weeks) to be born
- c. Luke 1:26-36 – Mary conceived ~6 month into Elizabeth's pregnancy with John
- d. Luke 1:23-25 – Elizabeth conceived after the days of Zechariah's temple service
- e. Luke 1:5-22 – Zechariah's temple service was during the course of Abia
- f. 1 Chron 28:11-13 - David gave courses of priests to his son Solomon's temple
- g. 1 Chron 24:1-19 – David defined the courses of priests according to Aaron's sons
- h. 2 Chron 23:8 – The courses lasted a week (Sabbath to Sabbath)
- i. Aligning the Jewish calendar with the Gregorian Jesus born late September
- j. Interesting note: Israel had 3 holidays in late September:
 - i. Feast of Trumpets = 1st day 7th month = Rosh Hashanah
 - ii. Day of Atonement = 10th day of 7th month = Yom Kippur
 - iii. Feast of Tabernacles = 15th day of 7th month to 22nd day = Sukkoth – 9/25/18

Priestly Course Order in the Temple

1 Chronicles 24:7-18

Given to sons of Aaron
Leviticus 7:34, Numbers 8:19, 18:8

These *were* the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

1Ch 24:19

1 Chr 24:7	1. Jehoiarib	2. Jedaiah
1 Chr 24:8	3. Harim	4. Seorim
1 Chr 24:9	5. Malchijah	6. Mijamin
1 Chr 24:10	7. Hakkoz	8. Abijah
1 Chr 24:11	9. Jeshuah	10. Shecaniah
1 Chr 24:12	11. Eliashib	12. Jakim
1 Chr 24:13	13. Huppah	14. Jeshebeab
1 Chr 24:14	15. Bilgah	16. Immer
1 Chr 24:15	17. Hezir	18. Aphses
1 Chr 24:16	19. Pethahiah	20. Jehezekel
1 Chr 24:17	21. Jachim	22. Gamul
1 Chr 24:18	23. Delaiah	24. Maaziah

1 Chronicles 28:11-13

Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD.

Length of Service

1 Chronicles 9:25-26

“were to come after 7 days”

2 Chronicles 23:8

“come in and go out on the Sabbath”

Course of Abijah

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth.

Luke 1:5

	1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month
	Abib - Nisan (March - April)	Zif - Iyyar (April - May)	Sivan (May - June)
First Week	Jehoiarib (1)	Seorim (4)	All Priests (Pentecost)
Second Week	Jedaiah (2)	Malchijah (5)	Abijah (8)
Third Week	All Priests (Feast of Unleavened Bread)	Mijamin (6)	Jeshuah (9)
Fourth Week	Harim (3)	Hakkoz (7)	Shecaniah (10)

Elizabeth Conceived After his Course

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Luke 1:23-24

“And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.”

Luke 1:36

Birth Calendar

Jewish/Gregorian/John the Baptist/Jesus

1. Abib / Nisan	March-April	Birth of John 15 Nisan	4
2. Zif / Iyyar	April-May		5
3. Sivan	May-June	Conception of John after 3rd Sabbath	6
4. Tammuz	June-July	1	7
5. Ab / Av	July-August	2	8
6. Elul	August-September	3	9
7. Ethanim / Tishri	September- October	4	Birth of Jesus 15 Tishri
8. Bul / Marheshvan / Heshvan	October- November	5	
9. Chisleu / Chislev / Kislev	November- December	6	Conception of Jesus
10. Tebeth / Tevet	December- January	7	1
11. Shebat / Shevat	January-February	8	2
12. Adar	February-March	9	3

Conclusion:

John was born around March
Jesus was born around September,
NOT in December like these pagan gods*:

Tammuz
Mithra
Saturn
Adonis
BAAL

*Babylon, Rome, Egypt, and other pagan countries all worshipped the birth of their gods on or near the winter solstice as it signified their gods being unconquerable. These celebrations included adulation of evergreen trees, gift giving, wreath wearing, children honoring, singing and celebration.