

The Common Responses to Jesus and his birth

1. Settled antagonism
2. Scholarly skepticism
3. Distracted indifference
4. Shallow acceptance
5. Sincere worship

A Savior Is Born! (Pt. 1)

Luke 2:1-20

- I. The Record of the Birth of Jesus Christ (1-7)
 - A. Born at the Right Time (1-3)

When was Jesus born?

- What year?
 - During the reign of Caesar Augustus (27 BC to 14 AD)
 - In conjunction with the census ordered in 8 BC and carried out about 5 BC
 - While Quirinius was governor of Syria (uncertain)
 - Before the death of Herod the Great (between March 29 and April 4, 4 BC)
- What time of year?
 - Based on the priests' rotation and Zacharias' service at the temple, around the time of the winter solstice.

When was Jesus born?

- What exact day?
 - Hippolytus of Rome (c. 165-235 AD), writing between 202-211 BC in his commentary on Daniel, *Dan. IV, 23*): “the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when he was born in Bethlehem, was December 25th.”
- Conclusion: Jesus was likely born in winter, probably either December of 5 or 6 BC, and very possibly on December 25th.

Three Crucial Implications

1. Jesus was a real person who lived at a particular time and place in human history.
2. Jesus was born at exactly God's time.
3. The birth of God's Son is the center of human history.