



1

1. How important is the virgin birth?

Is 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Mt 1:14 ... After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Lk 1:26-27 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

2

Rom 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”

Jn 14:30 “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.”

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Heb 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

3

2. Did Mary give birth to God making her the “Mother of God?”

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

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Lk 1:38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mt 12:48-49 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" ⁴⁹And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"

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Jn 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

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3. Was Mary born of an immaculate conception and did she remain a virgin for the rest of her life?

Lk 3:23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,

Mt 13:55-56 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" ⁵⁷So they were offended at Him.

7

4. Did Mary need a Savior, was she saved, and what part does she play in salvation?

Lk 1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

2:22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

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1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Col 2:14-15 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

9

5. Does Joseph's marrying Mary before Jesus was born call into question the identity of Jesus' father?

Mt 1:24-25 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Jn 8:41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father – God."

10

6. Did Jesus know that He was God at His birth and through His early childhood?

Lk 2:41-50 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

11

7. Was Jesus really born on Dec 25?

- 336 A.D. is the earliest recorded date for celebrating Christmas on December 25.
- John Chrysostom declared Dec. 25 Jesus' birthday in 386.
- Probably chosen as a Christian response to pagan festivals.
- Theologian in 320 A.D.: "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."

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8. Was the Star of Bethlehem Halley's comet or a supernova?

Num 24:17 A star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel,

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Is 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Mt 2:2-10, 4:12-17

13

It could have been caused by an opening in the heavens

Mt 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him,

Mk 1:10

Lk 3:21

Acts 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

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Charles Spurgeon: "It must have been a star occupying quite another sphere from that in which the planets revolve. We believe it to have been a luminous appearance in mid-air; probably akin to that which led the children of Israel through the wilderness, which was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night."

John MacArthur: "surely the glory of God, blazing as if it were an extremely bright star – visible only to the eyes for whom it was intended to be seen, ... a miraculous phenomenon, possibly an appearance of the Shekinah glory."

15

9. What person could not die before the first Christmas?



Simeon:

Lk 2:26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

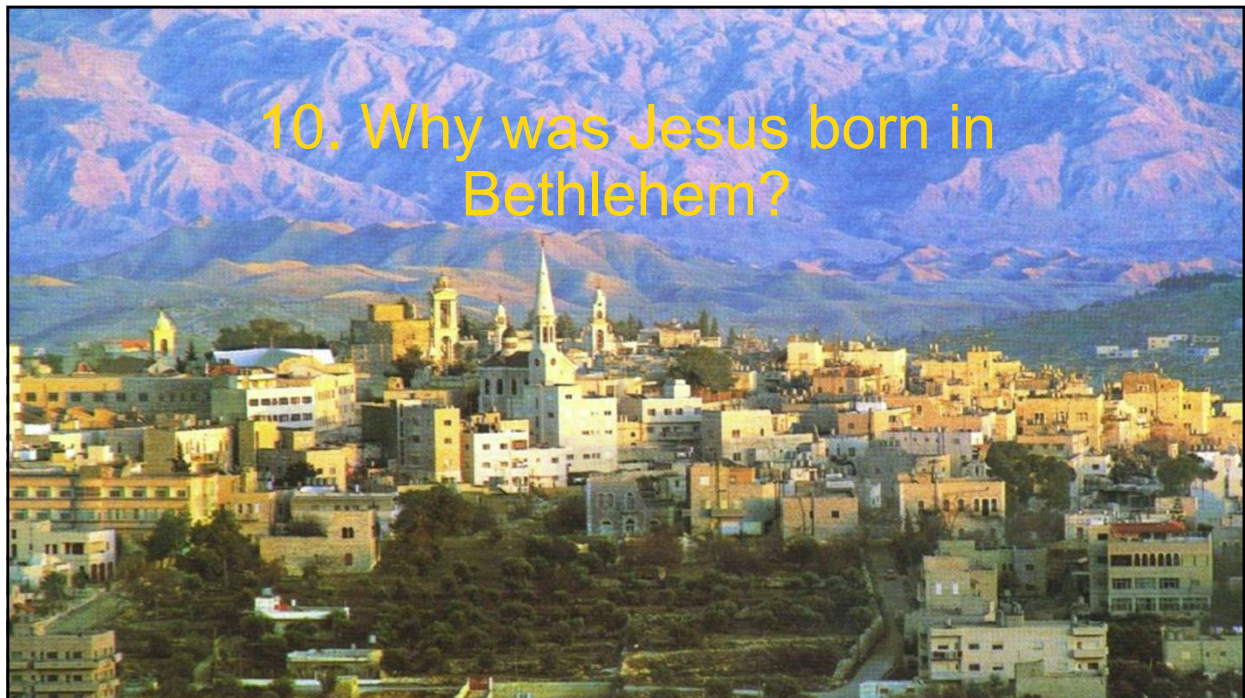
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10. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?

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17



18

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19

Bethlehem: “house of bread”

Jn 6:35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger,

20

11. Why do the shepherds play such a prominent role in Jesus' birth?

Lk 2:8-20

Jn 10:11,14 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... ¹⁴I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

21

Jn 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Pet 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

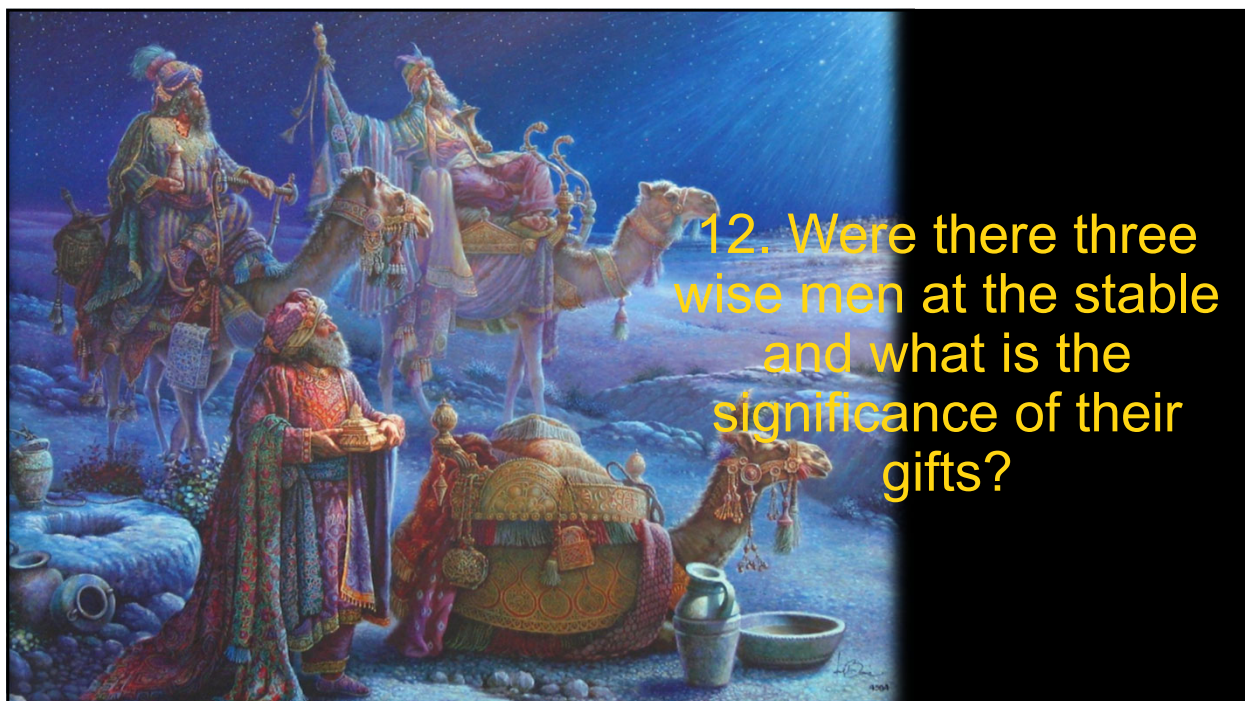
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Heb 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Pet 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

5:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

23



24

Mt 2:11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2:16 ... he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

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Gold = gift for a king
Frankincense = gift for a priest
Myrrh = gift for a prophet

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13. What are swaddling clothes?



27

14. Is “Christmas” Catholic?

“mas” = celebration, festival

Latin (missio) = sent

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15. Is Xmas an “un-Christian” way to spell Christmas?

- The word for Christ in Greek is “Xristos”.
- During the 16th century, Europeans began using the first initial of Christ’s name, “X” (Greek “chi”) in place of the word Christ in Christmas as shorthand form of the word.

29



16. Was there really a Santa Claus?

- Saint Nickolas was a bishop in Myra, Lycia (modern Turkey) in the 4th century.
- He was a committed Christian known for helping the poor – especially children.
- The Romans imprisoned and tortured him until Constantine allowed him to go free.

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- As a defender of the faith he was seen as a great Christian & was venerated after his death.
- The Dutch kept the legend alive & called him "Sinterklaas"
- In 16th century Holland, children would place their wooden shoes by the hearth hoping they would be filled with treats.
- They spelled St. Nicholas Sint Nikolaas which was corrupted to Sinterklaas, and finally, to Santa Claus in English.

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- In 1822, Clement C. Moore composed his famous poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which was later published as "The Night Before Christmas" and is credited with creating the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly fat man in a red suit.

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17. Are Christmas trees pagan?

Jer 10:2-5 Thus says the Lord: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. ³ For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. ⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. ⁵ They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.”

33



- What we know as the Christmas tree originated in Germany as an oak tree and St. Boniface replaced the oak with a fir tree in the 7th century.
- It originated from two Christian symbols found in homes at Christmas time. The first was a “Paradise tree,” an evergreen which was hung with apples which represented the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.

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- The second symbol was a “Christmas pyramid.” This was a triangular shelf holding Christmas figurines and decorated with a star. By about the 16th century these two symbols had been combined into the Christian Christmas tree.
- Martin Luther is credited with adding “lights” to the tree in the 16th century.

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- The Christmas tree was not widely used in Britain until the 19th century. It was brought to America by the Pennsylvania Germans in the 1820's.
- Nativity scenes were popularized by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223.

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18. Why do we use holly and mistletoe?

- The evergreen was used because it represented eternal life.
- Wreaths came from victory laurels that were worn by the Romans and Persians.
- Holly was incorporated into the Christmas celebration by the early European Christians because the prickly leaves represented the crown of thorns Jesus wore and the red berries represented His blood.

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- The use of mistletoe from the Scandinavians who believed it had healing and relationship-mending properties.
- The yuletide log came from the Norsemen who used it to celebrate the winter festival.
- The poinsettia was introduced by Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the American ambassador to Mexico, who brought the flower to America in 1829. The Mexican people call it the "flower of Holy Night" because its red leaves make a shape like the Star of Bethlehem.

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19. Why do the Russian communists date their calendar from the birth of Jesus?

Russia was Christian for over 1000 years before being taken over by the Communists in 1919.

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20. How should Christians deal with the non-Christian symbols of Christmas?

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

1 Pet 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.

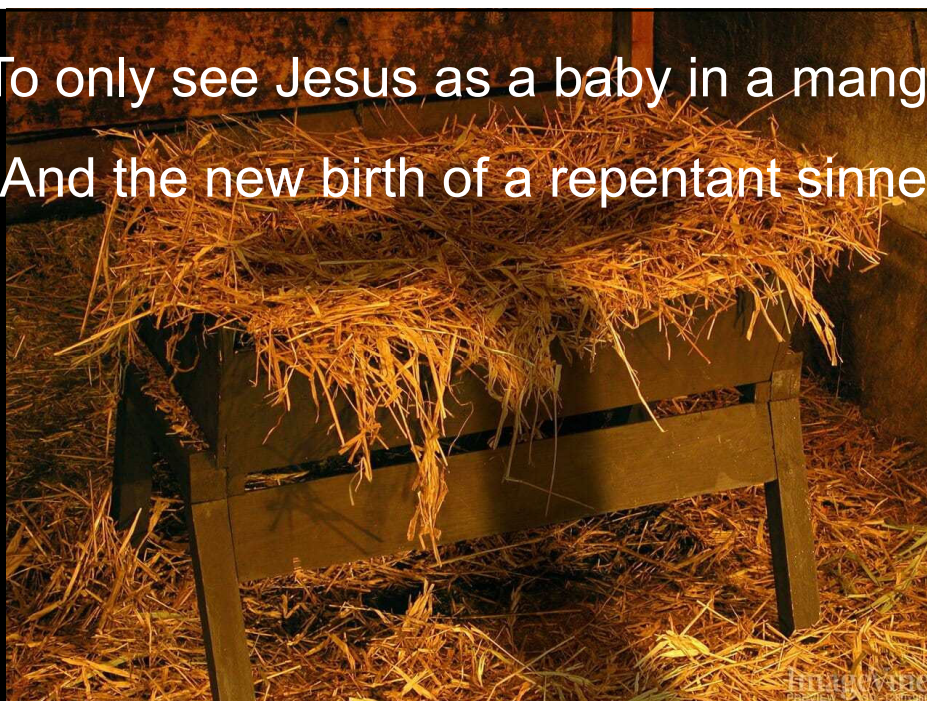
As long as they do not violate Scripture and do not take precedence over the truly Christian symbols, they are acceptable in their proper place.

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21. What is the greatest mistake Christians can make at Christmas and what is the greater miracle than the virgin birth?

41

To only see Jesus as a baby in a manger
And the new birth of a repentant sinner



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