

THE DATE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST - BIBLICALLY

LUKE 1:5-80 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, **there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah...**

1 Chronicles 24:1-19 (ESV) The divisions of the sons of Aaron were these. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar became the priests. ³ With the help of Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, **David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service.** ⁴ Since more chief men were found among the sons of Eleazar than among the sons of Ithamar, they organized them under **sixteen** heads of fathers' houses of the sons of Eleazar, and **eight** of the sons of Ithamar. **(16+8=24)** ⁵ They **divided them by lot**, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar. ⁶ And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites, one father's house being chosen for Eleazar and one chosen for Ithamar.

The first lot fell to **Jehoiarib**, the second to **Jedaiah**, the third to **Harim**, the fourth to **Seorim**, the fifth to **Malchijah**, the sixth to **Mijamin**, the seventh to **Hakkoz**, **(the eighth to Abijah)**, the ninth to **Jeshua**, the tenth to **Shecaniah**, the eleventh to **Eliashib**, the twelfth to **Jakim**, the thirteenth to **Huppah**, the fourteenth to **Jeshebeab**, the fifteenth to **Bilgah**, the sixteenth to **Immer**, the seventeenth to **Hezir**, the eighteenth to **Happizez**, the nineteenth to **Pethahiah**, the twentieth to **Jehezkel**, the twenty-first to **Jachin**, the twenty-second to **Gamul**, the twenty-third to **Delaiah**, the twenty-fourth to **Maaziah**.

¹⁹ **These had as their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of the LORD according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as YAHWEH God of Israel had commanded him.**

...And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. ⁸ **Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,** ⁹ **according to the custom of the priesthood,**

The eighth to Abijah = the last two weeks in the fourth month of the Hebrew Lunar calendar.

he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient

to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." ¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. **And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.** ²³ **And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.** ²⁴ **After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived,**

When his 'time of service' was ended after 'these days' his wife Elizabeth conceived at the end of the fourth month.

and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

²⁶ **In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from 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. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, **you will conceive** in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ **And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.**

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, **"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."** And the angel departed from her. ³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And **why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**

The 'mother of my Lord' - the incarnation of God's Word had already begun in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy - that is the end of tenth month of the year.

⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to

her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶ **And Mary remained with her about three months...**

Elizabeth is 6+3=9 months and now Mary is 3 months pregnant - she has 6 months to go. Normally this would be the end of first month of the of the Hebrew Lunar calendar and this is where it gets a bit technical! The lunar calendar has 354 days in a year. The seasonal or solar calendar is 365¼ days. There can be a variance of up to 28 days adjustment averaging out over three years that was determined by the High Priest being able to take a sheaf of ripe barley on the first day of the year that had to be on a New Moon! Don't panic! We'll take an average of 14 days and so we are at this point half way through the first month.

...and returned to her home. ⁵⁷ **Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.** ⁵⁸ And her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby

the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Luke 2:1-38 (ESV) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ **And she gave birth to her firstborn son** and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn...

It is now the middle the seventh month of the Hebrew Lunar calendar year that Jesus was born – that is to say that on the Eve of the Feast of Tabernacles and God by his Word has tabernacled with mankind in human form! John 1:1-14.

...⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ **For unto you is born this day** in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹ **And at the end of eight days**, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Eighth day circumcision brings the Messiah into the covenant of Abraham – Tishri 22nd being the last Great Day of the Feast.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord" ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the

Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ...

Exodus 13:14 (ESV) Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.'

To fulfil all righteousness the Messiah would have been redeemed into the Mosaic covenant to be an Israelite. This would have been at the following Passover 4BC in the month of Nissan – probably the 10th being the Day of Selection of the Passover Lamb. This was after Herod the Great's death and according to the historian Josephus there was a lunar eclipse just prior to Herod's death and before the Passover Feast of that year. This eclipse can be astronomically calculated to have occurred early in 4BC.

... ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 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. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ **And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned.**

There are two main feasts under the Mosaic Law – The FEAST OF TABERNACLES and the FEAST OF PASSOVER exactly six months apart. The Word of God tabernacled with man on the eve of the Feast of Tabernacles and on the eve of Passover thirty-three and a half years later he died as the Passover Lamb of God. The Word of God that condemned all mankind to death in our flesh for our sin, became flesh and was condemned in our place. The Law was buried and new life began with the same Word of God's resurrection as the embodiment of God's promised salvation of New Birth! Calculating the true day of Christ's birth is the main yoke that joins the Bible's Old and the New Testaments together as One Sacred Book. God bless!

THE VERY DAY THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD CAME TO EARTH IN HUMAN FORM (THE WORD BECAME FLESH: JOHN 1:14)

TISHRI: THE SEVENTH MONTH OF THE BIBLICAL HEBREW LUNAR CALENDAR

Tishri	1	DAY OF TRUMPETS	2/10/05BC
Tishri	2		3/10/05
Tishri	3		4/10/05
Tishri	4		5/10/05
Tishri	5		6/10/05
Tishri	6		7/10/05
Tishri	7		8/10/05
Tishri	8		9/10/05
Tishri	9		10/10/05
Tishri	10	DAY OF ATONEMENT	11/10/05
Tishri	11		12/10/05
Tishri	12		13/10/05
Tishri	13		14/10/05
Tishri	14	MESSIAH JESUS CHRIST IS BORN ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES	15/10/05*
Tishri	15	FEAST OF TABERNACLES BEGINS. THE WORD OF GOD TABERNACLES WITH MAN	16/10/05
Tishri	16		17/10/05
Tishri	17		18/10/05
Tishri	18		19/10/05
Tishri	19		20/10/05
Tishri	20		21/10/05
Tishri	21		22/10/05
Tishri	22	GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST THE LAST DAY OR EIGHTH DAY MESSIAH IS CIRCUMCISED AS THE 'SEED OF ABRAHAM'	23/10/05
Tishri	23		24/10/05
Tishri	24		25/10/05
Tishri	25		26/10/05
Tishri	26		27/10/05
Tishri	27		28/10/05
Tishri	28		29/10/05
Tishri	29		30/10/05
Tishri	30		31/10/05

* Our solar calendar did not exist in ancient times as we know it today. Also the synchronization of the Hebrew lunar calendar of the Bible and our solar calendar varies from year to year so the solar calendar date can only be given as a guide.

