

# Christmas

## Fact and Fiction

Choose the best answer(s).

1. How did Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem?  
a) A donkey carried both Mary and Joseph. b) Joseph walked and Mary rode the donkey. c) Mary walked and Joseph rode the donkey. d) Joseph carried Mary and the donkey. e) Mary and Joseph walked and left the donkey at home. f) I don't know.
2. Jesus was born a) the night Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem. b) the day after Mary and Joseph arrived. c) on the way to Bethlehem. d) at an indefinite time after they arrived. e) on December 25, 0000. f) None of the above.
3. Bethlehem is now present-day a) Beit Sahur. b) Bet Shemesh. c) Bethlehem. d) Baltimore. e) a tourist trap.
4. The story of Jesus' birth appears in which Gospel? a) Matthew b) Mark c) Luke d) John e) all of the above. f) none of the above. g) a and b. h) a and c. i) a, b, and d. j) b, c, and d. k) a, b, and c.
5. The birth narratives tell us that Joseph was a a) carpenter. b) bricklayer. c) a servant in Potiphar's house. d) breeder of donkeys. e) a youth counselor at the synagogue. f) The narratives don't tell us what his occupation was.
6. Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds by a) one angel. b) several angels. c) a great company of the heavenly host. d) a talking camel named Gus.
7. What is meant by "heavenly host?" a) one who presides over feasts in heaven. b) an army. c) a bread wafer that has been consecrated. d) the emcee of a religious TV Game show e) none of the above.
8. Who gave Mary's son the name "Jesus?" a) Joseph b) Mary c) the angel Gabriel. d) her mother-in-law. e) the heavenly host. f) Elizabeth.
9. What were the names of the wise men? a) Melchior b) Caspar c) Balthasar d) Belteshazzar e) Einstein f) Eddie g) a, b, and c. h) none of the above.
10. What does the name "Jesus" mean? a) God is with us. b) Yahweh saves. c) He shall suffer. d) Just an expression people say when they are angry.

11. Where was Jesus born? a) In a cave. b) In a stable. c) In a barnyard. d) In a log cabin. e) In a house. f) at Queen of the Valley Hospital. g) The gospels do not say.
12. What was Joseph's reaction to finding out about Mary's pregnancy? a) He advised her to get an abortion. b) He fled town. c) He considered getting a divorce. d) He was joyful that the Messiah would be born to his wife. e) He said, "Mary who?"
13. What did the angels sing to the shepherds? a) "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people." b) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." c) "You ain't nothing but a sheep dog." d) "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given."
14. When the wise men came to Bethlehem, they found Mary and Joseph a) In a cave. b) In a stable. c) In a barnyard. d) In a log cabin. e) In a house. f) The gospels do not say.
15. The angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Savior contains the opening lines to what famous prayer? a) Magnificat. b) Our Father. c) Hail Mary. d) Luther's table prayer. e) None of the above.
16. Who was the Roman emperor at the time of Jesus' birth? a) Julius Caesar b) Augustus Caesar c) Sid Caesar d) Caesar Romero e) Cesar Cedeno
17. Which of the following animals were with Mary and Joseph at Jesus' birth? a) sheep b) oxen c) a donkey d) cows e) dogs f) camels g) aardvarks h) Iowa hogs.
18. The wise men arrived in Bethlehem a) on the night that Jesus was born. b) sometime within the first week. c) sometime within the first year. d) sometime within the first two years.
19. What is the first thing the wise men did upon their arrival? a) They had their servants wash their feet. b) They presented gifts to the child. c) They bowed down and worshiped the child d) They confirmed their reservations at the inn next door.
20. The chief priests and the scribes quoted a prophecy to Herod that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. Which prophet did they quote? a) Isaiah b) Jeremiah c) Elijah d) Micah e) Mohammed f) The Delphic Oracle g) Nostradamus
21. What is frankincense? a) an expensive perfume from France b) a fragrant hot dog c) a perfumed spice that turns into a monster when burned d) an incense made from tree resin.
22. Which of the following did not receive divine messages in dreams? a) Joseph b) Mary c) the Wise Men d) none of the above.

23. Which of the following popular Christmas Songs most accurately tell the biblical story?  
a) Angels we Have Heard on High b) Once in Royal David's City. c) O Little Town of Bethlehem d) Away in the Manger e) Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree f) Silent Night g) We Three Kings h) Handel's Messiah i) The First Noel j) Jingle Bells.
24. What does "Immanuel" mean? a) Oh come, Oh come. b) Yahweh saves. c) God with us d) Glory to God e) automatic
25. What signs were the shepherds to look for? a) a babe with a halo around his head b) a stable with camels parked out in front c) a cave with a souvenir stand next door d) a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger e) just follow the star.
26. Who was in the manger? a) a newborn boy, who cried and made messes. b) God Almighty, through whom the universe was made. c) The King of the Jews. d) the one who won the redemption of the whole world. e) all of the above. f) none of the above.
27. December 25 a) is the actual anniversary of the day of Jesus' birth. b) was originally a pagan holiday in honor of a sun god. c) was the date chosen by the church to commemorate the birth of Jesus. d) is very important to our nation's retail businesses. e) all of the above f) all except b. g) all except a.
28. Which of these holidays was the last to be included in the church year? a) Easter b) Pentecost c) Epiphany d) Christmas e) Lent f) Halloween.
29. The twelve days of Christmas refer to a) a Christmas song that is much too long. b) the last twelve shopping days before Christmas. c) the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany.
30. True or False. Since Christmas is not referred to in the Bible, and was originally a pagan holiday, and Col 2:16-7 says: "Let no man therefore judge you ... in respect to an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath, which is a shadow ... of Christ," Christians should not celebrate Christmas or have anything to do with it.
31. The true Christmas message is a) It is better to receive than to give. b) Get your shopping done early. c) Keep your receipts for returns and exchanges. c) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.