



<sup>1</sup> Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, <sup>2</sup> but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. <sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. ([Gal. 4:1-7](#))

THE  
POWER  
OF  
FAITH



LESSON 2

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth



# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

**1. It was PREDETERMINED**

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

## **Acts 2:22-23**

**Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God...**

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

## Acts 2:22-23

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose** and foreknowledge of God...

While this passage says nothing of Jesus' birth, it does establish a very important point.

As with His death, Jesus' birth was no accident – nor was it by chance. It was intentional.

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

## Acts 2:22-23

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and **foreknowledge of God...**

- As with His death, the event of Jesus' birth was known by God well in advance of its occurring.



# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

## 2 Tim. 1:8-10

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

(Cf. Titus 1:2)

God planned to send His Son (incarnate, in the flesh) before He even uttered the words, "Let there be light" ([Gen. 1:3](#)).

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

- 1. It was predetermined**
- 2. It was FORETOLD**

# **EVIDENCES**

## **of the Inspiration of the Bible**

**Why I know the Bible is the Word of GOD:**

- (1) The Bible makes the claim of inspiration**
- (2) Because that claim can be amply documented by the evidence to be true**

# EVIDENCES

## of the Inspiration of the Bible

### Examining Some Bible Claims:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (*“inspired of God”*)

Greek: *theos* = God

*pneustos* = breathed

# **EVIDENCES**

## **of the Inspiration of the Bible**

### **Examining Some Bible Claims:**

**2 Peter 1:19-21** (*“moved by the Holy Spirit”*)

Means, *“to be born along by”*  
(i.e., carried by) God’s Spirit



# ***Take a Survey***

**Psalm 119:89** = *“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.”*

**Exod. 20:1** = *“And God spoke all these words...”*

**Exod. 24:7**=*“All that the Lord has said we will do”*

**Deut. 5:22** = *“These words the Lord spoke...”*

**Matt. 22:31** = *“...have you not read what was spoken to you by God...”*

# **EVIDENCES**

## **of the Inspiration of the Bible**

The Bible is Composed of...

**Known Facts** (History)

**Revelation** (God making known to man that which man would otherwise have no way of knowing)

# Revelation

(1) Natural (General)

(2) Special





# EVIDENCES

## of the Inspiration of the Bible

The single greatest internal evidence (proof) of the Bible's inspiration is PROPHECY!!!

Unlike false prophets (or even those who make predictions) the Bible writers did not need the best "4 out of 8 chances" to be correct...

# **EVIDENCES**

## **of the Inspiration of the Bible**

**Bible prophecy was always minutely foretold – completely and in detail fulfilled.**

**Moses of Christ (Deut. 18:15-19)**

**Isaiah of Christ (Isaiah 53)**

**David of Christ (Psalm 16:8-11, 22)**

**Joel of the church (Joel 2:28-32)**

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

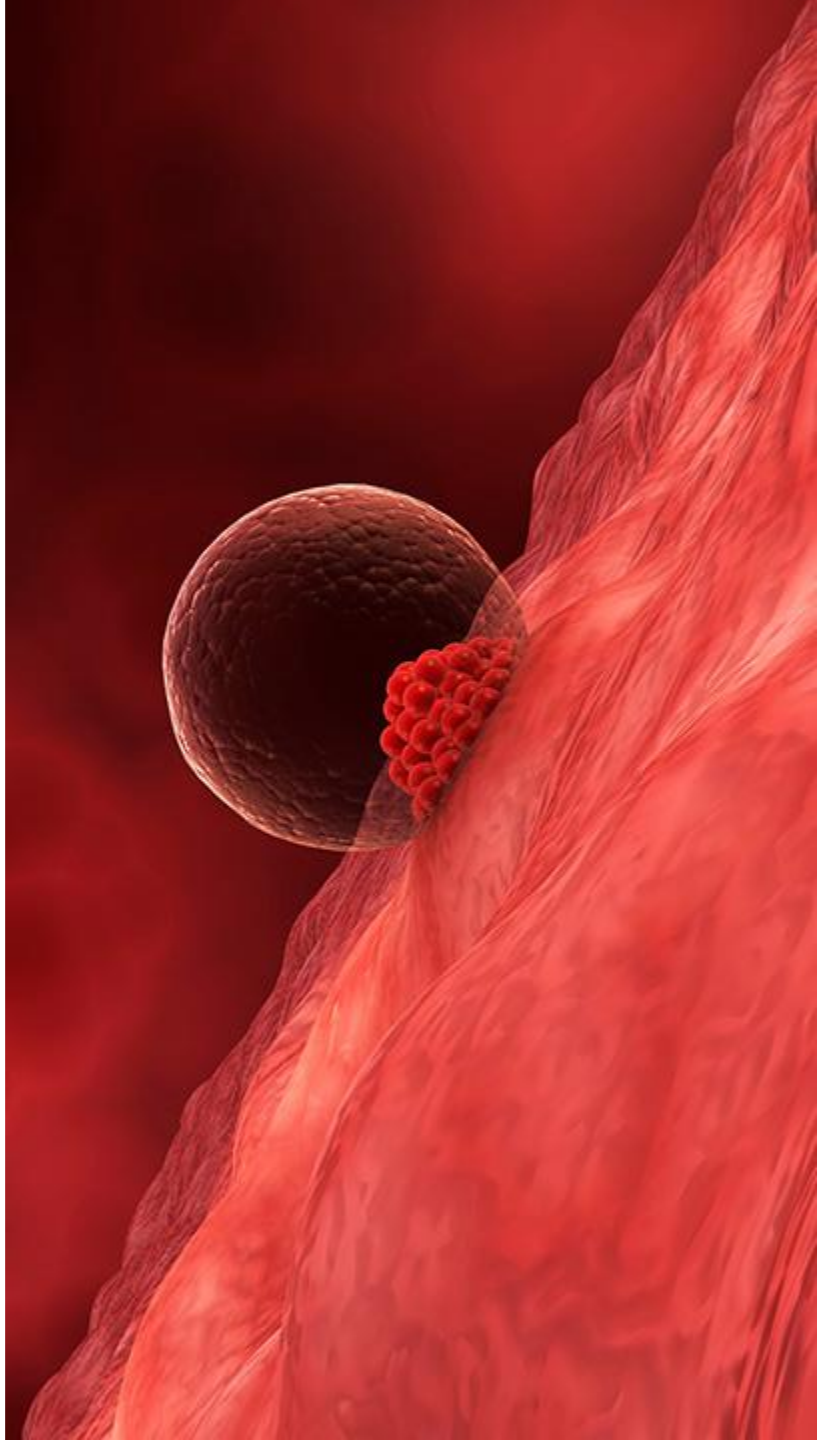
**Isa. 7:13-17**

Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?"

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.** Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.

Before we talk about the significance of Christ's birth, it is important to first consider His conception.

The Bible does not give the actual date of Christ's birth. However, secular historians place His birth most likely between mid-September and the first of October.



Luke 2:7-18 states that the shepherds were living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night

*"The shepherds always bring their flocks in from the mountain slopes and fields not later than the fifteenth of October"* (Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons, p. 91)





Caesar Augustus decreed  
*"all the world should be  
taxed... and all went to  
be taxed, every one into  
his own city"* (Lk. 2:1, 3).

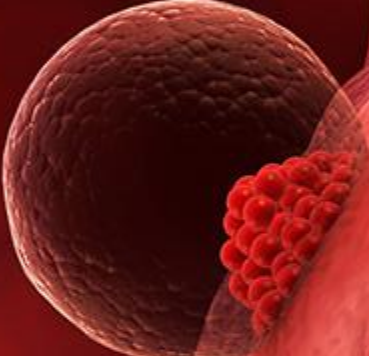
Winter travel would be  
very difficult (Mt. 24:20).

Not likely that Caesar  
would order that THEN.

Before we talk about the significance of Christ's birth, it is important to first consider His conception.

The Bible does not give the actual date of Christ's birth. However, secular historians place His birth most likely between mid-September and the first of October.

If so, this would mean that His conception would've happened during December (and for all we know, possibly on December 25<sup>th</sup>).



So, ironically, people celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25 when they should probably be celebrating His conception, because that's where the story of His birth began.

Because an emperor a thousand miles away had ordained a new tax, and insisted on registering every citizen, Joseph and Mary had to go to their ancestral home of Bethlehem to be registered (along with their relatives).





# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

Isa. 9:6-7

**For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;** and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and 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. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: *“A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”* ([Matt. 2:16-18](#); prophecy from [Jer. 31:15](#))



There was an almighty slaughter  
([Matt. 2:16-18](#)). Realize that  
at least some of those babies killed  
were very likely Jesus' cousins and  
relatives. If so, His birth ultimately  
brought about the death of many of  
His relatives and left bereaved  
families among them.



# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

- 1. It was predetermined**
- 2. It was foretold**
- 3. It had SUPERNATURAL ACCOMPANIMENT**

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel was sent by God** to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, **you will conceive in your womb** and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;** therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> **For with God nothing will be impossible.**" <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." **And the angel departed from her.** (Lk. 1:26-38)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, **she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.** 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream,** saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.** 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. ([Matt. 1:18-25](#))

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, **an angel of the Lord stood before them**, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God** and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” <sup>15</sup> So it was, when **the angels had gone away from them into heaven**, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (Lk. 2:8-20)

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For **we have seen His star in the East** and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> *'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'* <sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, **determined from them what time the star appeared.** <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.** <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. ([Matt. 2:1-12](#))





Unlike stars in their constellations, the Bethlehem star actually **moved** and **stopped**. It guided the Magi from the east toward the west, hundreds of miles. (This required several months of travel). The star then guided them from Jerusalem to the small community of Bethlehem (6 miles to the south).

*“Why should that  
be thought in credible?”*  
(as Paul would say, **Acts 26:8**)



Could not the same God who guided Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night ([Exod. 13:21-22](#)) not guide the Magi by a moving star?



Unlike stars in their constellations, the Bethlehem star actually **moved** and **stopped**. It guided the Magi from the east toward the west, hundreds of miles. (This required several months of travel). The star then guided them from Jerusalem to the small community of Bethlehem (6 miles to the south).

Again, the star **stopped** so as to **specifically identify** the very house in which the young child Jesus was to be found ([Matt. 2:11](#)).

No one can locate a particular house based on the relationship of any single star — anywhere in the universe. This was supernatural!

Jesus was visited by two groups:

Shepherds

Lk. 2:8-20



Magi (scholars, wise men)

Matt. 2:1-11



one very poor

One worked with their hands

...and the other very rich.

...one worked with their heads.

Jesus was visited by two groups:

Shepherds

Lk. 2:8-20



Magi (scholars, wise men)

Matt. 2:1-11



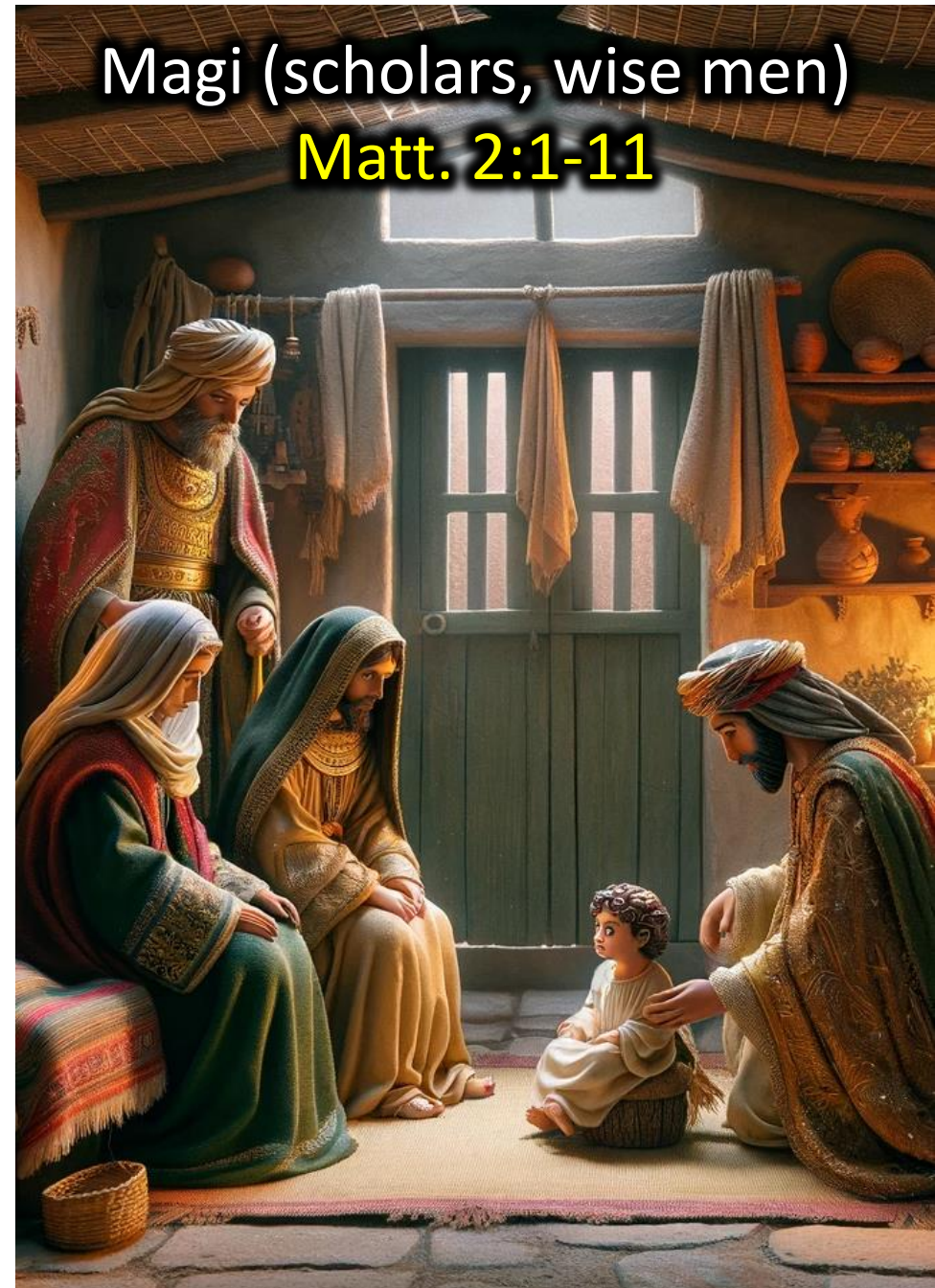
one very poor

One worked with their hands

...and the other very rich.

...one worked with their heads.

They brought very expensive gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) which indicates that they must have believed that the baby Jesus had royal blood – and indeed He had (because they had come to Bethlehem, king David’s ancestral home - and both Joseph and Mary descended from king David).



# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

- 1. It was predetermined**
- 2. It was foretold**
- 3. It had supernatural accompaniment**
- 4. It was DOCUMENTED**

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ([Luke 2:1-7](#))





# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

There was a census (which supports proof of Jesus' birth, the location of His birth, the timeframe of His birth, and His lineage).

According to documented secular history, Herod the Great reigned in Judea until he died in 4BC (see also [Matt. 2:1, 19](#)).

Herod ordered that the male children of Bethlehem to be put to death from 2 years old and under (according to the timeframe of when Jesus was born, [vv. 16-18](#)).

At the time of Herod's decree Jesus was a "child" (no longer referred to as a "babe"), living in a house ([vv. 9-11](#)). Thus, Jesus had to have been born sometime between 6 – 4BC.

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

There was a census (which supports proof of Jesus' birth, the location of His birth, the timeframe of His birth, and His lineage).

Early Christian apologist Justin Martyr (c.100 – c.165AD) claimed that Jesus's birth was recorded in the census.

The divinely inspired word of God (the Bible) also records the lineage of Jesus ([Matthew 1:1-17](#); [Luke 3:23-38](#)).

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

## THE GENEALOGIES OF JESUS

Since Matthew wrote to the Jews, he traces the Lord's genealogy back to Abraham, the first Hebrew (**1:1-17**).

Luke wrote for the Gentiles; and, accordingly, he goes all the way back to Adam, before there was a Hebrew nation (**3:23-38**).

Though there are differences between the genealogies, there are no contradictions. *(Matthew gives the legal descent, while Luke gives the physical descent).*

It is generally understood that Matthew traces the genealogies through Joseph and Luke through Mary.

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth

- 1. It was predetermined**
- 2. It was foretold**
- 3. It had supernatural accompaniment**
- 4. It was documented**

# Why I Believe in Christ's Birth



**John 18:37**

**Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born..."**

**Why**

**I Believe**

What is the definition of “**faith**”?

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)*

“Faith” (Grk., “*pistis*”) 1. “conviction of the truth of anything, belief”; cf. trust

How do we obtain “**faith**”?

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)*

What have you heard in this lesson that would generate belief/trust that Jesus came in the flesh, and was in fact born of a virgin – thus fulfilling scripture?

What is the definition of “faith”?

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)*

**THOUGHT**

“Faith” (Grk., “*pistis*”) 1. “conviction of the truth of anything, belief”; cf. trust

**ACTION**

“Faith” (Grk., “*pistis*”) 2. “fidelity; faithfulness”

Do you need to respond to the evidence of scripture (to what you believe/trust)?



