

# ***Bible or Tradition? Christmas Quiz***



How much of what we know is really just tradition?

By Steve Pettit

## ***Dates and Mates***

1. For the journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph  
a) Walked  
b) Joseph walked; Mary rode a donkey.  
c) Rode a bus  
d) Who knows?
2. When Mary became pregnant, Mary and Joseph were  
a) Married  
b) Just friends  
c) Engaged  
d) None of the above
3. When Mary became pregnant  
a) Joseph married her  
b) Joseph wanted to dissolve their relationship  
c) Mary left Nazareth for a while  
d) An angel told them to go to Bethlehem  
e) Both b and c  
f) Both b and d
4. Christmas has always been observed  
a) On Dec. 25  
b) On Jan. 17  
c) At Grandma's house  
d) None of the above

## ***Kings and Wings***

5. Who directed Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?  
a) Herod  
b) An angel  
c) Caesar  
d) The IRS
6. Just what is a "heavenly host"?  
a) An angelic choir  
b) The welcoming angel in Heaven  
c) An army of angels  
d) None of the above
7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?  
a) A multitude  
b) Two: Gabriel and Michael  
c) One  
d) Who knows?
8. What song did the angels sing?  
a) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
b) "Joy to the World"  
c) "Glory to God in the Highest"  
d) None of the above

## ***Barns and Yarns***

9. The baby Jesus was born in a  
a) Cave  
b) Manger  
c) Hurry  
d) Barn  
e) Who knows?

10. What animals were present at Jesus' birth?

- a) Cows, sheep, and camels
- b) Cows, sheep, and donkeys
- c) Lions, tigers, and bears
- d) None of the above

11. What is a manger, anyway?

- a) A barn
- b) A place for hay
- c) A feeding trough
- d) A Greek term for the church nursery

12. When did baby Jesus cry?

- a) When he opened the wise men's gifts
- b) Whenever babies usually cry
- c) When the cattle started lowing
- d) "No crying he makes"

### ***Signs and Lines***

13. Joseph's family was from

- a) Jerusalem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Bethlehem
- d) None of the above

14. Who saw the star over Bethlehem?

- a) Mary and Joseph
- b) Shepherds
- c) The three kings
- d) Both b and c
- e) None of the above

15. What sign were the shepherds to look for?

- a) A star over the stable
- b) A barn outlined with Christmas lights
- c) A baby in a manger
- d) Both a and c
- e) None of the above

16. What did the innkeeper say to Mary and Joseph?

- a) "I have a stable out back."
- b) "Come back after the holidays."
- c) "There's no room in the inn."
- d) Both a and c
- e) None of the above

### ***Wise Guys and Testing Lies***

17. How many wise men came to see Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write in correct number.)

18. What in the world are Magi?

- a) Eastern kings
- b) Magicians
- c) Astrologers
- d) Men wise enough to follow the star
- e) None of the above

19. When the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus, they found him in

- a) A manger
- b) A house
- c) Vacation Bible School
- d) None of the above

20. In what books of the Bible will you find these fascinating facts?

- a) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- b) Matthew and Luke
- c) Mark and Matthew
- d) Matthew, Mark, and Luke

### ***Author***

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# Answers

## *Dates and Mates*

1. d) The Bible gives no record of their means of travel.
2. c) Matthew 1:18
3. e) b and c (Matthew 1:19; Luke 1:39, 56)
4. d) Dec. 25 was selected late in the 4th century as the day to celebrate Christ's birth.



## *Kings and Wings*

5. c) Luke 2:1
6. c)
7. c) Luke 2:10 ("the angel said to them")
8. d) Luke 2:13 (They didn't sing; they said. OK, if you picked "c," we'll give you a point.)

## *Barns and Yarns*

9. e) We aren't told where Jesus was born, only that after his birth he was laid in a manger. (Luke 2:7)
10. d) The Bible doesn't say anything about animals being present.
11. c)
12. b) He was fully human as well as fully God.

## *Signs and Lines*

13. c) Luke 2:4
14. e) Three kings are not mentioned in the Bible, only in songs.
15. c) Luke 2:12
16. e) An innkeeper is never mentioned in the Scriptures.

## *Wise Guys and Testing Lies*

17. The Bible doesn't say how many, only that Magi came bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:12)
18. c) They were astrologers who dabbled in the natural sciences.
19. b) Matthew 2:11
20. b) Check it out!

# Scoring

- 19-20 correct: Congratulations! You can separate fact from fiction.  
16-18 correct: Not bad! Truth wins over tradition.  
11-15 correct: Uh oh! You've been to too many Christmas plays.  
10 or less correct: Ouch!