Bible Academy

Christmas Bible Trivia

50 questions on the nativity, Luke 1 to Matthew 2 · answer key at the end

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Name / team _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 50

Round 1: Before the birth (Luke 1)

1. What was the name of the priest who saw an angel while serving in the temple?
2. What was the name of Zacharias's wife?
3. What was Zacharias doing when the angel appeared?
4. What name did the angel tell Zacharias to give his son?
5. What name did the angel give for himself?
6. What happened to Zacharias because he doubted the angel?
7. In which month of Elisabeth's pregnancy was Gabriel sent to Mary?
8. To which town was Gabriel sent to find Mary?
9. Finish the angel's words to Mary: "For with God nothing shall be..."
10. What happened when Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting?
11. What are the first words of Mary's song, often called the Magnificat?
12. How did Zacharias confirm his son's name, and what happened next?

Round 2: The birth and the shepherds (Luke 2:1-20)

13. Which Roman emperor ordered that "all the world should be taxed"?
14. Who was governor of Syria at the time of this first taxing?
15. Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?
16. What did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus in?

17. Where did Mary lay the baby?

18. Why was the baby laid in a manger?

19. What were the shepherds doing when the angel appeared?

20. What were the angel's first words to the shepherds?

21. What sign did the angel give the shepherds so they would recognize the baby?

22. What did the multitude of the heavenly host say?

23. Did the angels sing, according to the KJV?

24. What did Mary do with everything the shepherds told?

Round 3: Jesus presented at the temple (Luke 2:21-40)

25. On which day after his birth was Jesus circumcised and named?

26. What sacrifice did Joseph and Mary offer at the temple?

27. Which righteous man had been promised he would not die before seeing the Lord's Christ?

28. Simeon called the child "a light to lighten" whom?

29. Which elderly prophetess from the tribe of Aser gave thanks when she saw Jesus?

30. According to Luke, where did the family go after the temple visit?

Round 4: Joseph, the wise men and Herod (Matthew 1–2)

31. Matthew's genealogy calls Jesus "the son of David" and the son of whom?

32. How many generations are in each of the three groups of Matthew's genealogy?

33. Besides Mary, which women appear in Matthew's genealogy?

34. How did the angel of the Lord speak to Joseph about Mary?

35. Why was the child to be named Jesus?

36. Which name, quoted from the prophet, means "God with us"?

37. Where did the wise men come from, and which city did they reach first?

38. What question did the wise men ask in Jerusalem?

39. Which Old Testament prophet foretold that the ruler would come from Bethlehem?

40. What were the wise men's three gifts?

41. Why didn't the wise men go back to Herod?

42. Where did Joseph take Mary and the child to escape Herod?

43. Which children did Herod order killed?

44. Whose reign made Joseph afraid to return to Judea, so he settled in Nazareth?

Round 5: Prophecy and John's Christmas

45. Which Old Testament verse does Matthew quote with "Out of Egypt have I called my son"?

46. Which Gospel tells the Christmas story without shepherds or wise men, saying "the Word was made flesh"?

Round 6: Myth or text? (The tricky round)

47. How many wise men does the Bible say came to see Jesus?

48. Does the Bible mention a stable, animals or an innkeeper?

49. Did the wise men visit Jesus at the manger on the night he was born?

50. Does the Bible say Jesus was born on December 25?

Answer key

Christmas Bible Trivia · references from the King James Version

Round 1: Before the birth (Luke 1)

1. Zacharias (Luke 1:5, 11). Modern translations spell it Zechariah.
2. Elisabeth, who "was of the daughters of Aaron" (Luke 1:5).
3. Burning incense in the temple of the Lord, a duty chosen by lot (Luke 1:9-11).
4. John (Luke 1:13).
5. Gabriel, "that stand in the presence of God" (Luke 1:19).
6. He became unable to speak until the promise was fulfilled (Luke 1:20).
7. The sixth month (Luke 1:26, 36).
8. Nazareth, a city of Galilee (Luke 1:26-27).
9. "...impossible" (Luke 1:37).
10. The baby leaped in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:41).
11. "My soul doth magnify the Lord" (Luke 1:46).
12. He asked for a writing table and wrote "His name is John", and immediately he could speak again (Luke 1:63-64).

Round 2: The birth and the shepherds (Luke 2:1-20)

13. Caesar Augustus, spelled "Cesar Augustus" in the KJV (Luke 2:1).
14. Cyrenius (Luke 2:2), called Quirinius in most modern translations.
15. "Because he was of the house and lineage of David", and Bethlehem was the city of David (Luke 2:4).
16. Swaddling clothes (Luke 2:7).
17. In a manger, a feeding trough for animals (Luke 2:7).
18. "Because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).
19. "Keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8).
20. "Fear not" (Luke 2:10).
21. "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).
22. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).
23. The text says the heavenly host were "praising God, and saying" (Luke 2:13). Many carols picture them singing, but Luke uses the word "saying".
24. She "kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

Round 3: Jesus presented at the temple (Luke 2:21-40)

25. The eighth day (Luke 2:21).
26. "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24). The law allowed this offering for families who could not afford a lamb (Leviticus 12:8), a quiet sign that Jesus was born into a poor home.
27. Simeon (Luke 2:25-26).
28. "The Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).
29. Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, "a widow of about fourscore and four years" who never left the temple (Luke 2:36-38).
30. Back to Galilee, "to their own city Nazareth" (Luke 2:39).

Round 4: Joseph, the wise men and Herod (Matthew 1–2)

31. Abraham (Matthew 1:1).
32. Fourteen (Matthew 1:17).
33. Thamar (Tamar), Rachab (Rahab), Ruth, and "her that had been the wife of Urias" (Bathsheba) (Matthew 1:3, 5-6).
34. In a dream (Matthew 1:20). Joseph receives four dream messages in Matthew 1–2 (Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 19, 22).
35. "For he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).
36. Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23, quoting Isaiah 7:14).
37. "From the east", arriving first in Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1).
38. "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east" (Matthew 2:2).
39. Micah (Micah 5:2). Matthew 2:5-6 quotes it and says only "the prophet".
40. Gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).
41. They were "warned of God in a dream", so they went home "another way" (Matthew 2:12).
42. Egypt (Matthew 2:13-14).
43. All the children in and around Bethlehem "from two years old and under", based on the time the wise men gave him (Matthew 2:16).
44. Archelaus, Herod's son (Matthew 2:22-23).

Round 5: Prophecy and John's Christmas

45. Hosea 11:1 (Matthew 2:15).
46. John (John 1:14). John begins "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1), telling the incarnation from eternity's point of view.

Round 6: Myth or text? (The tricky round)

47. The Bible doesn't say. Matthew names three gifts (Matthew 2:11), which is probably where the number three comes from. The Bible also never calls them kings or gives their names; the KJV calls them "wise men" (Matthew 2:1).
48. No. Luke 2:7 mentions a manger and "no room for them in the inn". A manger suggests a place where animals were fed, but no stable, ox, donkey or innkeeper is named.

49. The text points to a later visit. They came "into the house" and saw "the young child" (Matthew 2:11), and Herod targeted children up to two years old "according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men" (Matthew 2:16). The shepherds, not the wise men, came to the manger (Luke 2:16).

50. No. The Bible gives no date for his birth. December 25 is the date most Western churches celebrate by long tradition; many Orthodox churches, which follow the older Julian calendar, celebrate on January 7.



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