

Christmas Trivia Quiz

Much of what we believe about the Christmas Story is really a blending of the two infancy narratives found in Gospels of Matthew and Luke combined with a bit of legend. Here's a fun way to test your knowledge of the Christmas Story to see what you really know about the birth of Jesus! (All of the answers can found in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 2 and are listed at the end with Scriptural references in case you want to check things out for yourself.)

- 1) Who told Mary & Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
 - a. An angel
 - b. A dream
 - c. Caesar Augustus
 - d. John the Baptist
- 2) When did the Magi begin following the star?
 - a. When they left Herod.
 - b. When they saw it in the East.
 - c. When they saw it in the West.
 - d. About 2:30 Greenwich Mean Time
3. What did the Innkeeper say to Mary & Joseph?
 - a. We have no room in the inn.
 - b. You can stay in our stable.
 - c. The Holiday Inn is not too shabby.
 - d. a and b.
 - e. Inn keeper? What inn keeper?
4. Where did the Magi find the child Jesus?
 - a. In a stable.
 - b. In a house.
 - c. In the Holiday Inn, which was not too shabby.
 - d. In a cave.
 - e. Who knows?
5. Where did the shepherds find the child Jesus?
 - a. In a stable.
 - b. In a house.
 - c. In the Holiday Inn, which was not too shabby.
 - d. In a cave.
 - e. Who knows?
6. What animals were around the manger?
 - a. Sheep, goats, and narwhals.
 - b. Babe, Willy, and Flipper.
 - c. Who knows?
 - d. Sheep, goats, and donkeys.
7. How did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem?
 - a. They walked (she waddled)
 - b. He walked, she rode a donkey.
 - c. Limousine with all the fixins'.
 - d. Who knows?
8. What were the "Magi?"
 - a. Wise Men.
 - b. Kings.
 - c. Astrologers/Astronomers
 - d. College professors on Sabbatical
 - e. Who knows, but if they were women they would have asked for directions and been there 3 weeks earlier.
9. How many Magi were there?
 - a. 4
 - b. 3
 - c. 12
 - d. Who knows?
10. What did the angels sing to the shepherds?
 - a. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people . . . "
 - b. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men . . . "
 - c. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men . . . "
 - d. All of the above are implied.
 - e. None of the above.

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11. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt?

- a. Gabriel
- b. Michael
- c. Uriel
- d. None of the above

12. BONUS QUESTION: Were Mary and Joseph married when Jesus was born?

- a. True
- b. False

Christmas Trivia Answers

1. Answer is c. Lk 2:1-4

2. Answer is a. Mt 2:1-12 They certainly came from the East, therefore saw his star while in the East. The translation in verse 2 lends itself to say they saw it rising from the East.

3. Answer is e. There is no innkeeper in the biblical story. Lk 2:6-7 (You can check Matthew, but he ain't there either.)

4. Answer is b. Mt 2:9-11 It is interesting to note that Matthew has Mary and Joseph already living in Bethlehem, which is why Jesus is born in a house – presumably Joseph's house (Matt 1:24). Whereas, Luke has both Mary and Joseph being from Nazareth and having to travel to Bethlehem for the census, which is why there is no room for them at the inn and hence the scene with the manger.

5. Answer is e. Lk 2:7;12 Luke talks about the child lying in a manger and nothing else. (Okay, okay, this is a pretty literalist interpretation, but the manger was a trough used for animal feed and could have been in a stable, a cave, or merely located behind the inn. So who knows?)

6. Answer is c. Lk 2:7;12 Since there is no mention of a stable in Luke, there is certainly no mention of animals. (Darn it! They're so cute in the Christmas pageant)

7. Answer d. Lk 2:4 Nope no donkey either!

8. Answer c. Mt 2:1 According to biblical scholarship 'Magi' translates better as 'astrologer' rather than 'wise men,' as it is translated in some versions of the Bible. One thing's definitely for sure...they weren't kings.

9. Answer d. Mt 2:11. Three gifts = three magi right? Wrong! Popular belief holds that 3 magi visited Bethlehem from the east because they came bearing 3 gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. However Matthew makes no mention of a specific number. The names commonly attributed to the magi – Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar – stem from a legend that arose some 500 years later.

10. Answer e. Lk 2:13-14. Trick question. They didn't sing. They said. A host usually refers to an army and is not used to portray a choir.

11. Answer d. Mt 2:13. An angel appears to Joseph in a dream on three separate occasions in Matthew's narrative (Mt 1:20, 2:13, 2:19), but the angel is not mentioned by name.

12. Answer a. Mathew 1:18 states that Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but that they did not live together yet. Despite that fact, the very next verse (1:19) identifies Joseph as her husband. It is not until after Joseph had an angel of the Lord appear to him in a dream that he takes Mary into his home rather than divorce her quietly (1:24). Luke merely states that Joseph and Mary were betrothed (Lk 2:5-6). Betrothal has nothing to do with being engaged to be married, as we understand engagement today. According to Jewish marriage rights, betrothal was the first part of the marriage, constituting a man and woman as husband and wife. The couple was considered married. (This is why Joseph contemplates divorcing Mary in Mt 1:19 even though they were merely betrothed) Betrothal was followed some months later by the husband taking his wife into his home, at which time normal married life began.

So...How did you do?

9 to 12 right: New Testament Scholar

5 to 8 right: Good student of the Bible

2 to 4 right: You remember a few things from your religion classes.

1 right: Hmmm...#12 was a gimme. Time to get back in a Bible Study Class.