

Inquiring Minds Want To Know! (Christmas Facts)

1. How did the Virgin Mary give birth to Jesus?
 - a. Read Matthew 1:18-23.
 - i. This was a miracle prophesied in the Old Testament, in Isaiah 7:14. God the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, and she gave birth to her Baby Boy. Jesus, who is eternal in His divinity, was conceived in Mary's womb regarding His humanity. Thus He became "Immanuel, God with us."
2. What was the star that the wise men saw?
 - a. Read Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10.
 - i. The wise men were magi, men who studied the stars, who came from the east. They were not from China, but rather from Persia (present day Iran) and/or from Babylon (present day Iraq). They believed that the King of the Jews would be heralded by a special star, "His star" (Numbers 24:17; Matthew 2:2). This star was unique in that it appeared and disappeared, moved in the sky, and shone right over one particular house in Bethlehem. It was not a comet or planet or known star, because none of those things act that way. The star of Jesus was the Glory of God shining (Luke 2:9).
3. What was the meaning of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the wise men brought to the Christ Child?
 - a. Read Matthew 2:11.
 - i. Gold represented that Jesus was the newborn King.
 - ii. Frankincense was associated with the worship of God, so it showed that Jesus was also God.
 - iii. Myrrh was a burial spice, and it represents the fact that Jesus came into the world to die and save sinners.
4. Was Jesus really born on December 25th?
 - a. Read Luke 2:8-11.
 - i. The Bible does not say what time of year Jesus was born. But it could have been on December 25th. Because winter-time is the rainy season in Israel, it makes sense that sheep would be in the fields, since there is much green grass in that time of the

year. Some people say that Jesus could not have been born in December because it would have been too cold and snowy, but they forget that Jesus was not born in Woonsocket. In Jerusalem and Bethlehem, average temperatures on December 25th are high of 58 and low of 44, with very occasional frost and snow.

5. What year was Jesus born? Was He really born on the year “0”?
 - a. Read Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:1-2.
 - i. Jesus could not have been born in the year “0”. People made a mistake in the years with the calendar, and were a few years off. Herod died in 4 BC, so Jesus was born shortly before that, sometime between 6 BC and 4 BC.