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wise men came after his being 40 days old  
cf. Leviticus 12:1-4 .

**IT IS FICTION:** that Jesus was born on December 25th. The Bible does not date his birth. Learned men have put the date in various months of the year. Articles in any encyclopedia show lack of evidence to support December 25th as the day for his birth. Also there is no indication for celebrating his birthday for several centuries following his birth.

The occurrence of the rainy season of Palestine during this time makes it very unlikely that shepherds would have their flocks out in the fields on December 25th.

**IT IS FICTION:** that Christ wants us to observe a special day in honor of his birth. Too many of us are inclined toward special observances rather than regular observances. We render services in spurts. Christians are to remember his death on the first day of every week as the early church did Acts 20:7 . No where are we instructed to observe his birthday.

Since we are to walk by faith, which is based on following the Word of God, we cannot make a special religious observance of any day in absence of Bible Authority for such an observance.

### CONCLUSION

Notice the facts and Fiction surrounding the Birth of Christ as shown above. As a national holiday, December 25th may be observed by Christians as any other holi

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day much in the same way that we observe the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Labor Day, etc. There is no passage in the Bible that gives us authority to attach any religious significance to the holiday that is called "**Christmas**". All Christians should give thanks daily for his birth and his willingness to sacrifice his life on the cross so we through obedience to his will can have an eternal home and eternal life with him in heaven Hebrews 5:8,9 .

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"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

(Matthew 1:21)

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## Facts And Fiction About The Birth of Christ



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Mike Hughes

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## Facts And Fiction About The Birth of Christ

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The Christmas season has become so much a part of our national life that it seems impossible to isolate oneself from it. Manger scenes, the “Christmas Story” in schools, and appeals to put “Christ back into Christmas” have the effect of presenting as truth what is in reality fiction. These fictional parts have no foundation as presented in either the Scriptures or in historical records. We must be willing to investigate Biblical teaching concerning the Birth of Christ. We must learn to separate the facts from fiction so we might believe whatever truth is presented and practice whatever is authorized. We also should avoid believing that which isn’t justified in the scriptural account.

### THE FACTS ABOUT THE BIRTH

**IT IS A FACT:** that a baby boy named Jesus was born in Bethlehem more than 1900 years ago. It is also a fact that he became one of the most influential men in history. Biblical and Extra Biblical sources prove his birth. The writings of Josephus the Jew, Tacitus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger exist to support the fact that he lived and was believed and followed as the New Testament teaches.

**IT IS A FACT:** that he was born in a stable (Luke 2:7). The innkeeper was the first

in a long line of people who turned away the Son of God. He still finds no room in the lives of many.

Archaeological discoveries have confirmed the general accuracy of Luke’s account of the circumstances. It was denied by many that there was an imperial census, that Cyrenius was governor in Luke 2:2 or that all had to go to their Ancestral home. Archaeological finds have shown all three to be true. Papyrus documents indicate a census was conducted every 14 years. They also show that Cyrenius was governor two times that would have allowed him to have been governor at the date of Jesus’ birth. The Papyrus documents also showed that citizens of Roman ruled countries were required to return to their ancestral homes for taxation.

**IT IS A FACT:** that angels announced his birth to shepherds Luke 2:8 14 .

**IT IS A FACT:** that wise men from the east came to worship Jesus. These were magi **magoi** , possibly priests or Philosophers from the Euphrates Valley with the learning of the East, guided by the Lord by “his Star” Matthew 2: . They came asking the location of the New born King!

**IT IS A FACT:** that Jesus was born of a virgin Matthew 1:22,23 . Notice the evidence for the virgin birth.

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Mary Luke 1:34,35 ; She immediately went to see Zachariah and Elizabeth, although Zachariah would have condemned her for adultery. At the cross she remained silent when if she had committed adultery and admitted it would have saved her son Jesus from death. What kind of Mother would she have been to allow her son to be killed to save her dark secret?

Next look at Joseph: Why would he have invented such a story?

Elizabeth; Matthew; Luke; John the Baptist; Peter; Paul and others preached he was not the Son of a mere man. Acceptance of this evidence prepares one to except all else the Bible says of Him. Repudiation of his virgin birth under mines the trust worthiness of the whole Bible.

**IT IS A FACT:** that Jesus came on a mission of Salvation Matthew 21; Luke 2:29 32 .

### FICTION SURROUNDING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

**IT IS FICTION:** that there were three wise men. The three gifts could have been brought by a smaller or larger group of wise men. The Bible doesn’t say how many wise men came.

**IT IS FICTION:** that the wise men visited the stable. In spite of the manger scenes depicting wise men being there Matthew 2:11 says they visited Jesus in a house. The flight to Egypt after their visit, also his public presentation in the Temple at the age of 40 days, would indicate the

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