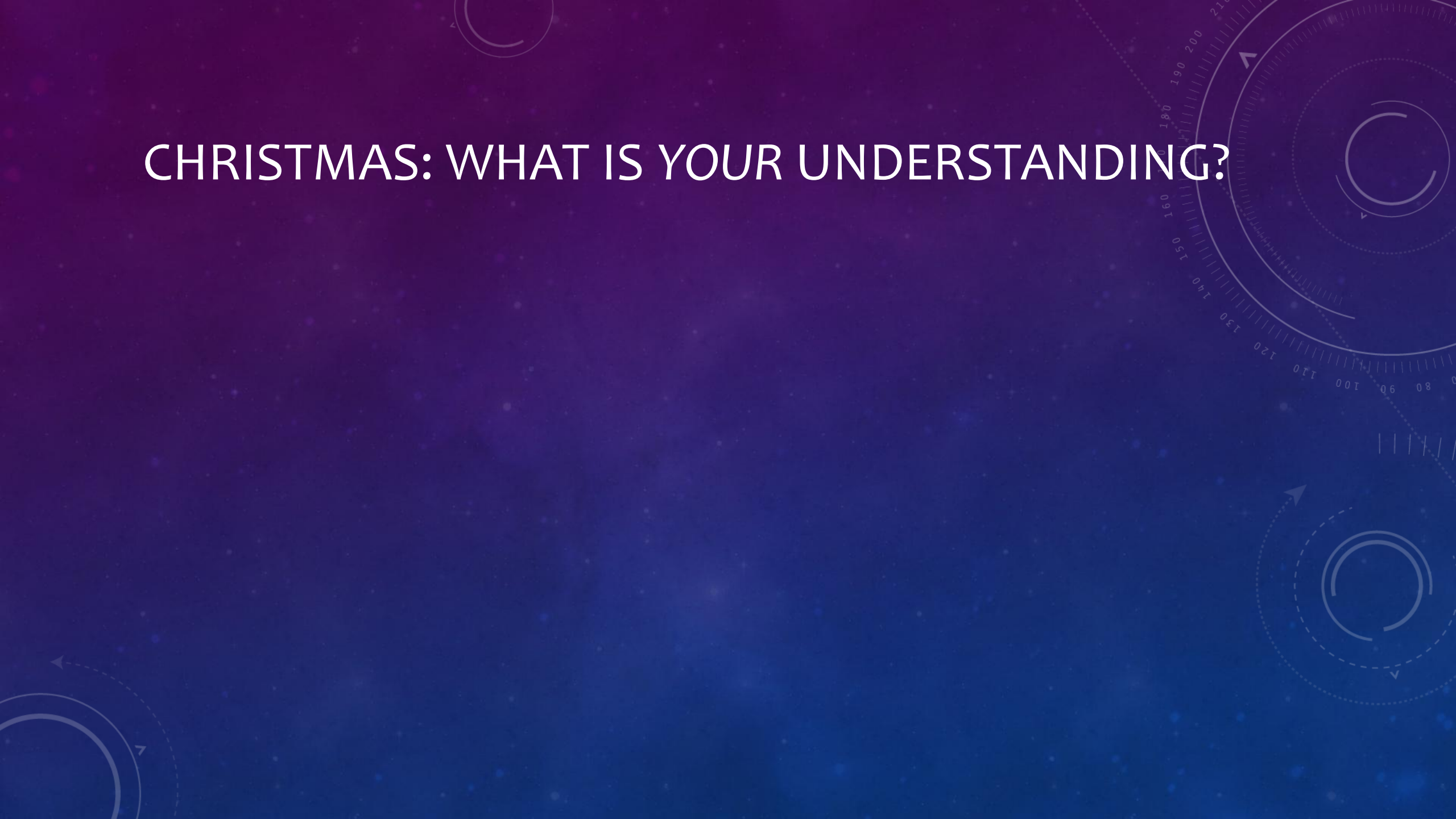


CHRISTMAS: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING?





# WAS CHRIST BORN?

'The BC/AD system was developed in 525 AD by Dionysius Exiguus, a Catholic monk, who had been commissioned by Pope John I, specifically to determine the correct date for Easter as well as keeping track of the time that had passed since the birth of Jesus. (For more information on the BC/AD calendar click here).

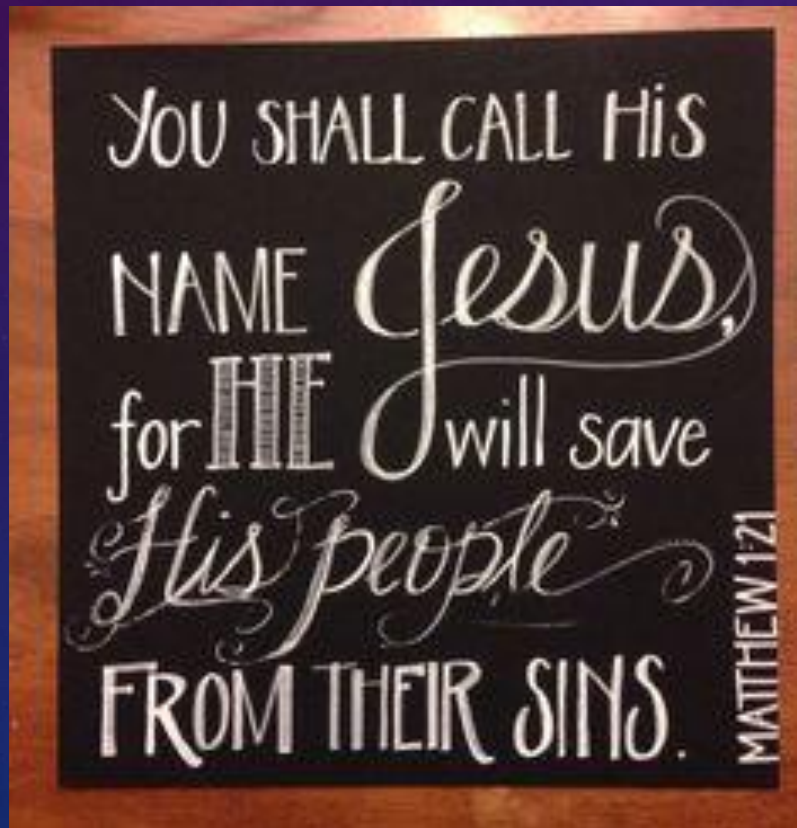
Dionysius' dates do cause an issue because his calendar would result in Jesus having been born after the well-established date of Herod's death; ...the same person who is recorded in Scripture as being ALIVE when 'Jesus of Nazareth' was born. We must also note that since the Scriptures do not directly state the year and time of Jesus birth --not even on the ancient Jewish Calendar--, there can be no conflict **between** any man-made calendar and the Scriptural record on this point. *Need we say, from both within Scripture and from outside historical data, there are clear historical events, people and rulers that create an indisputable time-frame for the *birth* of Jesus Christ?*

Adapted from-- <http://jesushasthelastsay.com/Th01>

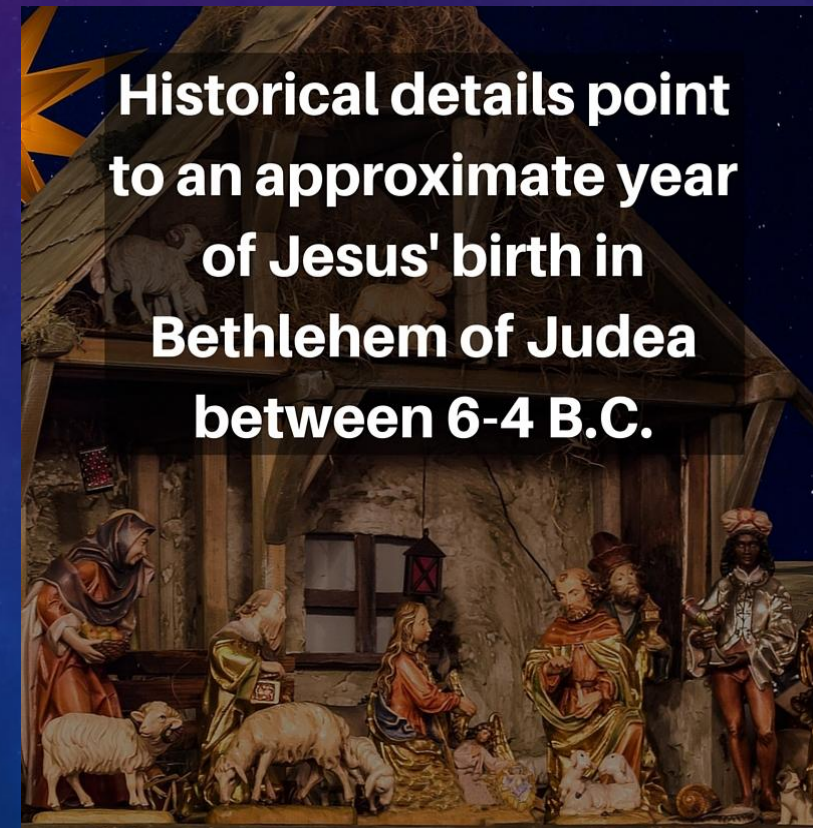


# WHERE WAS CHRIST BORN? AND, WHEN...???

## Biblical Account



## Extra-biblical Evidence



“BUT, IT SEEMS THERE’LL ALWAYS BE A *DOUBTING THOMAS* AMONGST US. WON’T THERE BE??? 😊”

SECTION I: HISTORY

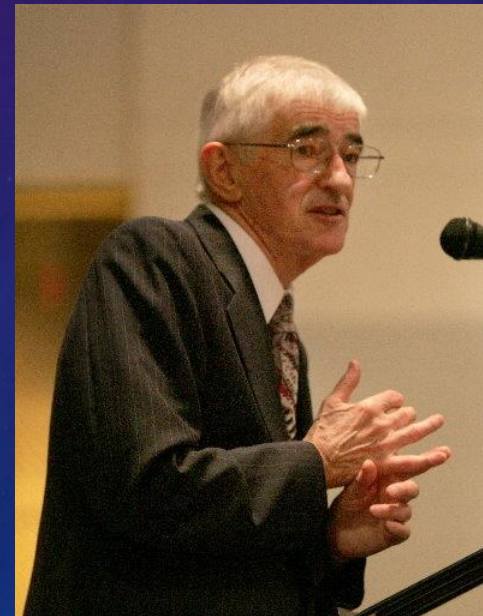


# THE NUANCES SURROUNDING THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST

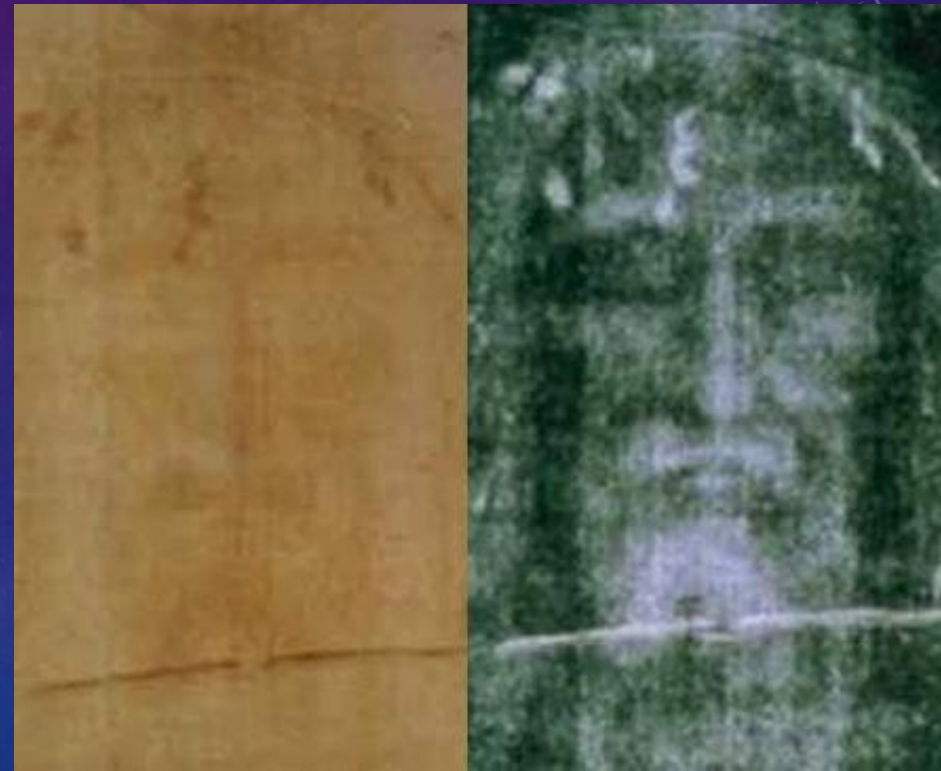
Aviram Oshri: Judea VS Galilea



John Dominic Crossan and J.S.



DO THE FOLLOWING ADD 'SUBSTANCE' TO OUR  
DISCUSSION? OR, DO THEY MERELY RAISE MORE QNS TO  
THE ***WONDROUS MYSTERY*** OF CHRIST'S BIRTH?





IT SEEMS EVERYONE HAS A “VALID” EXPLANATION,  
NOWADAYS. SO, HOW DO ‘WE’ CHOOSE WHICH SOURCE  
TO CONSIDER ...IN OUR PURSUIT FOR *TRUTH*?

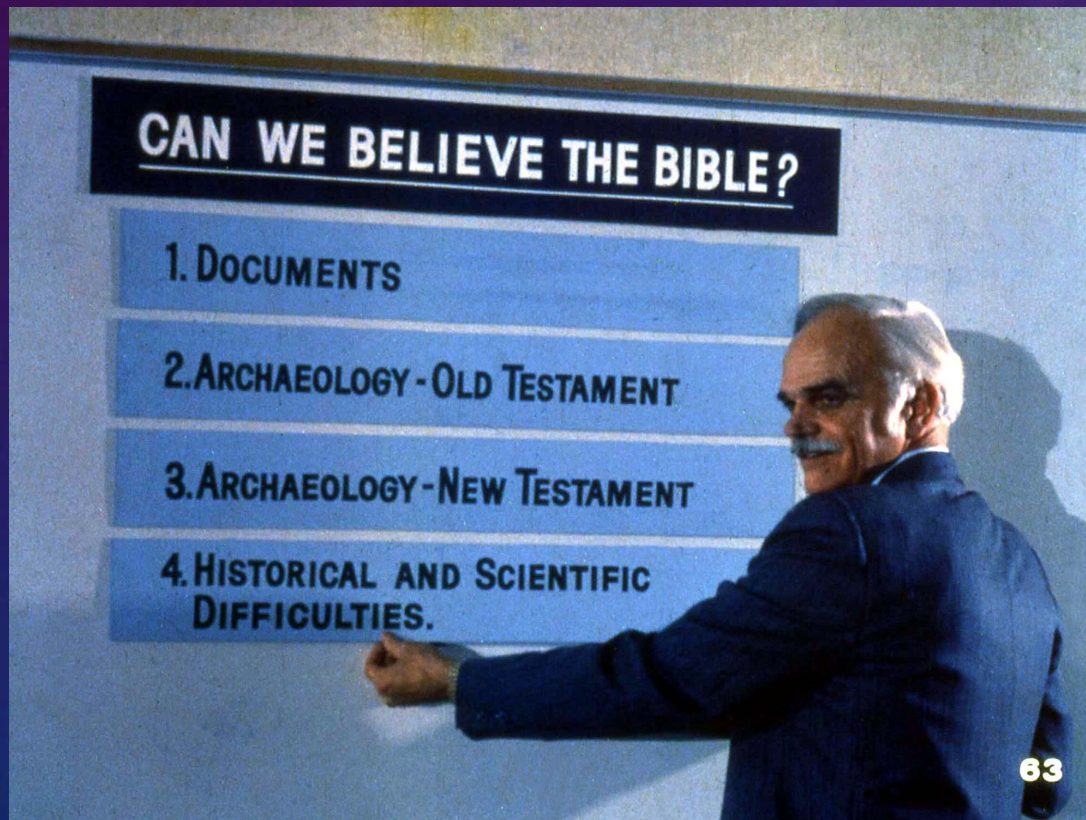


January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

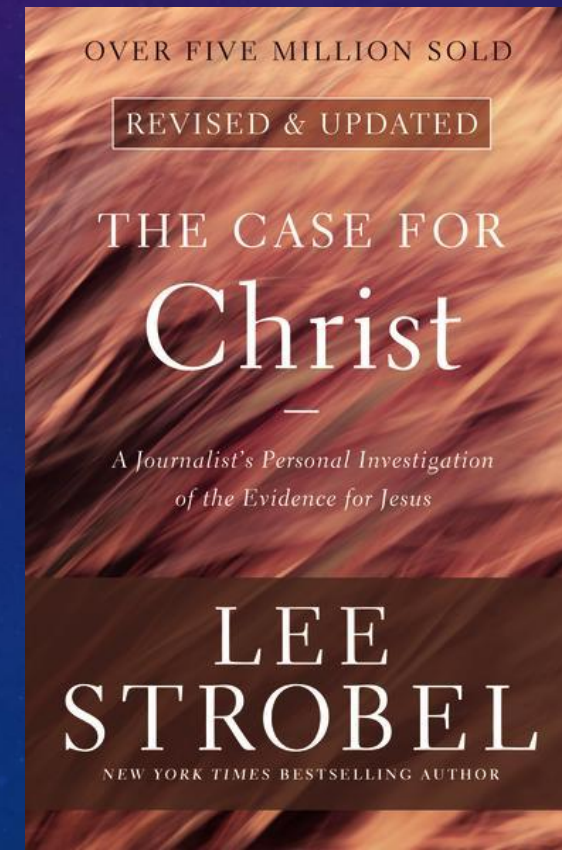


## A TIP OR TWO:

**Do Not Shy Away from  
Qns!**



**Verify Your Base of Data as  
Often as need be!**





# COMING SOON:









## SECTION II: FACT-FINDING

(YOUR ATTENTION AND INQUISITIVENESS IS SUMMONED FOR THIS ROUND!!)



# “NOW, WHY WON'T WE ASK SDA CHRISTIANS FOR THEIR STANCE ON 'CHRISTMAS'? ... 😊!”

## 'Questions:

Do Adventists celebrate Christmas or other Christian holidays?

Why have Christians adopted the date of 25 December as Christ's Birthday when His birthday is not even mentioned in the Bible?

Is it ok to celebrate Christmas even though it was originally a pagan celebration?

**Answer:** Seventh-day Adventists do not celebrate Christmas or other religious festivals throughout the calendar year as holy feasts established by God. The only period in time Adventists celebrate as holy is the weekly Sabbath (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset). [see Numbers, Gen. & Matthew]...

## CONT'D

- ...Adventists do find, however, that **these holidays provide good occasions to focus on the Christian aspects**, that is, the biblical message of the death and resurrection of Jesus (at Easter), and of His incarnation and coming to earth as a human being (at Christmas). **But we do not find these festivals to be obligatory, that is, demanded by God. Nowhere in the Bible is it prescribed that we have to celebrate Christmas or Easter.**
- While Easter and Pentecost have their parallels in Judaism, Christmas is, naturally invented later. The historical reason for adapting December 25 as the birthday of Jesus has no biblical foundation, but is due to the change of year from darkness to light, which happens in the midst of the winter in the northern hemisphere...



# CONT'D

- ...
- **Calling Christmas a pagan celebration is only P-A-R-T-L-Y true.** December 25 was observed as the birthday of Mythras, the god of the soldiers of the Roman legions. Though the timing of Christmas has its origin in a pagan festival, the content does not - the birth of Jesus is spoken of in the Bible (excerpt that the date has been rather shy of being discovered).
- The “traditions” the Western world today follows at Christmas time are less than 250 years old. There are, however, aspects of the modern Christmas celebrations which Adventists do not encourage, such as the overwhelming materialism and extravagant consumption.’

Adapted from-- <http://www.adventist.org.au/celebrating-christmas>

# CONCLUSIONS

*SEPARATING 'FACT' FROM FICTION; 'TRUTH' FROM EMOTIONALISMS AND ERROR ALIKE 😊 😊*







MATTHEW 2:1-12  
(NIV, AMP OR NKJV)

“...‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of  
Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.<sup>[b]</sup>’ ...”

[.]<sup>[b]</sup>” Matthew 2:6 => Micah 5:2,4; ...O.T. ref.]

- **Matthew 2:1-12**
- **The Visit of the Wise Men**
- **2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:  
• <sup>6</sup> "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"  
• <sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men

secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.







[HTTP://MYONLINEPEDIA.COM/  
HAPPY-MERRY-CHRISTMAS-20  
16-BADA-DIN-PHOTOS-HD-WA  
LLPAPER-WISHES-25TH-DEC-20  
16/](http://myonlinepedia.com/happy-merry-christmas-2016-bada-din-photos-hd-wallpaper-wishes-25th-dec-2016/)

'In Hindi, Christmas is called "**bada din**". Huge numbers of people --specially Christian Religion *people*-- celebrate Christmas in India each year; and, its preparation starts one month before!!! The 'Christmas party' is famous in all around the world, (one can safely say!). Lots of Hindu people celebrate this day as "Bada Bin" and make some form of party with friends.'



*Christmas waves a  
magic wand over  
this world, and  
behold, everything  
is softer and more  
beautiful.*

[HTTP://ADVENTIST.RU/EN/  
2015/01/30/ROZHDESTVEN  
SKIE-VSTRECHI-2/](http://adventist.ru/en/2015/01/30/rozhdestvenskie-vstrechi-2/)

**“On Saturday evening, January 10 a Christmas concert was held in the central church in Almaty. It started with the amazing words of the prophet Isaiah: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ....” [Isa. 9:6; NIV]**





# FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

