

THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS Part I

Reference: **Luke 2:1-20**

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Jesus birth is chronicled in: **Matthew 1:18–25, 2:1–12; Luke 1:26–38** and **2:1–20** but at Christmas the most often read narrative of His birth is read from _____.

Read **verse one**.

Caesar Augustus' actual name was Gaius Octavius. Octavius was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar. Caesar was a title similar to titles such as _____, _____ or _____. The Roman Senate assigned him the honorific adjective or name Augustus. Augustus means "_____ one, honored one or majestic one."

Caesar Gaius Octavius Augustus decreed that the world (i.e. territorial Rome) should be registered. This decree was an imperial _____. Biblical historians believe this was actually a registration of a census that would form the basis for _____.

Read **verse two**.

The Jewish people hated two things about the Roman government:

One - Roman _____ and

Two - Roman _____

Reference: **Galatians 4:4**

Micah 5:2 predicted that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. God moved on Caesar to issue that decree at the exact time that would coincide with Jesus birth. God impressed on him to issue that decree to register people to be taxed at the exact time he did on schedule to effect the result God wanted...i.e. the birth of Jesus.

Reference: **Proverbs 21:1** (see screen)

Read **verses three and four**.

Jesus is mentioned in Scripture as four different sons:

He is the Son of _____.

He is the Son of _____.

He is the Son of _____.

He is the Son of _____.

God promised that David descendants would bring into being the one who would be the ultimate king over all Israel (Messiah).

Reference: **II Samuel 7:16**

No Jewish person other than Jesus is able to document such a Messianic claim because His genealogical record is found in the gospels.

- **Matthew 1:1-16** records the genealogical proof that Jesus was a direct **legal descendant** from Abraham and David through **Joseph**, Jesus' **legal** father by _____
- **Luke 3:23-38** traces Jesus' **biological lineage** and **bloodline** from David through His mother **Mary**, by _____

Read **verse five**.

Question: What did it mean to be betrothed to someone?

Answer: Betrothal was a legal binding _____.

For the most part, marriages were prearranged by parents. The parents formulated a binding legal contract that would guarantee their children would marry one another and that contract was called the betrothal. The **betrothal** _____ was the period of time in which this marriage contract was in effect, normally ten to twelve months. At the end of that betrothal period there would be an actual wedding _____ that might last an entire week and then after the ceremony the marriage would be consummated in the _____ union of the bride and groom.

Read **verses six and seven**.

Roman Catholicism and the Greek Orthodox Church both teach a doctrine called the "_____ Virginity of Mary". That doctrine teaches that Mary both conceived and birthed a child as a virgin but then she remained a virgin throughout her marriage to Joseph. .

Reference: **Matthew 13:54-56** (see screen)

Catholic apologists argue that the Greek word translated as "brother" is the word "*adelphos*" and that word can sometimes be used in a broader sense as in a reference to a cousin or nephew. The problem is that word "*adelphos*" is **never** translated in the Greek New Testament as cousin or nephew and more important, the word "*adelphos*" literally means "out of the _____."

Jesus had three biological half-brothers and multiple biological half-sisters (sisters is plural meaning more than one sister.)

Read **verse seven**.

The Greek word (*kataluma*) translated as inn can mean "a guest room or hostel or _____." This inn could have ranged from being a precursor of a modern bed and breakfast to a lean-to on someone's property that was built to house both people and their animals. Mary wrapped the infant in long strips (bands) of cloth. These were the same strips of cloth that were used in wrapping the bodies of the dead.