

College of the Scriptures

*Greater Christ Temple*  
APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

**“When Was Jesus Born?”**

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- When Zechariah was ministering in the temple, he received an announcement from God of a coming son. Zechariah was a priest of the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5), so his week of ministry in the temple was the week of Sivan 12 to 18 (mid June). Adding forty weeks for a normal pregnancy reveals that John the Baptist was born on or about Passover, which was on Nisan 14 (mid March).

We know six months after John's conception, Mary conceived Jesus (Luke 1:26-37). Six months from June (Sivan) would mean Jesus was conceived in the month of Kislev (December). Kislev 25 is **Hanukkah** (Feast of Dedication – John 10:22-23).

- Starting at Hanukkah, in Kislev (December), and counting through the nine months of Mary's pregnancy, one arrives at the approximate time of the birth of Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles in Tishri (mid September).

- During the Feast of Tabernacles, God required all male Jews to come to Jerusalem. The many pilgrims coming to Jerusalem for the Feasts would spill over to the surrounding towns (Bethlehem is about five miles from Jerusalem). Joseph and Mary were unable to find a room at the inn because of the influx of so many pilgrims.
- We know our Messiah was made manifest into a **temporary body** when He came to earth. Is it possible that He also was put into a temporary dwelling? The fields would have been dotted with sukkoths during this harvest time to temporary shelter animals. **The Hebrew word “stable” is called a sukkoth** (Gen. 33:17).

### Luke 2:7

**7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

- God left His mansions of light above to tabernacle among us and He dwelt in a sukkah (tent/tabernacle/temporary dwelling).

### John 1:1-3

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** The same was in the beginning with God.

**3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

### John 1:14

**14** And the Word was made flesh, and **dwelt** among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

- “dwelt” is the Greek word, “skenuo”, meaning to pitch a tent (skene).
- In the New Testament the Greek word translated “tabernacle” is skene, meaning “the tent” (Acts 7:44 / Hebrews 8:2, 5, and chapter 9).
- This means that “the Word became flesh and tabernacled (skenuo) among us”.
  - God literally set up His tent amongst us, the body of Jesus was God’s sukkah (hut/booth/temporary dwelling).
- The worship of God under the New Covenant is spoken of prophetically as keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, (Zechariah 14:16). In this same sense the Gospel of Christ teaches us to dwell in tabernacles, to not be in love with this world, as those that have here no continuing city, but by faith, and hope

and holy contempt of present things, to go out to Christ outside the camp,

Hebrews 13:13-14

**13** Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

**14** For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

- As the world takes a moment to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us not fail to also remember the purpose of Jesus Christ. He was born save His people from the sin, meaning to cause us to be separated from the world (current order). He came to seek and to save (deliver) them that were lost (separated from Him). Jesus came to change us from being separated from God to being separated from sin. Jesus, the light of the world, has come so that we might become dedicated (Hanukkah) to the true and living God in every area of our lives! Blessed be His Name!



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**Mark A. Haywood, senior pastor**

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