

The Life of Christ

This Week: Christmas !

Text: Luke 1 & 2, Matthew 1 & 2

The Promise of John the Baptist's birth

Ref: Luke 1:5-25

Date: About September, of 6 BC

Notes: Elizabeth conceives 6 months before Mary.

Gabriel appears to Mary; Joseph's angelic dream

Ref: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Date: About March, of 5 BC

Notes: 9 Months before Dec 25

Mary visits Elizabeth

Ref: Luke 1:39-56

Date: Immediately after Luke 26-38

Notes: "went with haste", stayed 3 months

The Birth of Christ, Visit of the Shepherds

Ref: Luke 2:1-20

Date: December 25, 5 BC

Circumcision of Jesus; Presentation in the Temple; Blessings of Simeon and Anna

Ref: Luke 2:21-38

Date: Jan 2, 4 BC

Notes: Eight days after Dec 25.

Visit of the Wise Men

Ref: Matthew 2:1-12

Date: Jan 6, 4 BC

Notes: Traditionally, and reasonably, Jan 6th, definitely less than 3 months after Christ's birth.

Flight into Egypt; Herod slays the babies of Bethlehem

Ref: Matthew 2:13-18

Date: Between January 7 and May 1 of 4 BC.

Notes: After visit by wise men, before death of Herod in March/April of 4 BC.

Death of Herod, return from Egypt to Nazareth

Ref: Matthew 2:19-23, Luke 2:39-40

Date: Before Spring of 4 BC.

Notes on the 3 Herods in Jesus' Life:

1. Herod the Great, son of Antipater Idumaen, 74-4 BC

Ruled all Judea 34 years

Reigned during the birth of Christ

Built the 2nd Temple, "Herod's Temple"

2. Herod Archelaus, son of Herod the Great, 23 BC-18 AD

Ruled over Judea, Samaria 4 BC-6 AD (Jesus' childhood)

3. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great (before 20 BC-after 39AD)

Reigned during the life of Christ 4 BC-39 AD (absorbed brother's territory)

Beheaded John the Baptist

Participated in trial of Jesus Christ

Notes on the date of December 25, 5 BC:

1. Herod the Great dies March/April of **4 BC (universally accepted – no opposition found)**

2. Date of Dec 25 asserted by Hippolytus (AD 165-235)

3. Hippolytus a disciple of Irenaeus, a disciple of Polycarp, a disciple of St. John
(Like first-hand knowledge of your great grandfather)