



# Finding the Truth

## ***About Christmas & December 25th***

*By Daniel Rendelman  
[ravemet@comast.net](mailto:ravemet@comast.net)*

Children may be fooled, but most adults know that December 25th is not exactly when the Christ-child was born. Just a little research into this date reveals that the Church Fathers simply used an already pagan festival celebrating the re-birth of the sun to commemorate the birth of the Savior. It may be Christmas time but it's not time to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The World Book Encyclopedia clarifies, "The first mention of December 25 as the birth of Jesus occurred in A.D. 336 in an early Roman calendar. The celebration of this day as Jesus' birth date was influenced by pagan unchristian festivals held at that time. The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honor Saturn, their harvest god; and Mithras, the god of light... As part of all these celebrations, the people prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebration," Volume 3, Christmas.

For many years the Eastern Church commemorated the Epiphany on January 6. The 12 Days of Christmas would begin on December 25 and then count forward. The Bible doesn't give a specific date for the Messiah. The Scriptures do state that some shepherds were present when Mary gave birth. Luke 2:7-8 states that the shepherds were in the fields watching their flocks when an angel appeared. One problem with a December 25th is that winter is extremely cold and rainy in Israel. The weather forces shepherds to find shelter for their livestock during the colder months. It is highly unlikely that the shepherds were outside in the middle of December.

The modern nativity scene is misleading as well. The Bible never says that the Wiseman visited Jesus at the manger. According to Matthew 2:11, the wise men didn't arrive on the scene until Jesus was a young child.

The story of John the Baptist points us to the true date of the birth of Christ. Elizabeth (John's mother) was in her sixth month of pregnancy when Jesus was conceived (Luke 1:24-36). John's father was a priest serving in the Jerusalem temple during the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5). Nine months from the temple service would have been about the month of March for the most likely time for John's birth. Adding another six months (the difference in ages) brings us to the end of September as the most likely time of Jesus' birth.

There is no possible way that the Messiah was born in December. The modern date of Christmas is incorrect. Could other Christmas traditions be full of error as well? Some say to "put Christ back into Christmas." But, can believers conquer the pagan influences of ancient times, by giving these customs Christian religious meanings? Consider Jeremiah 10:2-4 which was written six centuries before the Savior came: "Do not learn the practices of the heathen." What did the heathen do that was so despicable? What practices are believers to stay clear from? What custom was so horrible that it should never be repeated? "Do not learn the practices of the heathen... For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not," Jeremiah 10:2-4. The incorrect date and origin of customs implies that Christmas is simply paganism wrapped with a Christian bow.