



The Birth of Jesus

Let's expound on **Matthew 1:18–25** and **Luke 2:1–7**

PASSAGE COMPARISON CHART

Feature	 Matthew 1:18–25	 Luke 2:1–7
Main Focus	Joseph's perspective on Jesus' birth and his obedience	Historical context and Mary's journey; birth of Jesus in Bethlehem
Setting	Nazareth, private encounter with angel in a dream	Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem during Roman census
Key Figures	Joseph, Mary, Angel of the Lord	Caesar Augustus, Quirinius, Joseph, Mary, Jesus
Divine Revelation	Angel explains Mary's pregnancy is from the Holy Spirit	No direct divine message, but fulfillment of prophecy implied
Fulfilled Prophecy	Isaiah 7:14 – “Virgin will conceive...”	Micah 5:2 – Messiah to be born in Bethlehem (implied)
Key Action	Joseph accepts and names the child Jesus	Jesus is born in humble conditions and laid in a manger
Tone	Obedience, reassurance, divine confirmation	Simplicity, humility, historical fulfillment

MATTHEW 1:18–25 – EXPLAINED

◆ **Context**

Matthew begins Jesus' story with a legal and royal genealogy (vv.1–17), leading to the birth narrative focused on **Joseph**—a righteous man in the Davidic line. This section clarifies how Jesus is both **Son of David** and **Son of God**.

◆ **Breakdown**

1. **“Betrothed...found to be with child by the Holy Spirit” (v.18)**
 - **Betrothal** in Jewish custom was a legally binding engagement, requiring divorce to break.
 - The phrase “with child by the Holy Spirit” signals divine intervention and virgin conception.
2. **Joseph’s righteous response (v.19)**
 - Joseph seeks to avoid **public shame** and possibly stoning (Deut. 22), planning a quiet divorce.
 - His actions show **compassion and faithfulness to the Law**.
3. **Angel’s appearance (vv.20–21)**
 - The angel reassures Joseph: **“Do not be afraid”**, a phrase often used with divine callings.
 - Joseph is told to name the child **Jesus (Yeshua)** meaning “The Lord saves”—a direct connection to His mission: “He will save His people from their sins.”
4. **Fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 (v.23)**
 - “Immanuel” = “God with us”—a title that emphasizes God's presence through Jesus.
5. **Joseph’s obedience (vv.24–25)**
 - He obeys immediately: takes Mary as wife, names the child Jesus, and does not consummate the marriage until after Jesus’ birth—highlighting both restraint and reverence.

The Birth of Jesus

● LUKE 2:1–7 – EXPLAINED

◆ Context

Luke writes from a **historical angle**, grounding Jesus' birth in real events and names. He emphasizes **Mary's perspective**, contrasting with Matthew's focus on Joseph.

◆ Breakdown

- Census by Caesar Augustus (v.1)**
 - Roman emperor orders a registration, likely for **taxation** and control.
 - This causes Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem—fulfilling Micah 5:2 without explicitly quoting it.
- Quirinius and dating (v.2)**
 - A debated historical detail, likely referring to an earlier census or general registration before the more well-known 6 AD census.
- Travel to Bethlehem (vv.3–5)**
 - Joseph's Davidic lineage requires travel to Bethlehem ("City of David").
 - Mary, likely in the later stages of pregnancy, joins him—an arduous journey of about **90 miles** from Nazareth.
- Birth of Jesus (vv.6–7)**
 - Simple and understated: "She gave birth to her firstborn son."
 - Laid in a **manger** (animal feeding trough) due to no room in the "inn" (Greek: *katalyma*, likely a guest room or lodging space).
 - Symbolizes **humility** and **identification with the lowly**, setting the tone for Jesus' ministry.

✧ THEOLOGICAL THEMES

Theme	Description
Virgin Birth	Emphasizes divine origin, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 7:14)
Obedience	Joseph's and Mary's willing participation in God's plan
Messianic Identity	"Jesus" = Yeshua, Savior; "Immanuel" = God with us
Davidic Lineage	Joseph's descent from David fulfills 2 Samuel 7 and messianic expectations
God's Sovereignty in History	Use of a Roman decree to fulfill a divine plan (Bethlehem birth)
Humility and Accessibility	Jesus' birth in poverty shows He came for all, not just the elite

🔗 CROSS-REFERENCES

Theme	OT/NT Links
Virgin Birth	Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23
Messiah from Bethlehem	Micah 5:2; John 7:42
Line of David	2 Samuel 7:12–13; Isaiah 11:1; Romans 1:3
God with Us	Exodus 25:8; John 1:14; Revelation 21:3
Jesus Saves	Psalms 130:7–8; Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:21

The Birth of Jesus

If Jesus was born during the **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)**—which falls on the **15th day of the 7th month (Tishrei)** on the Jewish calendar (usually late September to mid-October)—then we can estimate His **dedication** (presentation at the temple) based on **Levitical law**:

Biblical Law Timeline for Dedication

According to **Leviticus 12:2–6** and **Luke 2:21–24**, the timeline for a male child was:

Event	Time After Birth	Scripture
Circumcision	8th day	Luke 2:21
Purification completed (mother)	40th day	Leviticus 12:2–4
Presentation/dedication at the temple	On or just after 40th day	Luke 2:22–24

17 If Jesus Was Born on the Feast of Tabernacles

Assuming a birth on **Tishrei 15** (first day of Sukkot), here's the timeline:

Event	Jewish Date	Gregorian Equivalent (approximate)
Birth	Tishrei 15	Late September / Early October
Circumcision	Tishrei 22	End of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret)
Purification ends / Presentation at the Temple	Kislev 25	~40 days later → Late November / Early December

Possible Connections

- **Kislev 25** is the start of **Hanukkah**, the Feast of Dedication.
- If Jesus was presented at the temple on or around **Hanukkah**, it would be a powerful symbolic parallel:
 - **Jesus, the true Light**, being brought into the temple during the **Festival of Lights** (John 1:9; John 10:22–23, where He's later at the temple during Hanukkah).

Summary

Event	Date (if born on Tishrei 15)	Notes
Birth	Tishrei 15 (Sukkot)	"God tabernacled among us" (John 1:14)
Circumcision	Tishrei 22 (Shemini Atzeret)	8th day
Dedication	Kislev 25	First day of Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication)