



***[H.I.S.] He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

December 1, 2018

HIS Ministries December 2018 Newsletter, covering November 2018

“For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11.)

We, Bible believing Christians, celebrate Jesus’ birthday in December, but He, more than likely, was not born in December, but perhaps during the Fall Feasts of Israel in September or October? Does it really matter when He was born as long we acknowledge Him and serve Him? Maybe not, but it is an interesting inquiry. I have borrowed from a *Messianic Bible-site* some interesting information about the possible time of Jesus’ birth. Something for all of us to think about.



Picture above is from Bethlehem and Herodium Hill.

“Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

The Fall Feast, ***Rosh Hashanah***, was celebrated just two months ago. **That is the season of new beginnings** (Jewish New Year), trumpet blasts (on *Rosh HaShanah*) and forgiveness (on *Yom Kippur*), as well as outdoor-eating and sleeping in “*sukkoths*” under the stars during the ***Feast of Tabernacles***.

This fall season is most likely when ***Messiah Yeshua*** (Jesus) was born! **There is no prescribed day for the birthday of the Messiah mentioned in Scripture. As believers, each day when we call upon His name in praise and prayer we celebrate Him!** Even so, we don’t often hear about *Yeshua’s* birth possibly taking place in the fall, but this is a fitting time to study about this and the role Bethlehem played in raising lambs for Temple sacrifice.

Where did a Jewish man go to find a lamb for Temple sacrifice? To Bethlehem, of course. Lambs for Temple service could be raised anywhere within a 9 km (5.5 mile) radius of Jerusalem, and **Bethlehem was an especially fitting and well-known source for sacrificial sheep.**

David was born in this little town of Bethlehem, a shepherd boy, who became king of all Israel. A few hundred years later, **Micah** prophesied that **here in Bethlehem, another kind of shepherd would be born:**



“But you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be the ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting... And he shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the

majesty of the name of the LORD His God.” (Micah 5:2-4)

By laying down His own life for His sheep, **this Shepherd**, also born in Bethlehem, would lead His flock into the greenest of pastures—into eternal life in the world to come.



“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” (John 10:14–15.)

Born in Bethlehem, amidst of the sheep intended for Temple sacrifice, *God had chosen Yeshua from before the creation of the world to be our perfect Lamb without blemish:*

“...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ (Messiah), as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before

the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” (1 Peter 1:18–20)

We know that *Yeshua* was born in Bethlehem, but did it happen in the winter or did it happen a few months earlier, in the fall, during the Feast of the Trumpets? While the Bible does not specify the timing of *Yeshua*'s *birth* (as it specifies timing of His death and resurrection), we may figure out the approximate time of His birth from the information we have:

Mary (Miryam) had conceived when her cousin Elizabeth (Elisheva) was in her sixth month of pregnancy. (Luke 1:24–26.) Elizabeth probably had conceived early in the fifth month of the Jewish calendar (in Av or

early July.) This is likely since the angel Gabriel had appeared to her husband Zacharias while he was serving in the Temple as a priest *of the division of Abijah* (Luke 1:5), and informed him that *Elizabeth would bear a child, and he shall name him John.* (Luke 1:11-13.) The Talmud and other historical sources reveal that the Abijah served during the last two weeks of the fourth month of the Jewish calendar (Tammuz), which is late June.

We read from Luke 1:23-25 that after Zacharias came home from his Temple service (early Av) was when Elizabeth conceived. Adding to nine months of Elizabeth's pregnancy another six months of Mary's pregnancy (15 months total) brings us to the seventh month of the Jewish calendar (Tishrei), during which the Fall Feasts begin (September or October), we see that Yeshua may have been born during this season. We find it interesting that the apostle John tells us that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Word that dwelled (*tabernacled*) among us. ***"The Word became flesh and dwelt [eskēnōsen] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*** (John 1:1, 14.) The Greek word that John uses for *dwelt and tabernacled* share the same root word, *skéné*. ***"Now the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles [skēnopēgia] was at hand ..."*** (John 7:2.) Through these Biblical, historical, and linguistic clues, we can come up with a fairly educated guess that Yeshua indeed may have been born during the season of the Fall Feasts, which includes Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles) occurring in September or October. When we study Israel's Spring Feasts, we see their fulfillment taking place throughout Jesus' *ministry*. *Yeshua's sacrificial death was fulfilled at Passover* (Pascha); *His resurrection was during the Feast of the First Fruits* (Bikkurim); and *Holy Spirit came to indwell believers at Pentecost* (Shavuot). Likewise, as we observe the Fall Feasts, we cannot help but wonder where is the fulfillment: *Could this be the time when Yeshua will return?* A question that many may ask, *"Why is that important to know?"* It seems logical to wonder that because all other Israel's Feasts have had a prophetic fulfillment. Thus we ask: Could its fulfillment be the Second Coming of the Lord Yeshua? The Old Testament prophet Zechariah wrote that when He comes again there will be deep sorrow and mourning in Israel when they realize that it was Yeshua whom they had pierced. (Zech. 12:10) ***"...then they will look upon Me (whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."*** (Zechariah 12:10; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:29-20.) At that time they will realize that He is their final atonement (Kippur). ***"And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be –'The Lord is one, and His name One."*** (Zechariah 14:9) ***We, as born again believers, His Bride, are expecting His coming for us, at any time, in the clouds of heaven as He was seen leaving (Acts 1:9-11). He will meet us in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-18) and after the 7-year Tribulation on earth is past, we will return with Him (Rev. 19:11-14; Zech. 14) to live with Him through His thousand- year reign. (Rev. 20:4.) "Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thess. 4:18.) Maranatha, come Lord Jesus! He is coming! Are you ready for His return?***

The Lord has commanded His own to share the Truth that brings salvation. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) Studying the Word of God is a lifetime task, but learning basic fundamental doctrines found only in the Bible can be learned in *no time at all*.

We believe and defend that the Bible is the inerrant, supernaturally inspired Word of God. Let me list these basics for you with scripture references you can copy and memorize:

TRINITY: The Word of God teaches that God is Triune, meaning that God exists in three eternal, co-equal Persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (1 John 5:7.)

INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE: 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.

VIRGIN BIRTH: We believe and defend that Jesus was born of a virgin. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23.

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE: Rom. 1:16; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED LITERALLY within dispensational framework, in its proper context: 2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:9; John 17:17

THE RAPTURE AND THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST: We believe and defend that Jesus will return in the air for the dead and alive church Age Believers first (Rapture), and return again to earth seven years later to reign as King of the whole earth for thousand years from His Throne in Jerusalem, Israel: 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:6

SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS: We believe and defend that salvation is permanent, eternal and forever based on what Jesus did on the cross and not what we do or don't do on earth. Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 8:38-39; Hebr. 13:5

CREATION: We believe and defend that God created the earth out of nothing, by His Word, in six literal 24-hour days, about 6000 years ago, *give a take a year*. Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Rom.1:20; 4:17b; Ps. 19:1

JESUS RESURRECTED: We believe that Jesus was bodily resurrected and is alive today. Luke 24:6; 2 Tim. 2:8

HELL IS LITERAL AND ETERNAL: Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:15

JEWS ARE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE: We believe and defend that Jews (Israel) were chosen by God as His special people. Deut. 7:6; Rom. 1:16b (That does not indicate "favoritism", but only that they have for centuries received God's instruction through His prophets. Historical order in which the Gospel went out was to the "Jew first" – and thus tens of thousands of first believers in NT times were Jews. Judgment of God is always according to the light received. Rom. 2:2, 10

[By learning these basic fundamental teachings, you will be ready to teach the biblical Gospel to others.]

We want to thank you for your prayers and contributions to our ministry during the year. We want to remind you that all gifts to our ministry are 100 % deductible from your taxes. We will be sending receipts for your gifts by the middle of January.

We have had a very successful year in our ministry. We praise God that more than a dozen LDS persons have accepted the Biblical Jesus during this year and are sharing their joy of salvation with others still in bondage. There is no greater joy than seeing salvation of the Lord and the freedom in the Lord they experience.

Our over three decades of ministry has also taught us that the more success we see in bringing lost souls out of the Devil's crib, the more difficulties we personally experience. Each time we are involved in someone's coming to the Lord, we can expect devil's attacks on us to follow. Our most successful ministry years have brought sickness to both of us and lack of funding to be able to do what we need to do for the Lord. We both have had surgeries and illnesses, but the Lord has made us well enough to continue and we have not allowed these obstacles to slow us down much.

This year has been financially very stressful – our "bottom line" has been near zero for a much of the year. Dennis does his woodworking for our personal living expenses and we have been able cover our costs, but often just barely in time. As you know, most of our support comes from individuals in small amounts, not a set steady and regular support as most ministries have. From the start we have operated by faith in the Lord's calling for us to do this work and thus our ministry is called *HIS ministry*. We do it as long as He wants us to do it. The devil tries to hinder us and make it more difficult to continue, but our God is a big God –we know that He can handle anything the devil throws at us. Our faith is in the Living God who loves the lost and wants them saved. We are asking that you'd keep us in prayer for our health and finances so that we will have what it takes to continue and take care of our needs both in the ministry and personally. If we look at the numbers in our books, our hearts tend to sink, but then the Lord reminds us to look up and know that He has taken care of us through even worse times than these, and that He can be trusted to continue doing so even when things don't look so good. His Word tells us, ***"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*** He has promised

to ***“supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*** (Phil. 4: 6-7, 19.) He is reminding us of His promises by allowing the enemy to trouble us. He will take care of His own.

We praise the Lord for blessing Matt and Kalli with a healthy baby, born 11/19/18. They named her Grace. Their young son, Mattix, has mourned for his little sister, “Cici”, who suddenly passed away 3 years ago. He has asked the Lord to give him a new sister here, though he knows that Cici is with the Lord and with their grandmother, Pat, who went to be with the Lord two years ago. There is joy and thankfulness in God’s goodness and love in the entire Stewart family in Vernal. They left Mormonism soon after we did, and they have been our family ever since.

We ask your prayers for Judy, Dale, Sharon, Max, Kathy, Merridy, Sandy, Al, Scott, Dave, Tom and Mary. We know that the Lord hears our prayers for their wellbeing. (1 John 5:14-15.)

We also ask your prayers for several LDS persons we are working with. We understand how hard it is to separate themselves from the Mormon Church for leaving it most often involves separation from their loved ones who are not willing to accept the truth about their religion. We all have to make our own choices – heaven and eternal happiness with the Lord God, or eternal misery away from God in hell that was not made for mankind, but for the Devil and his angels and false prophets, but if we reject God and His Word, we will end up there. (Matt. 25:41,46; Hebr. 10:31.)

We pray that the Lord will bless you all and give you His peace in spite of what is happening in this world. He watches over His own.

We wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2019!

In His love,
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We will be sending your receipts by middle of January 2019.

