

WAS YAHSHUA (JESUS) BORN ON DECEMBER 25?

By Daud Ben Israel

The birth of the Messiah has been celebrated for centuries on the 25th of December. Due to this fact, some have believed that the Messiah was actually born on December 25th. However, most people claim that December 25th is not the actual day that the Messiah was born, but only a date chosen to celebrate his birth. So, when was the Messiah born? Although it is difficult to locate the exact date, the Scriptures provide the means of discovering the month and week in which the Messiah was born.

First, let us look at the scriptures that point to Yahshua (Jesus) being born at a time other than December 25th.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of YHWH appeared to them, and the glory of YHWH shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Messiah the Lord.’ ” (Luke 2:8-11).

In this account, shepherds are guarding their flocks in the fields at night during the time of the Messiah's birth. The point of the shepherds in the fields guarding sheep indicates that December was not the month

the Messiah was born. According to the regulations of the Jewish religious leadership of that time in Israel, shepherds did not bring their sheep out in the fields during the winter months. Only from the beginning of March until the end of October did the shepherds bring their sheep out in the fields. During the cold winter months of November thru February shepherds kept their flocks sheltered from the rain and snow of the harsh weather of winter.

After considering such information we must conclude that the Messiah could not have been born during the month of December.

Now let us look at the scriptures that reveal the time of Messiah's birth.

“When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of YHWH, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to YHWH" (Luke 2:22-23)

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen YHWH's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Yahshua to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...” (Luke 2:25-28).

“There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to Elohim and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36-38).

These scriptures describe the account of Yahshua's (Jesus') being presented to YHWH at the Temple. According to the Torah, every male was presented to YHWH at the Temple 40 days after his birth. Forty (40) days being the period of purification for the mother after birthing a male child. Also, two individuals by the names of Simon and Anna had an encounter with the Messiah at the time of his presentation.

At this point, it is important that special attention be given to the bold portion of scripture related to both Simon and Anna. The portion of scripture related to Simon states, “He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.” The portion of scripture related to Anna states, “looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” The phrases “the consolation (comfort) of Israel” and “the redemption of Jerusalem” are associated with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. On Yom Kippur the sins of Israel would be pardoned or remitted. This was the day when the congregation of Israel would be delivered or liberated from the past years' sins producing a renewed

relationship with YHWH.

The phrases “He was waiting for” and “looking forward to” indicate that the people were in a period of expectation making preparations for Yom Kippur. This period of expectation in waiting for Yom Kippur is known as "the Days of Awe" or "the Days of Teshuvah". The word “teshuvah” is Hebrew for repentance. The Days of Teshuvah were regarded as a period of repentance for Israel. The Days of Teshuvah began from the 2nd of the 7th Hebrew month until to the 9th of the 7th Hebrew month.. The 10th of the 7th Hebrew month was Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. During the Days of Teshuvah the people prepared themselves to receive atonement by remaining in an attitude of repentance. Many came from all over Israel to the Temple in Jerusalem for prayer and fasting (self-denial) during this time. This was the case with Anna being in the Temple courts during this time continually in prayer and fasting.

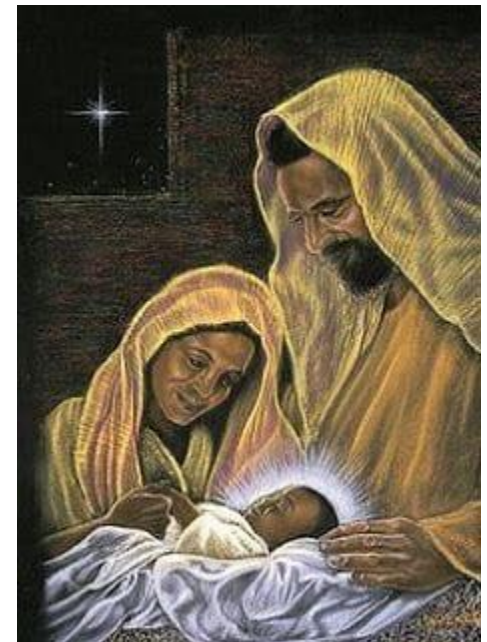
It was during the days of Teshuvah that Yahshua (Jesus) was brought to the Temple to be presented to YHWH. According to scripture, every male child was to be presented to YHWH after the mother's 40 day period of separation (purification) following childbirth (see Lev. 12:1-8 & Luke 2:22-24). Counting backwards 40 days from the day of Yahshua (Jesus) being presented to YHWH we can locate the time frame of Yahshua's (Jesus') birth. The Days of Teshuvah occurred from the 2nd thru the 9th of the 7th Hebrew month. So then, the birth of Messiah took place on one of the eight days from the 21st of the

5th Hebrew month to the 28th of the 5th Hebrew month. Since the Hebrew calendar is on the lunar cycle the 5th Hebrew month differs slightly from year to year in comparison to the solar cycle calendar. Generally speaking, Yahshua (Jesus) was born in the mid summer, and more specifically around the first part of August according to the solar calendar.

May the information received provide you with a more accurate understanding of Messiah's birth.

Shalom (peace) and Barucha (blessings) of YHWH be upon you.

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