

Messiah's Incarnation

A Different Christmas Story

Introduction

When we think of the incarnation of Jesus, our Messiah, we typically think of Him being born in Bethlehem in a barn and being laid in feeding trough for animals(manger) wrapped in swaddling clothes(strips of cloth).

- [Luke 2:7](#) She(Mary) gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them(Joseph & Mary).

Questions:

1. **What does "incarnation" mean? Answer:** It was the moment at which the "only-born Son of God([Jn1:14;3:16](#))" became human, the "son of man" - a phrase Jesus used many times, in reference to Himself.
2. **Was Messiah's incarnation at His birth or at His conception? Answer:** Human life begins at conception, according to the following texts =>
 1. Jehovah said to Jeremiah, **"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I sanctified you.** I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." ([Jeremiah 1:5](#))
 2. [Luke 1:41](#) And it came to pass, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, **the babe leaped in her womb;** and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit;
 3. A list of these and other similar texts, supporting the idea of human life beginning at conception => [Genesis 25:22-23; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah1:5; Psalm139:13-16; Luke1:41-44; Exodus21:22-25](#)

This study is a mainly focused on the incarnation of our Messiah, which would have been about 9 months prior to His birth. We also consider the Christmas holiday and it's connection.

Jesus - Light of the World

[John 1:1-14](#) In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2 He existed in the beginning with God.** ... **4 The Word** gave life to everything that was created, and **his life brought light to everyone.** **5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.** ... **9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.** ... **14 So the Word became human and made his home among us.** He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen **his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.**

- **Did you notice the incarnation** of Jesus, the Word, in verse 14?
 - **Did you notice how Jesus, as the light of the World, is connected to His incarnation?**
 - **Have you heard of "The Feast of Lights"?** Could there be a connection?
-

The Feast of Lights

This feast or festival, as it is also referred to, is commonly known as **Hanukkah**, which is a celebration of the successful Maccabean revolt, which gave Israel freedom from the oppression of Greece in 164 BC. More about that later in this study... I also have a study about the events leading up to 164 BC => <https://sidnash.org/docs/2300Days.html>

There are similarities between Christmas and **Hanukkah**:

1. Both come on the 25th day of the month:
 - Christmas on the 25th day of the month of December
 - **Hanukkah** on the 25th day of the month of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar
2. Sometimes, the 8 days of Hanukkah overlap with Dec 25, as it does this year (2025).

But, what does the Feast of Lights have to do with Jesus as the Light of the World? More about that later in this study...

When was Jesus Incarnated as the Light?

I don't think it possible that we can pin-point the exact day that Jesus was conceived as a human. However, we do have evidence as to the approximate time, based on the Bible and historical evidence.

Here is the **first clue to the timing of the incarnation**: From the following passage, we see that **Jesus was conceived six months after John the Baptist was conceived** of Zacharias and Elisabeth:

- [Luke 1:11-36](#) And there appeared unto him **an angel of the Lord** standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, **Zacharias**: because thy supplication is heard, and **thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John**. 26 ¶ Now **in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God** unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the house of David; and **the virgin's name was Mary**. ... 35 And the angel{[Gabriel\(vs.26\)](#)} answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of **the Most High shall overshadow thee: wherefore also the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God**. 36 And behold, Elisabeth thy kinswoman, she also hath conceived a son in her old age; and **this is the sixth month** with her{[Elisabeth\(vs.5,13\)](#)} that was called barren.

So, How does Jesus being born six months after John help us to know the date that Jesus was conceived? For a detailed understanding, see this [article on the Abide Network by Richard M. Davidson](#). But, I will attempt to summarize...

From [Luke 1:1-80](#), and [1 Chronicles 24:1-31](#), with additional evidence from other Jewish writings, we can see at what time of the year Zechariah was serving in the temple and when he would have gone back home to his wife Elisabeth which is likely the time that John the Baptist was conceived. This, according to Davidson's research, was likely "toward the end of June". Further details can be found by clicking on the link above.

Since we have already seen from Luke 1 that Jesus was conceived 6 months after John, that would mean that **Jesus was conceived toward the end of December**. And that is **Christmastime!** And it aligns with **Hanukkah!**

The Light - Hanukkah Connection

Quoting from [Davidson](#):

*"Long before it became a Roman pagan winter-solstice festival in the first century AD, Christmas time already constituted a well-established Hebrew holiday: the Feast of **Lights**, otherwise known as Hanukkah ("Dedication"). On the 25th day of the Jewish month Chislev, the darkest day of the calendar year, in the year 168/7 BC, the Selucid king Antiochus Epiphanes (the "Illustrious," but nick-named "Epimanes"—the "Madman") conquered Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple, stopping the regular ceremonies and offering swine's flesh on the altar of burnt offering, and sprinkled its blood in the Most Holy Place. But exactly three years later, on the 25 th of Chislev in 165/4 BC,*

Judas Maccabees (“The Hammer”), having won a stunning victory over the much larger Selucid army, came to Jerusalem, and reconsecrated the Temple, restoring the services of the holy place (See 1 Macc 4).

In that year, 165/4 BC, on the darkest day of the year (25 Chislev), at the darkest time of Jewish history, came the Miracle of the **Light**. As the story goes, only one bottle of the consecrated lamp oil was found to **light** the Temple Menorah, and the oil from this one bottle, which normally lasted only a single day, continued to burn for eight days until more oil could be manufactured and consecrated. Hence, the Feast of Hanukkah (Dedication) also became known as the Feast of **Lights**."

- [Psalm 40:6-8](#) Sacrifice and offering thou hast no delight in; Mine ears hast thou opened: Burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required. 7 **Then said I, Lo, I am come; In the roll of the book it is written of me: 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God; Yea, thy law is within my heart.**

More from Davidson => "Some 160 years later, at the darkest time of human history, and at this very same time of year, probably during the Feast of **lights**, came the Greatest Miracle of Light. Picture it: in the words of [Psalm 40:6-8](#), as [expounded on] in Hebrews 10, the pre-existent Christ, ... calls out from His heavenly abode, just as **He is about to “come into the world”** ([Heb 10:5](#)): “**Lo, I come!**” And ... He who had created countless galaxies and nebulae, becomes flesh, a single cell in Mary’s womb, the **light** of the world! [John 1:9,14](#) captures this **light** connection, by indicating that the One coming into the World, the One becoming flesh, was the **Light** of the World."

Jesus speaking of His incarnation => [John 12:46](#) **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on me should not abide in darkness.**

The Hanukkah - Christmas Connection

"We can calculate the exact date in our calendar when the temple was rededicated on the 25th day of Chislev in 165 BC. it was December 24—Christmas eve!

Furthermore, in the year 5/4 BC, the most probable year for Jesus’ incarnation, the first day of Hanukkah (when calculated according to the astronomical new moon that month), came exactly on December 25! Hence in the year of Jesus’ incarnation, Hanukkah and December 25 precisely converge on the same day! This rarely happens in the Hebrew calendar" ([ibid](#))

Conclusion

Let us invite the **Light of the world** to dispel the shadows and **bring spiritual Light and life** into our homes today.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.