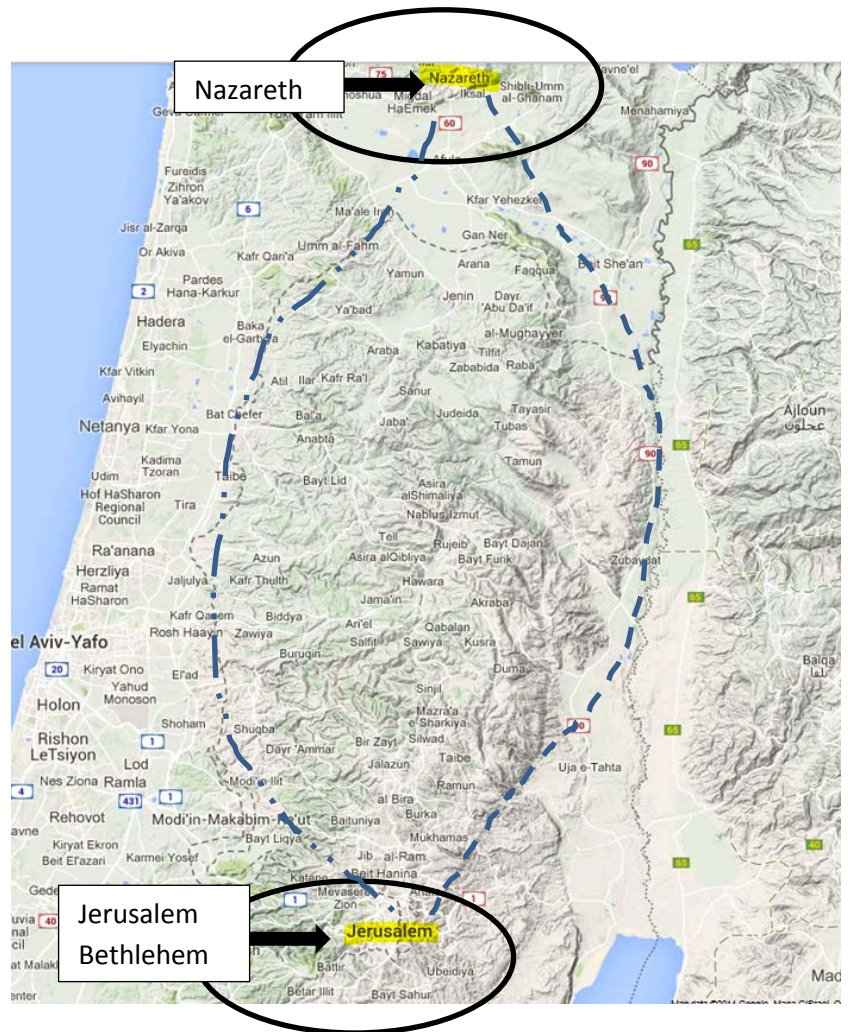


What is Truth? – Dec 18, 2014

The route that Joseph, Mary and Jesus went on from Nazareth to Bethlehem is not known. There are speculations to which ones could be easier than others. Looking on the topographical map below there are rough terrain between the two locations – not a flat road going from one city to the other. Joseph might have chosen to take the path to the east along the Jordan river or he could have lead his family to the west.

The route distances that I've seen range between 90 to 100 miles approximately. That may have taken 8-10 long days of walking with a pregnant woman near the time of delivery.

These 2 locations play a pivotal role in the birth of Jesus. The story is told from the book of Matthew and Luke with a key definition in Leviticus.



The book of Matthew covers:

- a) makes a statement of Jesus was born in the years of King Herod then – Matt 2:1
- b) Wise men come to Jerusalem – Matt 2:1-6
- c) King Herod tells them to search Bethlehem – Matt 2:7-8
- d) Wise men visit Jesus in a house and give gifts – Matt 2:9-11
- e) Wise men go home a different way – Matt 2:12
- f) Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt – Matt 2:13
- g) Joseph, Mary and Jesus return to Nazareth - Matt 2:19-23

There is No mention in the Book of Matthew of *Shepherds visiting Jesus in the manger*. Matthew records that the wise men see Jesus in **a house** not in a manger.

The book of Luke covers:

- 1) John the Baptist birth - Lk 1:5-25, 39-80
- 2) Mary's visitation by the angel Gabriel - Lk 1:26-38
- 3) Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem - Lk 2:1-5 (**8-10 days**)
- 4) Mary gives birth - Lk 2:6-7
- 5) Shepherds in the field are visited by angels – Lk 2:7-8-14
- 6) Shepherds visit Jesus in a manger – Lk 2:15-17
- 7) Jesus is circumcised on the 8th day – Lk 2:21
- 8) Mary's purification – Lk 2:22-24 (**40 days from Jesus' birth**)

9) Simeon and Anna's blessings on Jesus – Lk 2:24-38

10) All performed in the law and Joseph, Mary and Jesus return to Nazareth. – Lk 2:39 (8-10 days)

There is No mention in the book of Luke about *Wise men visiting Jesus or fleeing to Egypt*.

The book of Leviticus covers:

i) the definition of length before purification is complete – Lev 12:2,4

ii) the offerings of purification – Lev 12:6-8

iii) the definition of length before circumcision is complete – Lev 12:3

The celebration of Christmas presently mixes the birth accounts of Matthew and Luke together and leaves out part of Luke's account because it doesn't fit the compressed timeline (diagram below).

Joseph, Mary and Jesus hastily leaving to Egypt once the wise men leave (book of Matthew) contradicts Joseph and Mary staying near Bethlehem/Jerusalem for 40 days until Mary's purification is complete (book of Luke).

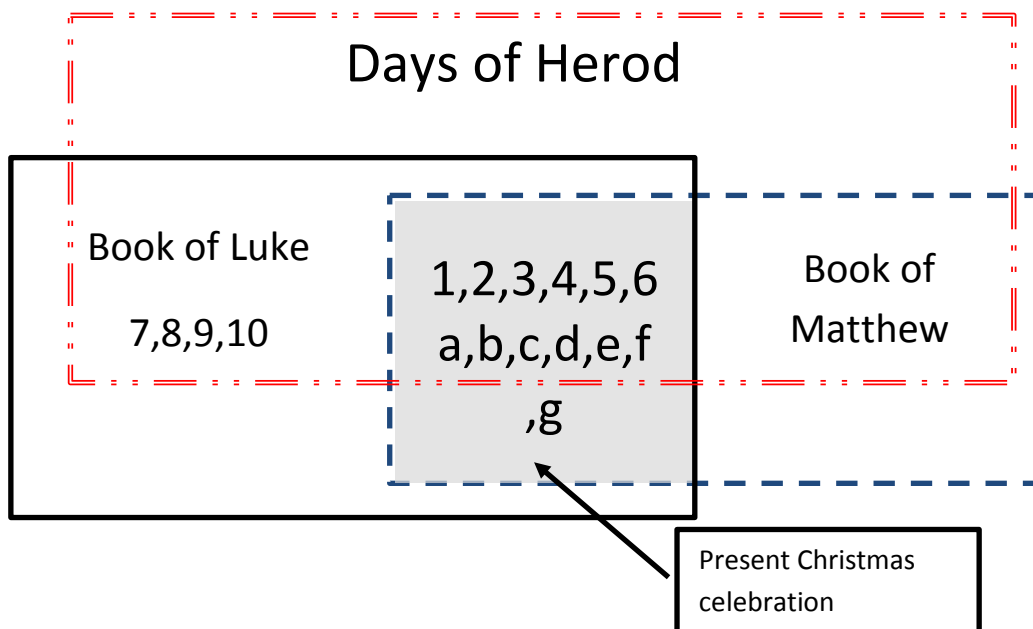
Luke has Joseph, Mary and Jesus leaving Jerusalem and heading back home to Nazareth while Matthew writes them leaving to Egypt.

Is the bible confused and contradictory? No.

All the verses harmonize together.

One of the stumbling blocks in Matthew is in 2:1 when it states that Jesus was born ... in the days of Herod the king... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.

RSV Matthew 2:1 NOW WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,



Jesus was born during the days of King Herod and the wise men came during the days of King Herod. Jesus' birth and the wise men coming to Jerusalem may or may not have been at the same time. Other evidence would need to be considered.

Both the Book of Luke and Matthew harmonize if all the events in Luke happen first then all the events in Matthew follow afterwards.

- 1) John the Baptist birth - Lk 1:5-25, 39-80
- 2) Mary's visitation by the angel Gabriel - Lk 1:26-38
- 3) Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem - Lk 2:1-5 (**8-10 days**)
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 - a) makes a statement of Jesus was born in the years of King Herod then – Matt 2:1
 - b) Wise men come to Jerusalem – Matt 2:1-6
 - c) King Herod tells them to search Bethlehem – Matt 2:7-8
 - d) Wise men visit Jesus in a house and give gifts – Matt 2:9-11 (**Jesus was under 2 years old**)
 - e) Wise men go home a different way – Matt 2:12
 - f) Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt – Matt 2:13
 - g) Joseph, Mary and Jesus return to Nazareth - Matt 2:19-23

The house that the wise men visited would be their house in Nazareth

I don't know when the narrative of both the wise men and the shepherds showing up the night of Jesus' birth but it's not true.

The wise men were not at Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. They came at least 50 days after Jesus was born in the town of Nazareth at a house (not a manger/stable/barn) when Jesus was somewhere under the age of 2.

Why pick on such a minor point and not just go with the flow and celebrate Jesus' birth?

If "they" (whomever they are) can pervert the truth on this small point of birth events where all the churches from Catholic to Protestant are going along with, then wouldn't it be likely that some other truths have been changed?

If a simple truth such as the timeline of Jesus' birth can be so easily altered without the Christian world revolting then how will the Christian world stand when great signs and wonders of Mt 24:24 come upon the world?

RSV Matthew 24:24

24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Paul saw fierce wolves coming into the churches (Acts 20:28-30) after he departs who would introduce lies and lead them away from salvation.

RSV Acts 20:28-30

28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Paul mention that the Bereans of Acts 17:11 were more noble minded since they verified the scriptures in what someone was saying.

RSV Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

In Mt 24:24 only the elect resisted the deception the masses believed. Even in Berea where Paul called the Jews noble minded, who searched the scriptures daily – were deceived. The Jews from Thessalonica stirred up the crowds and forced Paul out.

RSV Acts 17:13-14

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, stirring up and inciting the crowds.

14 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.

Can you be easily stirred up to believe a lie? A test is looming in the horizon that will test the world. Today we have a chance to examine our beliefs to see whether or not we need to change some of our beliefs. Tomorrow we might not have an opportunity to do so.

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20