



Advent Quiz Answers

The purpose of the quiz is to discover what we think we know about events leading up to and the birth of our Lord, what has become tradition but, most importantly, to prompt us to study Scripture and find out what it actually records for us.

Here are the answers (as provided on the internet):

Question: Do you agree with all the answers? If not, which answer(s) do you disagree with and can you explain why by referring to Scripture alone?

1. A. He worked and lived in Nazareth, but he was returning to Bethlehem - “his own city” (See [Luke 2:3](#)).
2. E. The innkeeper didn’t “say” anything (See [Luke 2:7](#)). The Bible doesn’t even mention an “innkeeper”.
3. C. Feeding trough - **Note:** Interestingly enough, most mangers in New Testament times were made of stone. Stone mangers used by Solomon to feed his horses at Megiddo can still be seen in Israel today.
4. E. The Bible doesn’t say, we just assume that since Jesus was born in a stable that there were various barnyard animals present. **Note:** This is really a double assumption because the Bible doesn’t mention a barn or a stable. However, the feeding trough was used by animals so a stable or barn adjoining a home would be a reasonable inference.
5. E. The “magi” saw the star.
6. F. Although the modern “pictures” show Mary on a donkey with Joseph beside her, the Bible doesn’t say!
7. A. [Luke 2:10](#). Verses [13-14](#) record what the angel company said as they praised God together. However, only one angel spoke directly to the shepherds.
8. A. [Luke 2:14](#).
9. D. [Luke 2:13](#). The word means “army” - literally thousands.
10. C. Frankincense was used in the temple worship of the Lord.
11. C. The word “Magi” literally means “star-gazers”, although there is no Biblical record of exactly who they were or their point of origin. **Note:** They may have been descendants of the “wise men” of Babylon, read [Daniel 5:11-12](#). It is possible that Daniel taught these men, who were under his charge, about future events - including the birth of the Saviour of the world.
12. D. Herod was buried with over 150 lbs. of Myrrh wrapped in his burial clothes. Myrrh was used in embalming in those days. [John 19:39](#) tells us that Jesus’ body was bound in linen wrappings with about an hundred pound (weight) of myrrh and aloes. The gift of myrrh pictures his suffering and death.



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- 13.E. We don't know. Many assume that there were three because of the three gifts. However, in ancient times these men usually travelled in caravans of ten to twelve, along with a full entourage for protection.
- 14.E. Read [Matthew 2:11](#) (see next answer).
- 15.B. Read [Matthew 2:11](#) When the Shepherds found Jesus ([Luke 2:15-16](#)), he was a "babe" in a manger. The Greek word (*brephos*) used in Luke 2 is for a "newborn baby". However, by the time the Magi appeared, Jesus had been moved from the manger to a house (verse 11) and the Greek word used in Matthew (*paidion*) is for "toddler or young child".
- 16.C. Read [Matthew 2:9](#). The star did not stay stationary over the manger or the house. This verse makes it clear that the star "went before" the magi and guided them till it "came and stood over where the young child was."
- 17.B. Read [Matthew 2:2](#). They assumed Herod would know. Although the scribes knew exactly where the Messiah was to be born ([Micah 5:2](#), [Matthew 2:4-6](#)), they were not interested enough to travel the four or five miles to Bethlehem to see for themselves. Several commentators note that the Magi wouldn't have known Jesus' name, they were looking for the one born "King of the Jews." They would have found out later that his name was Jesus.
- 18.G. God divinely inspired these two gospel writers and used their interests and professions to recall different aspects of Jesus' birth. Matthew, a tax collector, records the genealogy of Jesus (used for taxation) and the "magi" - men of means from a foreign country. Luke, a physician, records the pregnancy and birth.
- 19.E. Joseph wants to "put her away" secretly and Mary left town to see her cousin. [Matthew 1:19](#) and [Luke 1:39, 56](#).
- 20.E. "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus... everyone into his own city... " ([Luke 2:1-5](#)). **Note:** This was a tricky question because Caesar Augustus almost certainly had never met Mary and Joseph or even heard of them. He "made" them return to Bethlehem only in the sense that he gave the order for the census, forcing Joseph and Mary to make the difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem while Mary was great with child.