

1. Pagan Celebration of the birthday of a god -

- Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans celebrated the "birthdays" of their gods -
- If the king or Pharaoh identified as a "god," the king would celebrate the god's birthday.

2. December 25th?

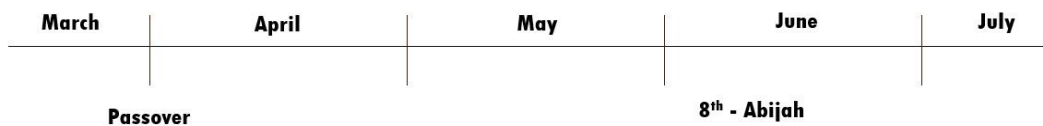
- Most cultures had winter solstice celebrations to celebrate the resurgence of the sun or sun god.
- Example: *Sol Invictus*
- Constantine Chlorus (250-306 AD) was identified as Mithras incarnate.
- The god Mithras was said to be born on December 25.
- Constantine (272-337 AD) – reigned as the first Caesar to convert to Christianity.
- December 25th was formally celebrated as the birth of Jesus in 336 AD.

3. The Bible does not tell us the date of Jesus' birth:

- Scholars know that it is not December 25th.
- Clues can be derived from a close reading of Luke.

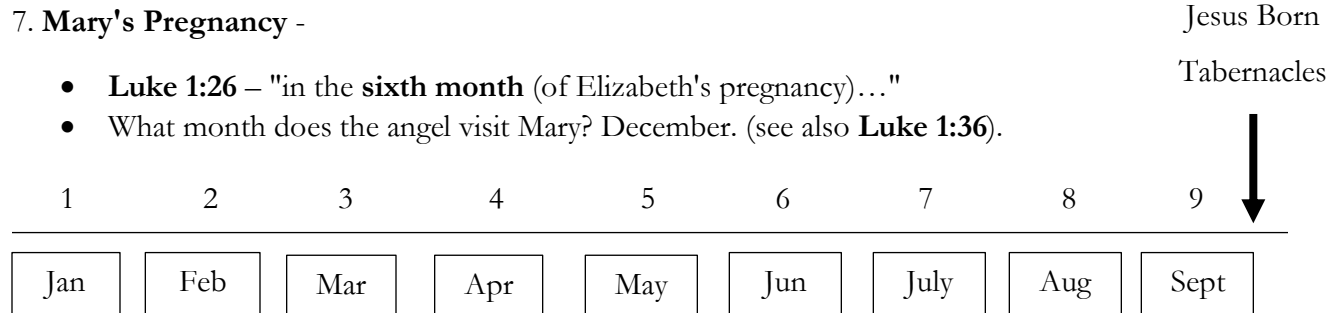
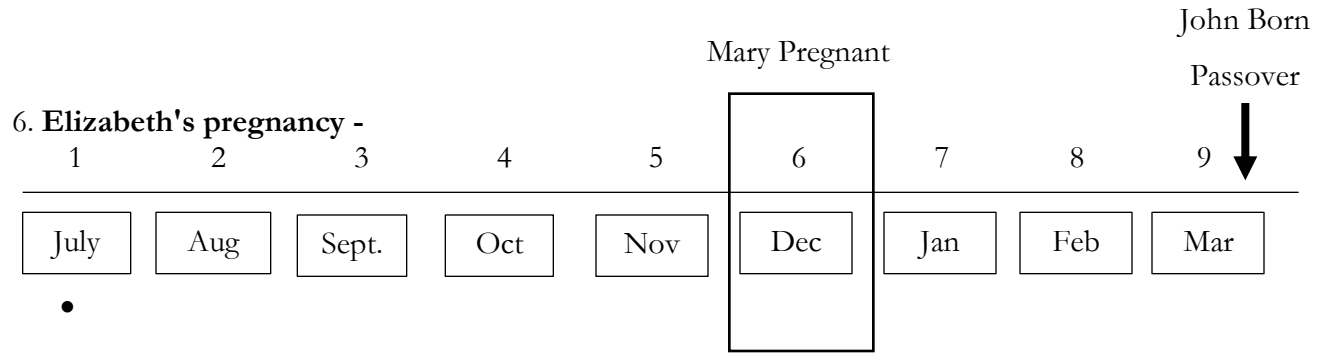
4. The Priestly Division of Abijah -

- Luke 1:5 – belonging to the "priestly division of Abijah."
- 1 Chronicles 24:10 –
 - There were too many priests to serve in the Temple continually.
 - They were divided up into 24 divisions (or courses or brigades).
 - During Passover and Feast of Tabernacles – all divisions served for two weeks.
 - During the remainder of the year, each division would serve for one week according to their order. Abijah was the eighth.



5. Elizabeth is Pregnant -

- **Luke 1:24** – "soon after" Elizabeth becomes pregnant.
- Assume that by July 1st, Elizabeth is pregnant.
- **Luke 1:24** – "five months in seclusion."



8. Shepherds living in the Fields – Luke 2:8 -

- The barley and wheat harvest runs from **April** to the end of **July**.
- The majority of the year, shepherds and their sheep live in the **wilderness** (desert).
- After the harvest, the shepherds bring their sheep up from the wilderness into the "fields." They live in the "fields" through **October**.
- By **November** (early rains), the shepherds are back in the wilderness, and the farmers are preparing their fields for planting in **December**.

9. God is coordinated:

- **Hanukkah** – a festival of lights. Is it possible that Jesus – the "light of the world," was conceived during the festival of lights?
- **Festival of Tabernacles** –
 - Celebration of light when the "light of the world" was born.
 - Celebration of living water when the "living water" was born.
 - The chant of *Hoshanab* – "Save Now!" – and God sends his salvation – *Yeshua* – into the world.
- **Passover** – Jews are expecting Elijah to show up at Passover.
 - John the Baptist is Elijah come again, ushering in the Messiah.
 - Luke 1:17 – "in the spirit and power of Elijah."