

12th August 2025

On behalf of a small Christian Fellowship in Adelaide South Australia, I would like bring to your attention that we are approaching the second millennium anniversary of the beginning of Christ's ministry in October 25AD.

How from Scripture is this understood? Immediately after Christ's baptism in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus is 'driven' into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit for forty day to then be tempted of Satan.

Matthew 3:13-4:2 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights,** he was afterward an hungered...

He was in 'His thirtieth year' (having achieved the age of 29) at His baptism...

Luke 3:21-23 21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, ²² And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. ²³ **And Jesus himself began to be about, thirty years of age...**

In John's gospel, just prior to the first Passover of His ministry, after being greeted by John, Jesus goes at once on to the wedding in Cana of Galilee. This indicates His actual baptism, as the beginning of His ministry, would have occurred six months earlier at the Feast of Tabernacles in 25AD.

John 1:28 (KJV) These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. ²⁹ **The next day** John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹ And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. ³² And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³ And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴ And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. ³⁵ Again **the next day** after John stood, and two of his disciples; ³⁶ And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**

John 2:1, 11-14 And **the third day** there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there...

¹¹ This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days, ¹³ and the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting...

These passages indicate He was born on the eve of the Feast of Tabernacles in 5BC, and circumcised into the Covenant of Abraham on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles called Simchat Torah, (the celebration for the giving of the Law). The Sacrifice for the Redemption of the Firstborn would have taken place six months later at the following Passover, (all according to the Law of Moses), immediately after the death of Herod the Great in 4BC, that can be verified astronomically by a lunar eclipse recorded by the historian Josephus.

As a time line...

[illegible]

The New Testament also gives the true date for the Birth of Christ based on the Old Testament calendar as follows...

1 Chronicles 24:1-19 (ESV) The divisions of the sons of Aaron were these. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar became the priests. ³ With the help of Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, **David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service.** ⁴ Since more chief men were found among the sons of Eleazar than among the sons of Ithamar, they organized them under sixteen

heads of fathers' houses of the sons of Eleazar, and eight of the sons of Ithamar. (16+8=24) ⁵ They divided them by lot, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar. ⁶ And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites, one father's house being chosen for Eleazar and one chosen for Ithamar. The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, the seventh to Hakkoz, **the eighth to Abijah**, the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez, the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. ¹⁹ These had as **their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of YHWH according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as YHWH God of Israel had commanded him.**

Luke 1:5-9, 23-24 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zechariah, of the division of Abijah** and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God **when his division was on duty**, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood. **23** And when his time of service was ended, **he went to his home.** ²⁴ **After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived.**

The eighth to Abijah = **the last two weeks in the fourth month** of the Hebrew Lunar calendar. When his 'time of service' was ended after 'these days' his wife **Elizabeth conceived in the first day of the fifth month**. (John the Baptist would be born the second month of the following year).

Luke 1:34-36 Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, **your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month** with her who was called barren.

Luke 1:41-43 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

The 'mother of my Lord' – the incarnation of God's Word, had already begun **in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy - that is the middle of tenth month of the year**. This means that **Jesus was born in the middle of the seventh month which is the eve of the Feast of Tabernacles**. On this day the Word of God as the Law of God, tabernacled on earth as the Son of Man. (He dies on the Eve of Passover thirty-three and a half years later in 29AD as the Lamb of God). The last day of the Feast is called 'Simchat Torah' the 22nd of Tishri. 'Simchat Torah' is the 'Day of Rejoicing for the Giving of the Law' and on this, the eighth day the Lamb of God was circumcised into the covenant of Abraham. So to the Bible believing Christian, the Birth of the Messiah, His Death and Resurrection are the linking together of the Old and the New Testaments. And just as we see these two events as the focus of all history, so they join together the Old and the New Covenants as One Word, One Book, but as Two Witnesses; the Nation of Israel and the Gospel preaching, Bible-believing Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. (This calendar is in use in Israel today, and is the Biblical calendar of the Old Testament).

The actual date this year for the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles is Tuesday the seventh of October and as two thousand years since the beginning of Christ's ministry is also the second year since the Simchat Torah massacre in Israel by Hamas terrorists that began the current war of words with the United Nations over the status of Jerusalem, (two state solution). It is also 2000 days since the first church closures in Israel during the covid pandemic.

With this in mind I wonder if it is possible to make mention of this anniversary within your fellowship and sphere of influence in respect to the wonder of God's intervention on earth at this time two thousand years ago. (Perhaps as an aside, it might be well noted that to celebrate this day from now on as the birth of Christ and incarnation of God's Word, would be a good thing in view of the overcommercialisation and paganization of the traditional 25th of December, not to mention current world events surrounding the City of Jerusalem and the United Nations push to establish it as an 'international city').

God bless.



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