

When Was Yeshua (Jesus) Born

As an over-arching statement, the Bible does not record the exact date and time of Yeshua's birth, which could indicate that God, in His Infinite Wisdom, decided to keep the exact date hidden until the proper time in human history, as He did with vision details recorded in both Daniel and Revelation.¹ However, comparing the details presented in Luke 1 and I Chronicles 24, there are "hints" as to the approximate time of the year, although an exact date cannot be decisively determined from the information.

1. In Luke 1, the Author establishes his intent for writing the book to Theophilus – an accurate account of the life of Yeshua. Therefore, the Author starts with the events leading up to the birth of Yeshua...

Luke 1:1-4 - Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

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2. A Priest named Zacharias was serving in the temple.
 - a. He was of the **Division** (*duty-roster, by family*) of **Abijah**
 - i. In 1 Chronicles 24, we see that King David, along with Zadok (the Priest and ancestor of Aaron's son, Eleazar) and Ahimilech (an ancestor of Eleazar's brother, Ithamar) divided the many Priests into differing "Divisions" of duties.
 - ii. At this time in history, there existed 16 household heads from Eleazar's family and 8 household heads from Ithamar's family, making 24 total divisions in all.
 - iii. Lots were cast to determine which Priestly Family served in which of the 24 Divisions (*duty-roster, by family*)
 - iv. The ***8'th order fell to Abijah***
 - b. Each Division served a different **weekly timeframe**, which began and ended on adjacent Shabbats (Sabbaths)
 - i. I Chronicles 9:25, (and the surrounding verses), we see that each Division would come to Jerusalem to serve for a 1 week period, according to their respective Division.
 - ii. Also, in I Chronicles 23:4, is the scripture demonstrating that the weekly service of the Divisions **began and ended on adjacent Sabbaths**.
 - iii. Given **a Division's length of service was 1 week**, each Division had opportunity to serve once in the early portion of the year and again in the latter portion of the year (**twice per year**).

¹ See Daniel 12:4 and Revelation 10:4

1. So far, this makes **a total of 48 weeks of the year in which Temple Service is now defined.**
- c. **3 times annually**, everyone was to assemble for a large celebration at the Temple in Jerusalem (**Deut. 16:16**), commonly known as the **“Pilgrimage Festivals”**:
- i. Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - ii. Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
 - iii. Feast of Tabernacles
 - iv. At these large Temple-centric celebrations, all Priest (all 24 orders) served simultaneously, given the larger work load of **“all your men”** (and their families) attending
 1. Therefore, in addition to their 2 weeks per year service (as part of their assigned Division), all Priests served an additional 3 weeks per year during the Pilgrimage Festivals
 2. This adds 3 weeks of Temple Service to our existing 48 weeks, bringing the annual total of Temple Service weeks to 51.
 - a. Recall that the Hebrew calendar is lunar based and consists of 12, 29.5 day months (on average). In comparison to the modern solar calendar, this ancient calendar disagrees by 11 days, which is accommodated by adding a leap month every 2 or three years, depending on the year.
- d. The first 2 weeks of the year, Division 1 then Division 2 served, as per normal.
- e. Since the 3rd week of the year (in Aviv, later named to Nisan) is the week of the 3 Springtime Festivals (Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits), all Priests (all Divisions) served during this first Pilgrimage Festival (“Spring Feasts”).
- f. As of the 4th week, we are back to a normal service by Division 3.
- g. The next 7 weeks (plus 1 day) were the “Counting of the Omer” or the 50 days leading up to the “Feast of Weeks” or Shavuot (in Hebrew). This takes us through the 9th week and the service of Divisions 3 through Division 8 (Abijah). Therefore, Zacharias was serving during Week 9 (the week prior to the Shavuot celebration).
- h. The 10th week of service was during the Feast of Shavuot, and again all 24 Divisions served at the Temple, meaning that Zacharias again served this week.
 - i. It was either the 9th or 10th week when Zacharius was visited, in the Holy Place, by the angel, Gabriel, and told of the birth of his son, John the Baptist, the one who would prepare the way of the Messiah.² Since a large crowd was outside praying, this was most likely a Sabbath (Shabbat) celebration, but some believe it could also have been the Shavuot ceremony itself.
- i. Elizabeth, Zacharius wife, would have become pregnant during the 11th or 12th Week of the year in the latter portion of the Third month of Sivan (our late May to Early June Timeframe).

² See Luke 1:8-23

- j. John the Baptist would have been a full-term birth in the early portion of the First month of the following year (shortly before the Spring Feasts, which is our March / April time frame)
- 3. Luke 1:26-37 indicates the difference in age between John the Baptist and Yeshua was 6 months. Therefore, correlating the events of Luke 1...
 - a. Since Mary was visited by Gabriel when her relative, Elizabeth, was in her 6'th month, Yeshua was **conceived of the Holy Spirit**, approximately 6 months after John the Baptist was conceived, in the late 9'th (Kislev) or early 10'th month (Tevet), which was near the time of the Festival of Dedication (also known as the Festival of Lights).
 - i. Recall in John 1: 4-5 the Author refers to Yeshua as "the Light of Life", and Yeshua Himself said He was the Light of Life, which is beautiful symbology relative to the non-Levitical Festival near to the time of His conception.
 - b. Yeshua would have been born some 39-40 weeks later in the 7'th month of Tishrei, near the time of the Fall Festivals of Yom Teruah / Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, and Succot (our September / October timeframe).

