

LET'S BEGIN WITH THE OBVIOUS -- I DO NOT KNOW! DO YOU?

As we all know, many early Christians, for security purposes, adapted pagan holidays and placed holy sentiment upon them. So, some Messianic believers, wanting to replace the traditional Christmas birthday celebration, elected to celebrate Yeshua's (Jesus') birth during Sukkot (*the Feast of Tabernacles*). Is there historical or Scriptural evidence for this? Yes, there is.

One obvious argument some apply has to do with the winter weather. Shepherds, they reasoned, would not likely be in the fields during December due to the cold and wet conditions in Judea that time of year. However, perhaps a more tangible logic we can apply is to reason that early fall - Sukkot - time fits perfectly with Luke's New Testament account.

ZECHARIAH'S TURN IN THE TEMPLE

Now consider this, John the Baptist's father, a priest named Zechariah "*belonged to the priestly division of Abijah.*" The 24 courses of the temple priesthood are found in 1 Chronicles 24. Calculations have been made showing that the Abijah division served in June. If Elizabeth conceived shortly after, then her sixth month would be December or January – the time of Gabriel's announcement to Miriam – and therefore, Jesus would have been born nine months later, around September.

THE CONNECT TO THE JEWISH BACKGROUND

Finally, when John says that: "*The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us*" (John 1:14), it might also be an allusion to Jesus coming into this world during the Feast of Tabernacles – Sukkot.

If you want to study the life of Jesus Christ further, there is an online course: *The Jewish background of the New Testament*. There are 30 fascinating topics that provide more thoughts to consider as you search for more information to aid in understanding all Holy Scriptures.

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