

## **Too Early for Christmas? No. Too late, actually.**

Greetings My Friends,

I LOVE Christmas. I wish we could celebrate it 10 months of the year.



I love this little cardboard nativity set that my wife and son found for me online. It is exactly like the one my family had when I was a child.

May I have permission to “push” you a little? The problem is, the original Christmas night did not look at all like my little nativity scene that I like so well.

May I ask another question? Was Jesus born on December 25th? Well... sorry... but no. There is evidence that He was conceived then, so we can still celebrate it. (We seem to know when John the Baptist was born, and Jesus was born 6 months later.)

When was Jesus born? At the Feast of Tabernacles, late September / early October. Jesus truly “tabernacled” among us! Yes! “Immanuel” – God with us!

The shepherds who heard from the angels were (fasten your seat belts) highly-trained professionals who examined perfect lambs to be sacrificed at the Temple for the sins of the people. Jesus was born about 1,000 paces north of Bethlehem. This location was about 4 miles south of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus was not born in a smelly barn or at the locations you are told He was when you go to Bethlehem. He was born at the Migdal Eder, mentioned twice in Scripture (in the books of Genesis and Micah, as likely referred to in the

Mishnah – oral tradition later written – and Targums – an Aramaic translation).

The “swaddling cloths” are actually far more significant than many might be aware. It is the clue which directed the shepherds to the Migdal Eder, where Joseph and Mary were with the baby Jesus.

And the "inn" was not some sort of old version of an overcrowded Motel 6, but likely refers to a "guest room."

And the "manger" was not a feeding trough (I grew up on a farm; I know what a manger is), but really a stall, likely a birthing stall, for lambs.

All in all, once we understand the texts (Genesis, Luke, and two passages in Micah) and their meaning, this could be the most meaningful Christmas ever!

**[What am I saying? Watch this, and it will all make sense.](#)**

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