Holy Bible Contest – Journey through the Coptic month of Kiahk (or Nativity Fast)

Who said • •
1. “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Luke 1:42)
3. “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet.” (Matthew 2:5)
4. “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.” (Luke 1:32)
5. “His name is John.” (Luke 1:63)
6. “Where is He that is born king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2)
7. “Go, and search diligently for the young Child.” (Matthew 2:8)
8. “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass.” (Luke 2:15)
Introduction

The Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ

Once upon a time there lived a young maiden named Mary in the City of Nazareth. A young maiden is a lady who is not married. The Angel of the Lord, named Archangel Gabriel, came to her one day and said, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

St Mary did not know what the archangel meant so he continued to say, “Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Lord Jesus Christ. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest.” St Mary was not sure how this was going to occur so the Archangel Gabriel said, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

So, St Mary went to visit her cousin, St Elizabeth, who was also with child. St Elizabeth was to also have a son, St John the Baptist. Even though St John the Baptist was in his mother’s womb at the time of St Mary’s visit, he jumped joyfully inside his mother. Then the Holy Spirit filled St Elizabeth and she recognized that in front of her was St Mary, the mother of God.

Afterwards, St Mary returned home and in the fullness of time, would give birth. But the king wanted everyone to go and register in his own city. So, St Joseph the carpenter, the one in whose care St Mary was given, took her to a small town called Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, they looked for a place to stay but there was not a room in an inn anywhere. Finally, they found a lowly shelter for animals and chose to stay the night there. St Mary gave birth to the Son of God in a manger. She named Him, “Jesus” who was to become the Lord Jesus Christ, the Anointed Holy One of God.

At the same time of the Holy birth, an angel appeared to the humble shepherds that were watching their sheep and told them that in the City of David, in the small town of Bethlehem, the Lord is coming to save us from our sins.


6 ACROSS "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be ______." LUKE 2:1

5 ACROSS "This census first took place while Quirinius was governing ______." LUKE 2:2

2 DOWN "So all went to be registered, ______ to his own city." LUKE 2:3

1 ACROSS "Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called ______..." LUKE 2:4

4 DOWN "...because he was of the house and lineage of ______." LUKE 2:4

3 DOWN "...to be registered with ______, his betrothed wife, who was with child." LUKE 2:5

7 DOWN "And she brought forth her firstborn ______, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." LUKE 2:7
Bethlehem, there was born a Savior and suddenly a great number of heavenly angels appeared and said, “Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on earth, good will to men.”

Afterwards, from the East, came three wise men following a great and brilliantly shining star in the sky. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold was a symbol that the Lord Jesus Christ was the King of all kings. The frankincense was a symbol that He was the High Priest of all mankind. The myrrh was the symbol that the Lord Jesus Christ would face the pain and sorrow of the Holy Cross.

All this occurred on the very first Holy Nativity. The day our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ was born.

(The Holy Gospel of St Luke, chapters 1 and 2)
The Coptic Month of Kiahk or Nativity has the following weeks

Our Coptic Orthodox Church honors Saint Mary, the Theotokos many times during the year. One of the very awesome times where this occasion falls is Kiahk. Kiahk is the fourth month in the Coptic calendar. It is falls with the Nativity fast, and on the last day of Kiahk falls the celebration of the Feast of Nativity. Kiahk is called the "Marian Month" or "The Month of St. Mary." The Marian month is so important to the Coptic Church that it is associated with its own special tune.

This time of year is very precious because it gives the atmosphere of contemplation on the nativity of our Lord. This month reminds us of why the Lord chose St. Mary to be His mother, not any other women. Saint Mary’s way of life, purity of heart, and humility allowed her to become the mother of our Savior. She is the luckiest person. During the month the church prepares us for the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity on the 29th of Kiahk by fasting.

In addition the Sunday gospels are all taken from the gospel of Saint Luke chapter 1 broken into four Sundays.

Week 1: The birth of John the Baptist is announced to Zacharias (Luke 1:1-25)
Week 2: Christ’s Birth Announced to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
Week 3: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
Week 4: Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)
29th of Kiahk: Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) (Matthew 2:1-12)

Questions - (Read first: Matthew 2:1-12)

FILL IN THE BLANKS:
1. "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be ______________." LUKE 2:1

2. "This census first took place while Quirinius was governing ________." LUKE 2:2

3. "So all went to be registered, everyone to his _________ city." LUKE 2:3

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER:
4. "Joseph also went..." LUKE 2:4

a. up from Galilee
b. out of the city of Nazareth
c. into Judea
d. to the city of David
e. which is called Bethlehem
f. all of the above

TRUE OR FALSE:
5. "...because he was of the house and lineage of David." LUKE 2:4  TRUE OR FALSE

6. to be registered with Elizabeth, his betrothed wife, who was with child. LUKE 2:5 TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:
7. "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a (CRIB, MANGER), because there was no room for them in the inn." LUKE 2:7

St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
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that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

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**Complete-the-Picture & Color-by-Number**

**Mr. Snowman**

Key: 1-blue, 2-grey, 3-white, 4-black, 5-yellow, 6-red, 7-orange, 8-green, 9-brown

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**Week 1: The birth of John the Baptist is announced to Zacharias (Luke 1:1-25)**

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both good before God, obeying all the commandments of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well old in years. So it was that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he took so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he remained speechless. So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

TRUE OR FALSE:
1. "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth." LUKE 1:5

   TRUE OR FALSE

2. But they had many children, because Elizabeth was not barren, and they were both well advanced in years. LUKE 1:7

   TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:
3. "So it was, that while he was serving as (PRIEST, KING) before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the (PRIESTHOOD, KINGDOM), his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple." LUKE 1:8-9

   TRUE OR FALSE

4. "Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense." LUKE 1:11

   TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:
5. "But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your ________ is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.' " LUKE 1:13

   TRUE OR FALSE

6. "And Zacharias said to the angel, 'How shall I know this? For I am an ________ man, and my wife is well advanced in years.' " LUKE 1:18

   TRUE OR FALSE

7. "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." LUKE 1:20

   TRUE OR FALSE

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: "Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him.

But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them...
The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event.

As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth.

Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.
Activity - Coloring and Memorization

As Zacharias burns incense in the temple of the Lord, an angel of the Lord appears to him to tell him that he shall have a son.

_Luke 1:5-25_

Activity – Maze
Activity – Coloring and Memorization

"Now Elisabeth’s full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son."
LUKE 1:57

Activity – Find the following words

ANGEL INCENSE
PRIEST BARREN JOHN SON
ELIZABETH LORD TEMPLE
GABRIEL MUTE ZACHARIAS
HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER
Week 2: Christ's Birth Announced to St. Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin given to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Questions – (Read first: Luke 1:57-80)

1. Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a daughter. **LUKE 1:57**

   **TRUE OR FALSE**

2. "...they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. And his mother answered and said, 'No; he shall be called John.'" **LUKE 1:59-60**

   **TRUE OR FALSE**

3. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is Zacharias." And they all marveled. **LUKE 1:63**

   **TRUE OR FALSE**

   **FILL IN THE BLANK:**

4. "Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue ___________, and he spoke, praising God." **LUKE 1:64**

   **TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. "Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit..." **LUKE 1:67**

   **TRUE OR FALSE**

   **FILL IN THE BLANK:**

6. "So the child grew and became ____________ in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel." **LUKE 1:80**
**Week 4: Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)**

Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered and she brought forth a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they were with her. So it was, on the eighth day, which they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and saved His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. 76" And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.


TRUE OR FALSE:
1. "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary." LUKE 1:26-27
   TRUE OR FALSE

2. "And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!' "LUKE 1:28
   TRUE OR FALSE

3. "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.' "LUKE 1:30
   TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANK:
4. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name_____________." LUKE 1:31
   TRUE OR FALSE

5. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." LUKE 1:32
   TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:
6. The angel told Mary, "Now indeed, _____________ your relative has also conceived a son in her old age." LUKE 1:36
   TRUE OR FALSE

7. "For with _______ nothing will be impossible." LUKE 1:37
   TRUE OR FALSE

8. "Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her." LUKE 1:38
   TRUE OR FALSE
Activity – Coloring and Memorization

“Gabriel is sent by God to give Mary a special message. She shall bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS.” Luke 1:26-38

Activity - Word search

Can you find these words in this puzzle?

- Silent night, holy night
- All is calm all is bright
- Round you virgin mother and child
- Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
- Sleep in heavenly peace.

M A R D E S D A N T
F O R D R O U N D N
Y E T A N T O D L A
L E H O H A Y S I F
N V G G L C A L M N
E S I L E N T J O I
V N N R E D N E T H
A S T H G I R B H O
E L I C H I L D E N
H O L Y O N N I R P
S L E E P E A C E R
Activity – Coloring and Memorization

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! (Luke 1:41-42)

Activity – Maze

Begin at the mouth of Gabriel and find your way out of the maze to proclaim the Good News!
Week 3: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

Now Mary went in those days and went into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.


1. What city did Saint Mary go to, to see Elizabeth? _______________________.

FILL IN THE BLANK:

2. “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe ___________ in her womb.” LUKE 1:41

TRUE OR FALSE

3. “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” LUKE 1:45

TRUE OR FALSE

4. Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a daughter. LUKE 1:57

TRUE OR FALSE

5. What did Saint Mary say? Hint: The Song of Mary