Office Christmas Quiz

Test your knowledge of the actual Christmas story!

1. According to the Bible, in what kind of structure was Jesus born?
   A. Cave
   B. Stable
   C. Pub (Inn)
   D. Doesn't say

2. Which famous prophet was also miraculously conceived and born six months before Jesus?
   A. John the Baptist
   B. John the Anglican
   C. John the Presbyterian
   D. John the Evangelist

3. Who doesn't get a mention in the Bible's story of Jesus birth?
   A. The Wise Men
   B. The Innkeeper
   C. The Shepherds
   D. Joseph

4. How many wise men came to see Jesus after he was born?
   A. Three
   B. Five
   C. Seven
   D. Nobody knows

5. Which prophet said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem?
   A. Micah
   B. Isaiah
   C. Moses
   D. Nostradamus

6. According to the Bible, who was the Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth?
   A. Julius Caesar
   B. Caesar Augustus
   C. Gaius Caesar
   D. Chicken Caesar

7. Mary & Joseph lived in Nazareth and had to walk to Bethlehem for the Roman Census How far is Bethlehem from Nazareth?
   A. From Adelaide to Cape Jervois
   B. From Melbourne to Ballarat
   C. From Sydney to Bowral
   D. From Brisbane to Maroochydore
   E. Hey! All those places are about 107km apart!

8. What were the gifts that the Magi (Wise men) brought for Jesus?
   A. Squeaky toy, jumpsuit and nappies
   B. Turkey, Ham and fruitcake
   C. Cardamom, Cinnamon and Honey
   D. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

9. When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant (and he wasn't the father) he made plans to break off their engagement. What made him change his mind?
   A. His worldview: He was pretty open minded for his time
   B. Mary: She was really, really rich
   C. An angel: Who explained the situation
   D. His heart: He was really in love with Mary

10. Where did Joseph get the name baby's name, 'Jesus'?
   A. It was a family name
   B. Mary liked the name
   C. An Angel told him the name
   D. It was a popular Jewish name

11. Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus?
   A. Because he would save his people from their sins
   B. Because he would lead his people as their King
   C. Because it was foretold by prophets
   D. Because you can't name the Messiah "Dave".

12. "Immanuel" is a word you often see on Christmas card and decorations. It's a Hebrew name that is used in a prophecy about Jesus. What does it mean?
   A. God for us
   B. God helps us
   C. God with us
   D. God loves us

13. The Bible says that angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. What did they say would be a sign that Jesus was born for them?
   A. A star would lead them to the place
   B. The baby would be lying on a sheepskin
   C. The baby wouldn't cry when the animals bleated and mooed
   D. The baby would be wrapped like a hand reared lamb and would be lying in a stock feed trough

14.In which books of the Bible can you read the full story about the birth of Jesus?
   A. Gospels of John & Mark
   B. Gospels of Mark & Luke
   C. Gospels of Luke & Matthew

D. Gospels of Matthew & John

Answers:

1: D. Tradition assumes Jesus was born in a stable, some sources say he may have been born in a cave used as a shelter by shepherds. The Bible doesn't give details. **Luke 2:1-7** simply says Jesus was laid in a manger because there was no guest room available.

2: A. John the Baptist. Different guy to John the evangelist (who wrote the Gospel of John). John the Baptist's parents were way past childbearing age but were told that they would nevertheless have a son and that he would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Sceptical? Yeah—so was John's Dad! Read the story in **Luke 1:5-25**.

3: B. The Innkeeper. It's unlikely that there was an Inn. It's more likely that Joseph's relatives who lived in Bethlehem wouldn't give them a place to stay. Who wouldn't give up their room for a young woman who is 9 months pregnant?! Maybe because Mary was pregnant and the baby wasn't Joseph's. Talk about an awkward Christmas.

4: D. Nobody knows. Later traditions said that there were three and legends evolved with stories about the three Magi being Kings. There were three different kinds of gifts, but the Bible doesn't say how many wise men there were. Read the story in **Matthew 2:1-12**

5: A. The prophet Micah lived from 740-670BC. He wrote "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah (an alternative name for Bethlehem) though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." **Micah 3:5**

6: B. Caesar Augustus (aka Octavian). Julius Caesar was murdered in 44BC, and his friend Mark Antony assumed the leadership role. Octavian challenged Antony and it led to a civil war, the downfall of the Republic, and the rise of Augustus. Did George Lucas make all that money retelling a boring ancient history story?!

7: E. It was (and still is) 107km from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That's a long way for a heavily pregnant woman to walk. Having said that, the Roman government could be very persuasive when it came to foreign subjects like the Jews in the Syrian province.

8: D. Frankincense and myrrh were used as ointments and perfume throughout history. There is an interesting connection between these three gifts and the way people met with God in the Jewish temple. Read about it in **Exodus 30:1-10 & 22-38**

9: C. If you read the story in the Bible, it seems that Joseph was sceptical about Mary's story because he set the wheels in motion to get a divorce. He changed his mind when an angel appeared to him and explained that something unprecedented and unrepeatable was happening. Read about it in The Gospel of **Matthew, chapter 1.**

10: C. Same angel as in question 9. It would be a mistake to think that angels dramatically appeared to people on a regular basis. In the 2000 years that the Bible timeline covers, there might be twenty in total. Six of those are angel appearances in the Christmas story.

11: A. From the very beginning, Jesus' destiny was to take away sin (rebellion against God) and it's penalty (death) from "his people". His people are those who trust Him and embrace Him for the person He claims to be. You can read about Jesus' claims in **John's Gospel**. Click here if you'd like to read John's Gospel with someone from City Bible Forum.

12: C. *im* = with ; *nu* = us; el = God. This is where the message of Christmas starts to get really big. The claim that the Bible makes is that in order to take away sin and it's penalty from people, God Himself was born into the world as a real human being. Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. You can read more about that in **John's Gospel**.

13: D. The sheep reared in Bethlehem were raised especially for use in the Jerusalem temple. Firstborn male lambs were wrapped in strips of temple cloth by shepherds and laid in a feeding trough at a place called Migdal Eder. They would then be examined to make sure they were suitable as sacrificial lambs.

14: C. The accounts of Matthew and Luke are interesting because they are very different, independent of each other, and consistent. Click here if you would like to read **Luke's Gospel** with someone from City Bible Forum.