

THE PROVE IT POST



Jesus was born in 2 or 3BC!

By Ben Buck, Post writer.

Anno Domino

Are Christmas and new years celebrating the same thing? Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth. New years is the celebration of the new year of our Lord. But why is Christmas December 25th and New years January 1st? You may be thinking "What does New year have anything to do with Christ's birthday!" Well think about it, the year we use is the year of our Lord, so your celebrating that it was A.D. 2025 and now it is A.D. 2026. A.D. is lazy for *anno domino*, which is lazy for *anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi*, which is latin for the year of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now that does means that Jesus was born 2,026 years ago because it is his 2,026th year. That's why there is no year 0, it goes from 1 B.C. to A.D. 1 or the 1st year before he was born to the 1st year of his life, just as the 20th century is the 1900s hundreds and its Zach's 1st year but he is not 1 year old yet. A.C.N. is lazy for *ante Christum natum* which is latin for before Christ's birth. But most people say B.C. which is lazy for before Christ. Modern idioligists use B.C.E. and C.E., lazy for Before Christian Era and Christian Era. Oh, wait... it means common era, Probably because they don't like that the year dating system is based on the birth of Christ but there too lazy to change it, (Like what the atheist of the french revolution tried to do in order to remove religious influence and it failed. They tried to make the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 1,792 according to Dionysius Exiguus's calculations, year 1 of the republican era. Thy made 10 days in a week, the last one for rest, 30 days in a month and 12 months with new names and 5 or 6 extra days at the end of the year and they removed all religious holidays. But it did not last.⁽¹⁾)

So people celebrate the birthday of Jesus on December 25th and that he is 1 year older a week later. But was Jesus actually born on January 1st in the 1st year of our Lord Jesus Christ? in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 525 according to Dionysius Exiguus's calculations. Dionysius Exiguus made a new Easter time table to know what day each year to celebrate Easter. It was to confusing measuring years of the whatever king was reigning, So people were measuring years from roman emperor Diocletian. Dionysius had a better idea.

Instead of measuring years from Diocletian who persecuted Christians. He would measure years from Jesus the Christ. In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 525 at Easter he said it was 525 years since the incarnation (Conception or birth or?*) Some people say it was the circumcision because it is the 8th day after December 25th but I found no primary sources for this theory) of our Lord Jesus Christ. in the 700s Bede of England was writing a Ecclesiastical History of the English People and measured his dates from Christ using Dionysius Exiguus's calculations. He measured backward for dates before Christ. Since then A.D./B.C. dating has become the most popular way to do it.⁽²⁾

As for why January 1st is the first day of the year, it is not based on Jesus's birth or incarnation, Dionysius did not give a day, they used it because it was the first day of the Julian Calendar.(not sure if Dionysius or Bede used the Julian calendar*) Which dates to 45 before Christ's birth. the Julian Calendar was made to replace The Roman Calendar, which was made by Romulus the founder of Rome who reign from -753– -716, it was a lunar calendar and started on the spring equinox. Having 10 months Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Iunius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, December. And no months in the winter. Witch is why September, October, November & December come from latin for 7,8,9&10. But the next king added Ianuarius and Februarius to the end. Later on it was adjusted to a solar calendar and had a set number of days for each month but they only equaled 355 days so there was a month between February and March every other year or something. On January 1st in the year 45 B.C. Julius Caesar made the Julian Calendar into effect replacing the Roman Calendar. He moved January to be the first month, added more days to each month to make 365 and added a extra day every 4 years. Later Quintilis was renamed July after Julius and Sextilis to August after Augustus. so September's through December's names have been lies for the last 2,070 years!

Theory for December 25th

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth, and is celebrated on December 25th. Some celebrate Christmas on December 25 of the older Julian calendar, which corresponded to January 6 in the Gregorian calendar in 1800, It now would be January 7 but they stock with January 6, this is called Old Christmas and is also called the Feast of the Epiphany. But why do people think Jesus was born on December 25th? We will see when this date became the traditional date for His birth on page 6 and 7, but here is the biblical/historic evidence for the theory of Jesus being born on December 25th. (Note, this only is for the day of the year, I am going to do the math as if it was December 25th 3 BC but this theory does not prove the year)

This is based on the conception of John the baptist. Zechariah his father was of the division of Abijah. (Luke 1:5) Luke 1:8-9 says “that while he was serving as priest before God in the **order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood...**” The 8th lot out of 24 Priestly divisions fell on Abijah. (1 Chronicles 24:7,10) The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, It says in the Talmud(AD 500s):“When the Temple was destroyed for the first time, that day was the **Ninth of Av**; and it was the conclusion of Shabbat; and it was the year after a Sabbatical Year; and it was the **week of the priestly watch of Jehoiarib(3) It goes on to imply that the second temple was destroyed on the same day of the year as the first temple, Flavius Josephus also mentions that the the second temple was destroyed on the same day of the year as the first temple⁽⁴⁾(the 10th of Lous*) So then the first Priest period started in the month of Av, If the periods were one week long and it was in 4 BC assuming that the priestly watch of Jehoiarib started on the 9th of Av, (August 2nd)⁽⁵⁾, then 8 weeks later would have been from the week of 28th of Elul through the 5th of Tishri (26th of September) So then Zechariah would have ended his duty on the 5th of Tishri. It says in Luke 1:23-24 “And when the days of his service were complete, he returned home. **Now after those days** his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months....” So John the baptized was conceived some time after Zechariah was done in the temple. In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy (Luke 1:26) Jesus was conceived. But we do not know how long after Zechariah's temple service ended she conceived because it just says “After those days”, also Jesus being conceived “in the sixth month” is a one month window. So this was some time between 5 and 6 months after John the baptized was conceived. The sixth month would have been the month of March 3 BC. 9 months after March is December. This this as accurate of a day we can get with theses assumptions, So why is it narrowed down to December 25?(actually, it could have been January, if Elizabeth did not conceive until a week and it was almost the end of the 7th month when the angel appeared to Mary or Elizabeth conceived several weeks after and it was the middle of the 6th month, however I think it unlikely for it to have been February)**

Lets do are math backwards, If Jesus was Born on December 25th then he would have been conceived about March 25th. Which is consistent if Elisabeth got pregnant a week after Zechariah finished his temple service and it was 2 weeks into the sixth month when Gabriel appeared to Mary and another half a week until she got pregnant, Notice Gabriel told her “you **will** conceive” (Luke 1:31) Not that she already conceived, (Now these 25 days could have been distributed differently) It was a traditional Jewish/Christian* belief that great men were conceived on the same day they died, Jesus was therefore considered to have been conceived on March 25, as he died on March 25, (which is debatable, but that's a whole other post.) Also it was thought that he was born right after the Winter solstice when the days stated getting longer.(the winter solstice was December 23rd in 3 BC) Augustine of Hippo(AD~400) mentions these: “The ministry of man grew less and less, as was signified in John[the baptist]; the ministry of God in our Lord Jesus Christ increased, as was shown at their birth. The former was born, as the tradition of the Church shows, on the 24th of June, when the days begin to shorten. The Lord was born on the 25th of December, when the days begin to lengthen. Here John himself confessing, "He must increase, but I must decrease."⁽⁶⁾"(John 3:30) For the theory that John the baptist was born on June 24th to work, 9 month's before June 24th 3 BC is September 24th 4 BC, which could have been 4 days after Zechariah's term ended if the 9th of Av was the first division's last day. So that does work. However, the angel would have haft to appeared to Mary before March 23rd Because it says it was in the 6th month, so it

* Apparently Lous is equivalent to Av. Josephus and the Talmad must be talking about a different moment in the Siege of Jerusalem, also Lous is a month of the old Macedonian calendar, Av is of the Hebrew calendar, but I could not find a converter of the Macedonian calendar to check these dates. The Bible says that the first temple was destroyed on the 10th day of 10th month(Ezekiel 24:1-2, 2 Kings 25:1, Jeremiah 52:4) Tebet is the 10th month, not Av? Maybe it is talking about the 10th month of what ever year of Nebuchadnezzar, not the month of the year? Need to research more.

had to be less the 6 months later or it would have been the 7th month, but this still works because the angel told Mary “you **will** conceive” so it was after the angel appeared that she conceived, which could have been March 25th, (so if the angel appeared at the beginning of the 6th month, she would have conceived a month later, but if it was at the end of the 6th month, she would have conceived 2 day later.) See Timeline on page 7

The assumptions for this theory are that the priest period started in Av, They did when the first temple was destroyed in 587 BC (at least according to the Talmud) but that does not mean they did after the second temple was built or in 4 BC era. Also the order of priests was chosen by lot (1 Chronicles 24:5) and they may have recast lots when the second temple was built. There are 24 divisions, so either they were 2 weeks long or they serve twice a year. If they where 2 weeks long then that would make the date 2 months later. But if they served twice a year then it could have been his other term, which would make Jesus born in June.(Wikipedia shows them as 1 week long, twice a year⁽⁷⁾) Was the 9th of Av the start or the end of Jehoiarib's term?(That passage of the Talmud says it was a sabbath, there period started on a Sabbath so it was probably the start) also is this based on the day of the month and did it change between the first temple and second temple? And if it always started on a sabbath, then it was not connected to a day of the month, so Just because Jehoiarib was serving on the 9th of Av in 587 BC does not mean he was on the 9th of Av in 4 BC. (The 9th of Av was Thursday in 4 BC, but it was Saturday in 5 BC.) Also if there was 24 divisions that served 1 week twice a year than that equals 58, there are only 52 weeks in a year, so the Hebrew calendar may have done things differently to make them line up with the years but other wise they would not line up with the years and there would be no telling who was priest at any given time. It would also make sense if the first division started at the start of the year which would place Christ's birth in August or September, or if it was the second term in February. Some say that Zechariah was in the temple at the day of Pentecost, the 8th week, but I mathed that math and it came out to Jesus being conceived roughly at December 25th, not being born. I also heard that the day Zechariah was in the temple was the day of Atonement, because there was a multitude outside the temple, they think that it was not a regular temple day, but most have been a holy day, the day of Atonement. However it says “One day while Zechariah’s **division was on duty** and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.”(Luke 1:8-9) It sounds to me that this was the week he's division was on duty, but they cast lots to determine who out of all the people in that division should serve that term. It seem he served a week based on Luke 1:23 “And when the days of his service were complete, he returned home.” Also I am not sure if this theory is also considering the period starting on the 9th of Av theory, but If so you can not get 8, one week terms between the 9th of Av and the day of Atonement, Tishri the 10th. It is 4 days after the 8th week ends. Even if we ignore the 9th of Av thing and say Zechariah was in the temple on the day of Atonement, this does not mean Jesus was born on December 25th because these clues only give a one month range, not a pacific day.

The Biblical account

Now let's see what clues the bible says about when Jesus was born. Here is a abbreviated account:

Luke 1: In the days of Herod,...there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, And his.....wife.... Elizabeth was barren,.... 8One day while Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.10And at the hour of the incense offering, the whole congregation was praying outside¹¹ Just then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah,^{....13}The angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John..... 17And he will go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah,.....to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”.....²⁰ you will be silent and unable to speak until the day this comes to pass,.....”²²When he came out and was unable to speak to them, they realized he had seen a vision in the temple..²³ And when the days of his service were complete, he returned home. ²⁴Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months,...” ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sentto a virgin...named....Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said,..... “Do not be afraid, Mary,.. ³¹.., you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.....

Matthew 1: ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child... ¹⁹Then Joseph.....was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph,do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will bring forth a Son....Jesus....” ²⁴Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel.....commanded him..... ²⁵and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.....

Luke 2: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.⁴ And Joseph went up from Galilee,...toBethlehem, ⁵ to be registered with Mary,...who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there,... she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the guest room.²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus,..... ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem.....(40 days after he was born Leviticus 12:3-4)³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord.....

Matthew 2: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem...behold, wise men....came to Jerusalem, ²...saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled,... ⁴And...gathered all the...scribes...together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵....They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:....” ⁶Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.....⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go....and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” ⁹....They departed; and behold, the star....went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was..... ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child..... And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³ Now when they had departed,...an angel...appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,...flee to Egypt,.... ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.....¹⁹ But when Herod died,...an angel...appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel,... ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod,... he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³....and lived in a city called Nazareth,

Luke 2:39 they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Clues from the Biblical account and dating the death of Herod

Here are the clues: He was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus, which was 27 B.C. – A.D. 14. And he was born during the reign of Herod the great, Who reign 37 BC – March April 4 BC. Most people say Jesus was born 6 BC – 4 BC. Since Herod killed all the male children who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men,(Matthew 2:16)

So dating the death of Herod is key to dating the birth of Jesus since he had to be born before Herod died, since Jesus was born before he died, although we do not know how long before he died from bible. It does say the children under 2 where killed in Bethlehem, “according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men” but Herod could have died way after he killed the children in Bethlehem since we do not know how long Joseph was in Egypt, also it probably was less then 2 years since the wise men saw the star because Herod wanted to be extra sure that He would be killed, also the wise men could have first seen the star when he was conceived or sometime before he was born. Furthermore, Herod may have died in 1 BC. The date of his death is based on a lunar eclipse Flavius Josephus mentions before the death of Herod, must people say this was the partial lunar eclipse of March 13th 4 BC, But there where 2 other eclipses to consider during this time that where visible from Judea. A total lunar eclipse in January 10th 1 BC and A partial lunar eclipse in December 29th 1 BC. If it where one of the 1 BC eclipses, this actually makes more sense in some ways for the timeline of Herod's death because Flavius Josephus mentions that Herod got sick right after the eclipse and

them mentions a lot of stuff happening before he died around the time of Passover. If it were in 4 BC there does not seem like enough time between March 13th and Passover for everything to happen, but if it was January 1 BC that would give plenty of time before Passover 1 BC or if it were December 1 BC that would place it at Passover 1 AD. This would also make more sense given the age of Jesus at his baptism and most of the ancient sources give dates between 3 BC and 1 AD.(more on that below) Emil Schürer did all the math and says Herod died in 4 BC and Filmer did all the math and says Herod died in 1 BC. Flavius Josephus says Herod reigned for 37 years, so when he died also determines when his reign started and all the time line involved. Apparently there are some textual variants of Flavius Josephus' writing.

Now Jesus was born at the time of the census. Luke 2:1-2 "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria." Now when was this census and when was Quirinius was governor of Syria? There is a census mention in AD 6 led by Quirinius. But this was only of Judea, not the whole [Roman] world, and, as mentioned above, Herod was definitely dead by AD 6, so it could not have been this census, critics however claim that this is a contradiction between Matthew and Luke, claiming that both can not be right because according the Matthew he was born before 4 BC and according to Luke has was born in AD 6. first of all these dating methods are not 100% reliable, I think historians trust sources like Josephus more than the bible and if there is a contradiction they say the bible is wrong and Josephus is right. Second, it says it was the first census when Quirinius was governing of Syria, so the census of AD 6 was probably the second, (one of these censuses is mentioned in acts 5:37) Clement of Alexandria says:"And our Lord was born in the twenty-eighth year(AD1), when first the census was ordered to be taken in the reign of Augustus" and according to some sources Quirinius was governor twice, once in 2BC and again in AD 6-12. this would mean that Jesus must have been born in 2 BC.⁽⁸⁾ Apparently he is not directly mentioned as being governor in 2 BC, but there are gaps in the record and the order of governors is not clear but if you do some math it might come out to Quirinius being governor in 2 BC. More info on page 5 of: <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/2012/PSCF12-12Nollet.pdf>

Another thing to consider is that it does seem unlikely that they would have the census in late December when it was cold and wet. Also people say that shepherds would be not be watching there sheep by night in the winter, but put them in pens or caves. However Jacob is mentioned watching his sheep in frost (Genesis 31:40).

But there are more clues in the bible:

Luke 3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea.....² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching.....²¹: Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized.... ²³: Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age,..." Verse 23 could mean 2 things -ESV "Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph,..."Or, Literal Standard Version "And Jesus Himself was beginning to be about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, Son of Joseph,..." "his ministry" is not found in the Greek. Tiberius Caesar Reigned from September A.D.14 to A.D.37, so the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar would be A.D. 29 (or late 28). if Jesus was 29, then that would place his birth in 1 or late 2 BC, or if he was 30 he was born in 2 or late 3 BC. If this is talking about when Jesus started his ministry, then depending on how much time John the baptist preached before Jesus started his ministry, and assuming "about" means exactly, he would have been born in 2 B.C. In AD 195 Clement of Alexandria says about this passage "It is written in the Gospel by Luke as follows: "And in the fifteenth year, in the reign of Tiberius Caesar, the word of the Lord came to John, the son of Zacharias." And again in the same book: "And Jesus was coming to His baptism, being about thirty years old, " and so on. And that it was necessary for Him to preach only a year, this also is written: "He hath sent Me to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." This both the prophet spake, and the Gospel. Accordingly, in 15 years of Tiberius and 15 years of Augustus; so were completed the 30 years till the time He suffered. And from the time that He suffered till the destruction of Jerusalem are 42 years and 3 months; and from the destruction of Jerusalem to the death of Commodus, 128 years, 10 months, and 3 days."

Ancient sources

I found 10 ancient sources for Christ's birth before 526. all but one give a year in the 3BC – AD1 range. See table below and footnotes on next page. Some of these are not from reliable sources.

180 Irenaeus of Gaul (present day France) says “About the 41st year of the reign of Augustus” The 41st year would be from March 15th 4 BC – March 15th 3 BC.

180 or 190? Theophilus of Caesarea. says “We ought to celebrate the birthday of Our Lord on what day soever the 25th of December shall happen.” This is not a reliable source. Only some bias catholic guys make this claim who are quoting from what is probably a 600s forgery from Ireland(9)

195 Clement of Alexandria, says Egypt, Gives a year for Christ's birth and 3 dates that people were saying he was born. He says “From the birth of Christ, therefore, to the death of Commodus are, in all, a hundred and ninety-four years, one month, thirteen days.(November 18, 3 BC) And there are those who have determined not only the year of our Lord's birth, but also the day; and they say that it took place in the twenty-eighth year of Augustus, and in the twenty-fifth day of Pachon(May 20 AD 1).....others say that He was born on the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth of Pharmuthi”(April 19 or 20) Note that people were speculating the day of his birth and coming to different dates but none of them were December 25th. If Jesus was born on December 25th you would think that it would be a date speculated here, but Clement never heard of it. However it is possible that it was just not known in Egypt where he lived.

211 Hippolytus of Rome. says “For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when he was born in Bethlehem, was 8 days before the Kalends of January (December 25th), the fourth day (Wednesday), while Augustus was in his 42nd year,(3BC) but from Adam, 5,500 years.”(Commentary on Daniel section 4:23) However this version may have been corrupted by someone later adding in details, other versions just say: “For the first appearance of our Lord in the flesh took place in Bethlehem, under Augustus, in the year 5500” So this is not a reliable source.

221 Julius Africanus of Jerusalem. His original writings, a Chronology of history from creation, are lost to history and only fragments remain, none of which contain the mention of Christ's birth, but that is quoted by other secondary sources, Who say that he placed Jesus' conception on March 25th. 9 months later would be December 25th. Conceived March 25th 1 BC

313 Eusebius of Caesarea. says “It was the 42nd year of the reign of Augustus but the 28th from the subjugation of Egypt and the death of Antony and Cleopatra which terminated the dynasty of the Ptolemies, when, according to prophetic prediction, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the same year when the first census was taken and Quirinius was governor of Syria.” Ok so by combining the 42nd year of the reign of Augustus and the 28th year after the death of Antony and Cleopatra it gives us a range from August 3 BC to March 2 BC. Now Eusebius wrote the Ecclesiastical history of the Church from the birth of Christ to the council of Nicaea , Now in all his research and access to ancient sources you would think he could tell us the day of the year, but he does not. Now there are no reliable sources of anyone claiming that Jesus was born on December 25th before the time of Eusebius. Now Julius Africanus says he was conceived on March 25th and Eusebius quotes from Julius

years of writings are guesses.			
Irenaeus ¹	180	“ About the 41 st year of the reign of Augustus”	-4
<i>Theophilus of Caesarea</i> ²	190	December 25 th	
Clement of Alexandria ³	195	18 November	-3
(Mentioned by Clement)	195	20 May	1
(Mentioned by Clement)	195	19-21 April	
Hippolytus of Rome ⁴	211	25 December* ^a	-3
Julius Africanus ⁵	221	Conceived March 25 th	-1
Eusebius ⁶	313	August -3 – March -2	-2
The Chronography of 354 AD ⁷	354	8 Kalends of January (December 25 th)	
Augustine ⁸	400	12/25/25	
Donatists ⁹	400	12/25/25	
On Solstices and Equinoxes ¹⁰	450 ?	Conceived March 25 th	
Dionysius Exiguus	525		1

*Footnotes on page 7

Africanus, So he would have been aware of this. My point is that every one before 354 was not sure of the date of Christ's birth, and gave different guesses, one of which is for the conception on March 25th but that was not said by anyone else. Until...

The Chronography of AD 354 of Rome says “8 Kalends of January (December 25th): Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea.”

400 Augustine of Hippo (in present day Algeria) says “For He is believed to have been conceived on the 25th of March, upon which day also He suffered; so the womb of the Virgin, in which He was conceived, where no one of mortals was begotten, corresponds to the new grave in which He was buried, wherein was never man laid, neither before nor since. But He was born, according to tradition, upon December the 25th. ”(On the Holy Trinity, chapter 50, also mentions it in Expositions on the Book of Psalms, chapter 158:8:14)

And the traditional date for Christ's birth has been December 25th ever since the 400s.

Conclusion

The AD dating system was not used until AD 525.

Jesus was born between 3BC and 1 AD. according to the ancient sources and the biblical timeline.

He was born before Herod the Great died, Herod died within a couple months after a lunar eclipse in 1 BC, although some say it was the one in 4 BC

The December 25th date is based on some assumptions of when the priest periods began, which dates the conception of John the baptist and Jesus. Combined with the theory of Jesus being conceived on the same day of the year he died and/or being born right after the winter solstice.

The most likely date for Jesus to be born is August 3BC through January 2BC or March through May 2BC. But I said in Prove it post #3 that I would fix the calendar and get rid of the pagan names of the month. So January 1 AD 1 is not the place to start a calendar because Jesus was not born on that day. But since we could not prove a actual date, I think the spring equinox is the most senseable day to start the year. We will move AD 1 to 2 BC, So the calendar will start March 21st 2 BC, be we will rename the pagan month to 1st month 2nd month and so on. But in Latin: Unoember, 31 days. Duoember, 31 days. Triember, 30 days. Quadember, 30 days. Quinember, 31 days. Hexember, 30 days. September, 30 days. October, 31 days. November 30 days. December 30 days, Undecember 31 days. And Duodecember 30 days, every 4 years 31 days except every 100 years.

Time table footnotes:

1 “About the 41st year of the reign of Augustus” *Against Heresies. Book 3, Chapter 21, Section 1*

2 some bias catholic guys claim in 190 Theophilus of Caesarea said we should celebrate the Lord's birth day on December 25th. Although it seems that they are quoting from a forgery form the 600s. Someone who clams that:https://www.dec25th.info/Loosing%20the%20Riddle%20of%20Clement%20Alexandria's%20Dates%20for%20the%20Nativity.%20Baptism.%20Passion.%20and%20Epiphany%20of%20Christ.html#_ftnref2

Someone who opposes it: <https://www.roger-pearse.com/weblog/tag/magdeburg-centuries/> (note, I did not read all of this)

3 (*Stromata Book 1, chapter XXI almost to XXII*)

4 Hippolytus of Rome: Commentary on Daniel, Book 4:23

*a According to some versions. Like:https://www.pergrazia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/0205_hippolytus_commentary-on-daniel_2010.pdf

Page 140. According to other versions he only says the years since Adam:

<https://churchwritings.com/reader/hippolytus-the-extant-works-and-fragments-of-hippolytus?lang=en&ver=0&pos=21-5-3>

5 No primary sores, apparently mentioned by Mosshammer

6https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/chronography_of_354_12_depositions_martyrs.htm

7 Section 3. XIII

8Augustine- On the Holy Trinity, chapter 50, also Expositions on the Book of Psalms, chapter 158:8:14

<https://churchwritings.com/reader/augustine-on-the-holy-trinity?lang=en&ver=0&pos=50-1-3>

<https://churchwritings.com/reader/augustine-expositions-on-the-book-of-psalms?lang=en&ver=0&pos=158-2-1>

9 citation needed. apparently Augustine wrote against them but I could not find a primary source. Mention in the website listed next

10 citation needed. Mentioned with no proof in <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/how-december-25-became-christmas/#note07>

Article footnotes:

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republican_calendar

2 <https://www.livescience.com/45510-anno-domini.html>

3 <https://www.sefaria.org/Taanit.29a.12?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en>

4 *The wars of the Jews. Book 6. 4:5 (250)*

5 <http://www.cgsf.org/dbeattie/calendar/?hebrew=3757>

6 *Expositions on the Book of Psalms, chapter 158:8:14* <https://churchwritings.com/reader/augustine-expositions-on-the-book-of-psalms?lang=en&ver=0&pos=158-2-1>

7 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priestly_divisions

8 Jack Finegan's Handbook of Biblical Chronology Tables 146 and 147

9 <https://www.roger-pearse.com/weblog/tag/magdeburg-centuries/>