

## The Twelve Questions of Advent Quiz



1. What does the word “advent” mean? (the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event)
2. What is the difference between “Advent” (capital “A”) and “Nativity” (capital “N”) ? (Advent refers to a season of the Christian church; Nativity refers specifically to the birth of Jesus.)
3. True or False: Advent, which leads up to Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>, constitutes the *first* season of the Christian church year. (True)
4. The account of Jesus’ birth is recorded in which of the Gospels? (Matthew and Luke)
5. What is the name of the angel who spoke to John the Baptist’s father, Zacharias, and to Jesus’ mother, Mary, to announce the coming births of John and Jesus? (Gabriel)
6. True or False: We know that John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins. (False. They are often presumed to be cousins because of the biological relationship we are told their mothers [Elizabeth and Mary] had, but we do not know for certain what their exact relationship was.)
7. Which ruling Roman Caesar ordered the census that required Joseph to take Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem so as to register for it? (Augustus)
8. What Hebrew king is associated with Jesus’ birthplace, Bethlehem, and what is that city also called? (David—Bethlehem is also referred to as the City of David.)
9. One Gospel account of the nativity mentions angels announcing Jesus’ birth to shepherds, who then go to visit the baby. The other account mentions something else instead. What is that something else? (the visit of magi, or Wise Men, from the East)
10. Herod is mentioned as being “king of Judea” when Jesus was born. Of the six Herods named in the New Testament, which Herod figures in the nativity story: Herod Archelaus, Herod Antipas, Herod the Great, Herod Philip, Herod Agrippa I, Herod Agrippa II? (Herod the Great)
11. True or False: George Frideric Handel’s famous oratorio *Messiah* premiered in Dublin, Ireland, as the composer’s offering for the Advent season. (False—*Messiah* was originally intended as an offering for Easter, though it did premiere in Dublin, in 1742.)
12. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, which *Peanuts* cartoon character recites the account of the Nativity, and from which Gospel does that character quote? (Linus, quoting Luke)