

## Where In The Bible?

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by Bill Crews

**QUESTION:** Where in the Bible does it say that the tree whose forbidden fruit was eaten by Eve, then Adam, was an apple tree?

**ANSWER:** The tree is described as “*the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*” (Genesis 2:16-17) and as “*the tree which is in the midst of the garden*” (Genesis 3:3), but it is neither described nor identified. That it was an apple tree is mere groundless speculation, but such speculation can become more ingrained into the minds of people than any Bible truth. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil probably disappeared from the earth.

**QUESTION:** Where in the Bible is the birthday of Jesus revealed and called “Christmas”?

**ANSWER:** Nowhere in the Bible is the time of the birth of Jesus revealed, nor is the word “Christmas” used of anything. The word “Christmas” was derived by combining the words “Christ” and “mass,” the Roman Catholic word for a celebration of “the Lord’s supper.” The Bible says nothing of “masses,” and the Bible does not identify the time of the birth of Christ. We do not even know the month, let alone the day of the month. All the evidence given actually stands opposed to a winter date. December 25th was arbitrarily chosen without any supporting evidence. It was, however influenced by a pagan celebration of the winter solstice. Christians in the first century had no annual celebrations of anything unless they were influenced by Judaizing false teachers (see Galatians 4:8-11).

**QUESTION:** Where in the Bible are we told that three wise men came to the stable on the night of the birth of Jesus and saw the babe in a manger?

**ANSWER:** In Luke 2 (the only chapter giving an account of the birth of Jesus) we are told about the shepherds coming to the stable on that night and seeing the babe in a manger (verses 8-16). The visit of the “*wise men*” (the Bible does not say how many — that is only conjectured from the three kinds of gifts they brought) is related in Matthew 2, and came some time **after** the birth of Jesus, not on the night of His birth (see Matthew 1:25—2:1). The wise men did **not** come to a stable and find a babe lying in a manger. They rather came “*into*” a “*house*” in Bethlehem and saw “*the young child with Mary His mother*” (verse 11 ). As much as two years could have passed since the birth of Jesus (verses 7 and 16). All the events of Luke 2:21-38 occurred **after** the visit of the shepherds and before the visit of the wise men.

**QUESTION:** Where in the Bible do we find preachers called “pastors” and addressed with the title “Reverend”?

**ANSWER:** We do not find it anywhere. Preachers are referred to as “*evangelists*” (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5) and “*ministers of the gospel*” (Colossians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 3:5; Ephesians 3:6-7). The only place that “pastors” are mentioned in our English translations is Ephesians 4:11. The same Greek word used there is everywhere else translated “*shepherds*.” The Greek word is **POIMEN**; the word “*pastors*” is from a Latin word meaning “shepherds.” “*Pastors*” are “*shepherds*,” and the shepherds of the New Testament are clearly those men referred to as “*elders*” or “*bishops*” (see Acts 20:17, 28-30; 1 Peter 5:1-4 — these men had “*flocks*” to “*shepherd*” and were reminded of the Chief Shepherd (Christ) to whom they would answer). Each congregation had its own elders/bishops/pastors or shepherds (Acts 20:17; Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23). One man is nowhere described as “*the pastor*” of a congregation. Matthew 23:5-12 forbids such religious titles as “*reverend*,” “*master*” and “*father*.”

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