

**8. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?**

- 10 miles
- 50 miles
- 100 miles
- 500 miles

**9. What was the shepherds' first reaction when an angel of the Lord appeared to them?**

- They began dancing with joy
- They ignored the angels because they were tired
- They were terrified
- All of the above
- None of the above

**10. What is a traditional living Nativity celebration called in Mexico?**

- Feliz Navidad
- Las Posadas
- Nochebuena
- All of the above
- None of the above

**ANSWERS:**

**1. False** - The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. When Christmas Day is on a Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent is on a Sunday, so there are four full weeks to the season. If Christmas is on any other day, the total number of Advent days will vary between 22 and 27.

**2. A perfume** - In numerous places in the Old Testament, such as Genesis 37:25 and Exodus 30:23, myrrh is mentioned as a rare perfume with intoxicating qualities. Myrrh is also mentioned in the New Testament as one of the three gifts the magi presented to the Christ Child (Matthew 2:11).

**3. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** - In "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," Charles Wesley wonderfully captured the anticipation of the people of Israel who longed hundreds of years for the coming of the Messiah. **4. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream** - Like the angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, an angel of the Lord reassured Joseph in a dream that he could trust God's plan; the baby his new wife carried was the Messiah.

**5. A Christmas truce' went into effect between British and German soldiers** - In World War I, a series of temporary ceasefires along the Western Front saw groups of British and German soldiers emerging from foxholes to exchange greetings, presents and sing carols for a period of about 48 hours beginning Dec. 24. **6. All of the above** - How fruitcake became associated with Christmas, no one knows for sure. One possibility is that due to its long shelf life, it could be sent as a gift to friends and relatives far from home. Others say it was often given to carolers in 19th century England.

**7. John Wesley** - Methodism's founder John Wesley created Watch Night services in 1740, presumably as an alternative to times of drunken revelry such as Christmas Eve. It is included in the United Methodist Book of Worship. **8. 100 miles** - The Gospel of Luke tells us that Gabriel visited **Mary in Nazareth** (Luke 1:26), telling her she would give birth to Jesus. Mary then traveled to the home of her relative Elizabeth, who Luke tells us lived in the hill country of Judea (Luke 1:39). Tradition says that Elizabeth and Zechariah probably lived in or near the city of Hebron, nearly 100 miles from Nazareth.

**9. They were terrified** - *Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.* --Luke 2:8-9 (CEB)

**10. Las Posadas** - *Posada* is Spanish for "lodging", or "shelter." The plural term refers to a nine-day celebration, a living Nativity scene, with a procession which includes people portraying Joseph and Mary, who knock on doors seeking shelter. The nine days represent the nine months of Mary's pregnancy carrying Jesus.



# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS QUIZ

See how many you can answer without looking at the answers.

**1. True or False: Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.**

- True
- False

**2. One of the Wise Men gave the gift of myrrh, which is . .**

- Middle Eastern money
- A brewed drink
- An easily shaped metal
- A perfume
- Rare, expensive food

**3. Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley?**

- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
- Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
- O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- Hail to the Lord's Anointed

**4. Why did Joseph not divorce Mary after he found out she was pregnant?**

- Divorces 2,000 years ago were very expensive
- An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream
- He didn't want to lose the dowry
- All of the above
- None of the above

**5. What happened in December of 1914?**

- The first living Nativity scene was enacted
- Macy's held the first Christmas Parade featuring Santa Claus
- A 'Christmas truce' went into effect between British and German soldiers
- A Canadian inventor broadcast the first radio program, which included the carol "O Holy Night"
- Hallmark released its first series of holiday cards

**6. Which historic period(s) mention fruitcake?**

- Ancient Egypt
- Roman Empire
- Middle Ages
- Victorian England
- All of the above

**7. Who originated Watch Night services?**

- John the Baptist
- Martin Luther
- King Henry VIII
- John Wesley
- President William McKinley