

12-14-09

So, when was Jesus really born? The Bible tells us absolutely nothing about the date, although the fact there were shepherds outside, in the fields, might point to an April timeframe. Or maybe not. One Bible Commentary I read said it was late Summer, though without any evidence to back up that assertion. It doesn't get all that cold in that area, so maybe there were sheep outside in December. (The weather around Bethlehem is similar to that of Beaufort, in that there is snow once every so often, but it's not a usual thing.)

The choice of December 25 was as much a theological choice as anything, in that the date was chosen to say something important about God and Jesus. In the Northern Hemisphere, as we all know, the end of December is the darkest time of the year.

And just our world is darkest and bleakest, Jesus is born into the world, born to be, yes, the Light of the World.

The most important truth of Christmas is not the date when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but that He is born again and again into your heart and into mine. . . .

— Eric Lindblade