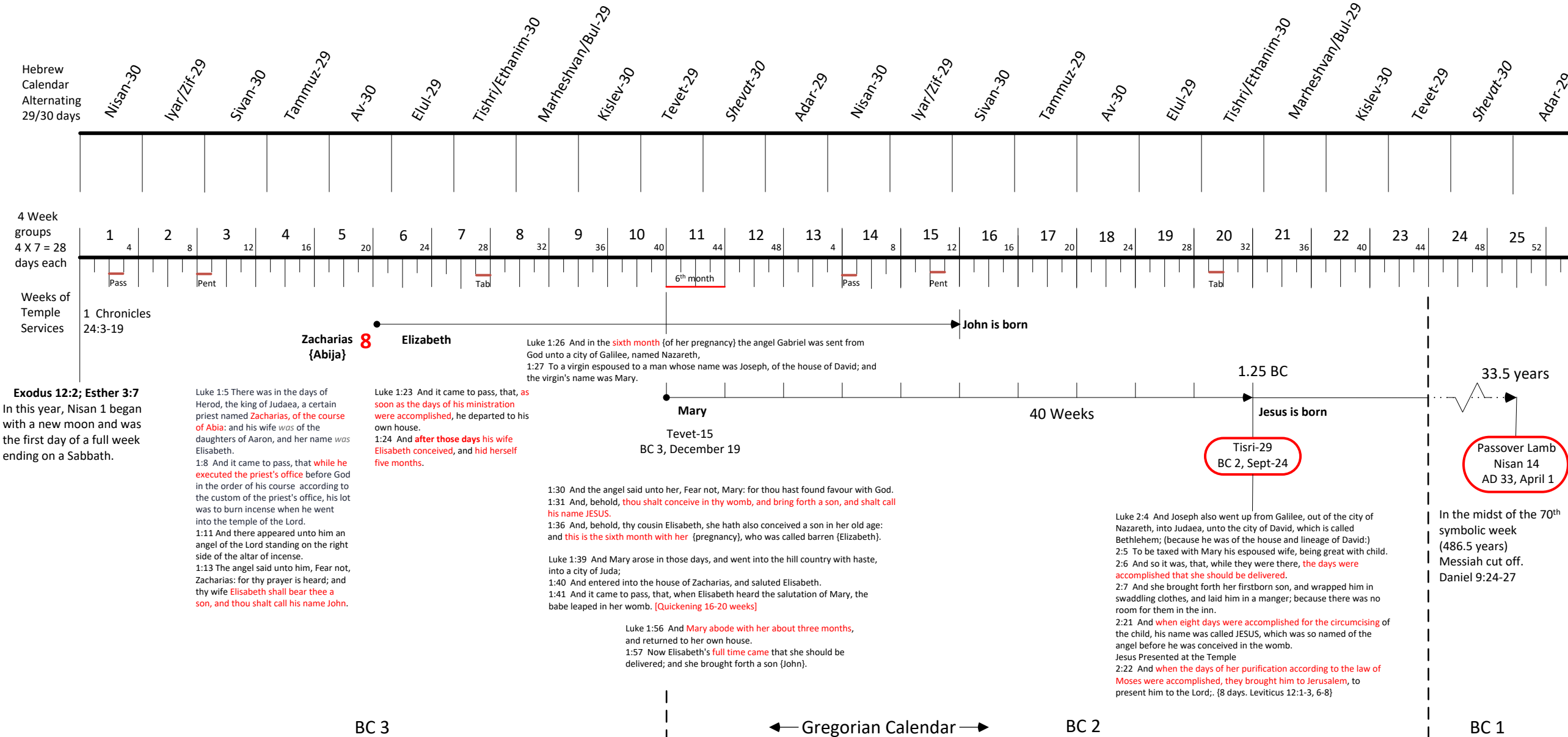




What we know:

The Gregorian calendar is reliable for marking solar years in AD and BC years.

The Hebrew calendar was based on lunar cycles beginning with each new moon, about 29.5 days.

Three times a year, all the priests served during the feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Deuteronomy 16:16

Early Hebrew calendars inserted an extra month to synchronize with solar years and seasons each 19 years.

The first new moon nearest the Spring equinox in BC 3 was on March 15 marking Nisan 1.

40 weeks of 7 days is known to be the gestation period to birth of 280 days.

Jesus died at the Passover in 33 AD, in the middle of the 70th week of the Daniel 9:26-27 prophecy.

Jesus must have been born near to October, BC 2, and begotten late December BC 3 in Elizabeth's 6th month pregnancy.

Assumptions regarding Abijah's 8th course of service in 1 Chronicles 24:10:

That these priestly cycles of temple service began with Nisan: Exodus 12:2; Esther 3:7.

Jewish opinion is that service was 1 week, based on 2 Kings 11:9; 1 Chronicles 9:25 and 2 Chronicles 23:8, serving twice in a year.

Otherwise, if serving for 2 weeks, they served one time each year.

48 weeks of Priest services were less than 12 Lunar months, and 12 Lunar months are less than a Solar Year.

We know of no way to exactly determine the week of Zecharias' 8th course of service in any year, as days, weeks or months were added to the Lunar Calendar to synchronize solar years. Furthermore, rotation with shift changes occurred on Sabbath days.

Except for being after Zecharias' temple service, we do not know the exact day or week for Elizabeth's conception to measure precisely to John's birth.

Mary's visit to Elizabeth may have been on the first day of her 6th month of pregnancy or somewhat later in the month.