**10-QUESTION QUIZ: BORN TO DIE**

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1. QUESTION: What family relationship did Elizabeth have with Mary?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Daring Character*, page 32, footnote 161.)

* 1. The Scriptures never clarify the family relationship between Mary and Elizabeth.
  2. The Greek word *sunggenís* (süng-gĕn-ĭ́s),[[1]](#footnote-1) used by the angel in Luke 1:36 to refer to Elizabeth’s relationship to Mary, means “female blood-relative,” not cousin or aunt as erroneously rendered by some translations.

1. QUESTION: At what age did Joseph and Mary become engaged?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Mary Was Engaged to Joseph*, page 39, footnote 203.)

* 1. The Scriptures do not specify the age at which Mary or Joseph became engaged.
  2. Such marriage engagements typically took place when about eighteen years old.[[2]](#footnote-2)
  3. Ten or twelve months usually passed between the time a couple officially promised themselves to one another and the wedding celebration.

1. QUESTION: How long had Joseph and Mary been married when they traveled to Bethlehem from Nazareth?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Census*, page 70.)

* 1. Luke disclosed that Joseph and Mary remained engaged, not yet married, when they left Nazareth to travel to Bethlehem (Luke 2:5).
  2. Nevertheless, while they traveled, Joseph cared for Mary and the unborn Child as a loving husband and father should.

1. QUESTION: In what vocation did Joseph and Jesus work?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Joseph the Craftsman*, pages 36-38.)

* 1. Joseph worked as a “craftsman.” Customarily, he would have trained Jesus to follow the same vocation[[3]](#footnote-3) and likely prepared Jesus’ younger brothers[[4]](#footnote-4) to work in the family business as well.
  2. The majority of translators utilize the word “carpenter” to convey the occupation of Joseph. *Xulourgós* (zü-lŏür-gŏ́s),[[5]](#footnote-5) the Greek word properly translated carpenter, literally means “wood worker.” Yet, no writer used *xulourgós* anywhere in the New Testament.
  3. Matthew employed the Greek word *téktonos* (tĕ́k-tŏn-ŏs)[[6]](#footnote-6) to describe Joseph’s trade. *Téktonos* forms the genitive[[7]](#footnote-7) case of the Greek noun *tékton* (tĕ́k-tōn),[[8]](#footnote-8) which means “craftsman.” Bystanders in Nazareth identified Jesus as a *tékton* (craftsman),[[9]](#footnote-9) not a *xulourgós* (wood worker).
  4. The work performed by a *tékton* (craftsman) could involve stone, wood, metal, or any combination of those materials, depending on the context in which a writer employed the word. Luke referred to the silversmiths in Ephesus as craftsmen,[[10]](#footnote-10) calling them *teknítais* (tĕk-nĭ́-täĭs),[[11]](#footnote-11) the plural of *teknítas* (tĕk-nĭ́-tās),[[12]](#footnote-12) a close synonym of *tékton*.
  5. Since no biblical text mentions the exact material with which Joseph or Jesus worked, anyone who identifies them as carpenters has done so based on legend. Instead, consider the environmental and cultural contexts of their day.
  6. In ancient Judea, a *tékton* (craftsman) utilized stone to fabricate buildings,[[13]](#footnote-13) city walls,[[14]](#footnote-14) houses,[[15]](#footnote-15) animal troughs,[[16]](#footnote-16) water pots,[[17]](#footnote-17) millstones,[[18]](#footnote-18) and numerous other commodities.[[19]](#footnote-19) They found stone readily available and inexpensive, while craft-quality wood remained a rare and expensive material. Considering these facts, Joseph and Jesus probably worked as common stone craftsmen, not as prosperous wood craftsmen skilled in fine artistic design.[[20]](#footnote-20)

1. QUESTION: How many Magi traveled to visit Jesus?

ANSWER: Neither the Scriptures nor any credible history reveal how many Magi traveled to visit Jesus.

1. QUESTION: From what Eastern empire did the Magi travel to visit Jesus?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Parthian Empire and the Magi*, page 78.)

* 1. The Parthian Empire.
  2. By the time of Jesus’ birth, the Parthian Empire and the Roman Empire had positioned themselves as superpower rivals. Parthia had conquered the Asian lands in the East extending from Syria to India, and Rome ruled the Western regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

1. QUESTION: On what date did Mary give birth to Jesus?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Date of Jesus’ Birth*, pages 103-104.)

* 1. No one knows.
  2. Each year, many Christians observe December 25 as Jesus’ birthday. Yet, the Scriptures do not divulge the date of Jesus’ birth, nor does God direct an annual celebration of that day.

1. QUESTION: Why did the Magi give frankincense and myrrh to Jesus?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, heading *They Offered Him Gifts*, pages 109-115.)

* 1. The Magi’s gifts consisted of gold, frankincense, and myrrh – all of great worth. Frankincense and myrrh spices consisted of the dried sap of the frankincense and myrrh trees.
  2. Frankincense
     1. Frankincense brought a price more than its weight in gold due to its remote origin, limited availability, and numerous applications.
     2. Widely utilized as incense, a globule of frankincense placed directly on top of burning coals yielded a fragrant aroma.
     3. When distilled, frankincense resin yields a volatile oil. Makers of perfumes, lotions, creams, and soaps blended in frankincense oil with their other ingredients.[[21]](#footnote-21) Frankincense also served as a natural insecticide and insect repellant.
     4. Early Greeks and Romans utilized frankincense in various potions to treat a broad range of ailments. Muslim, Syrian, Indian, and Chinese writings mention it as an ingredient in assorted medicinal preparations. Physicians applied it topically to inflamed areas to reduce swelling. Taken internally, it eased intestinal blockage. When chewed, it reduced coughing and prevented bad breath. In addition, frankincense relieved irritated eyes when mixed with eyewashes.
  3. Myrrh
     1. Myrrh ranked close to frankincense in value, though a little less costly. Like frankincense, it rivaled the price of gold as one of the most expensive commodities in the ancient world due to its remote origin, limited availability, and numerous applications.
     2. Ancient civilizations burned myrrh as incense. They also added it to perfumes.
     3. Like frankincense, myrrh had an extensive list of ancient medicinal benefits. Physicians mixed it with topical ointments to heal wounds. Myrrh suppressed bleeding and aided in the extraction of foreign material from an open wound.

1. QUESTION: Why did John the Baptist wear camel hair clothing and eat locusts?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Camel Hair Clothing with a Skin Belt*, pages 153-154, and subheading *Locusts and Wild Honey*, pages 154-156.).)

* 1. Camel hair
     1. The country folk among whom John the Baptist lived wore camel hair clothing and ate locusts as part of their normal diet, as did John.
     2. As a camel shed its hair toward the end of spring, weavers collected long, shaggy strands from its back, hump, and neck. They then threaded the hair into an economical, bristly material.
     3. Camel drivers and shepherds in Eastern countries wear camel hair garments to this day.
  2. Locusts
     1. John the Immerser maintained eating habits as rural as the manner in which he dressed.
     2. He ate as other inhabitants of the Judean Desert, dining on a variety of foods including locust and honey.

1. QUESTION: About how many miles does the Jordan River run from its source to the Dead Sea?

ANSWER: (See *Born to Die*, subheading *Route of the Jordan River*, page 162.)

* 1. The distance between the source and end of the Jordan River extends about 165 air miles.
  2. However, the Jordan River flows about 240 miles over a winding course between its beginning near Caesarea Philippi and termination at the Dead Sea.

1. *Sunggenís* (süng-gĕn-ĭ́s), suggeni/$)) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud*, Volume 1, Translated by Michael Rodkinson, New Talmud Publishing Company, 100 Boylston St., Boston, MA, USA, (1896, p. 133, Tract Aboth, Tosephtha-Aboth of R. Nathan, Mishna EE) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Matthew 12:46-47; 13:55-56; Mark 3:31-32; Luke 8:19-20; John 7:3-5,10 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Xulourgós* (zü-lŏür-gŏ́s), cu/luorgov$ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Téktonos* (tĕ́k-tŏn-ŏs), te/ktono$; Matthew 13:55 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Greek genitive grammatical case denotes possession or a relation similar to possession as in “the son ***of***the craftsman” (Matthew 13:55 Bagby Translation). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Tékton* (tĕ́k-tōn), te/ktwn [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Is this not the *craftsman*” (Mark 6:3 Bagby Translation). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Acts 19:24 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Teknítais* (tĕk-nĭ́-täĭs), texni/tai$ [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *Teknítes* (tĕk-nĭ́-tās), texni/th$ [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Luke 19:43-44 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. 1 Peter 2:4-5 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Luke 2:7,12,16; Ancient writers of English, 14th century A.D. and later, referred to an animal trough as a manger. For additional information regarding the animal troughs of ancient Israel, see *Chapter 5 – The Magi Meet Jesus, King of the Jews*, heading *The Star Stood above Where the Child Was (Matthew 2:9)*. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. John 2:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Matthew 27:60 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Joseph did not make a living as a wealthy craftsman. For more information regarding his financial resources, see *Chapter 4 – The Magi Meet Herod, King of Judea*, heading *His Star (Matthew 2:2)*, subheading *When Did the Magi Arrive in Bethlehem?*, subheading *Six-Week Time-Period*. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Song of Solomon 3:6-11 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)