

Rev Cramer's  
Annual Christmas Quiz

On The 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas...

Happy 2012

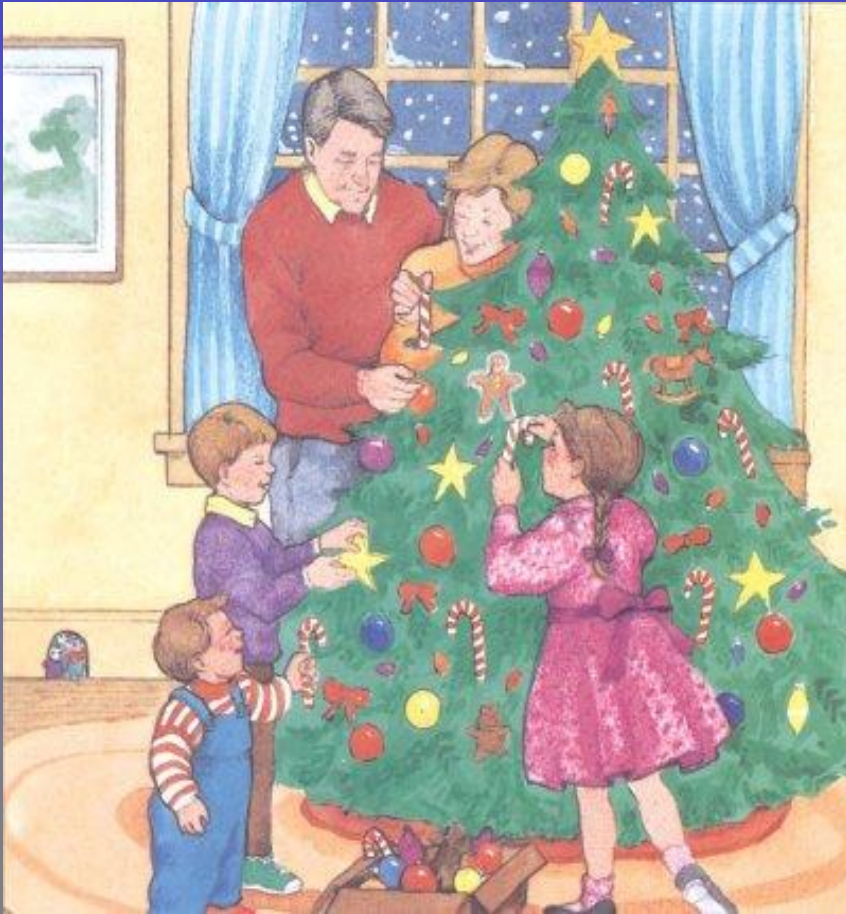
“Xmas” is used as an abbreviation for Christmas...



- A. In order to take Christ out of Christmas.
- B. Because abbreviations are common in human languages.
- C. Because “X” is the first letter of Christ in Greek.
- D. because it has been part of the English language for at least 1000 years.
- E. All except A.

Answer: E

# An early Christian celebration of Christmas is described...



- A. In the book of Acts.
- B. In Paul's letter to the Philippians.
- C. In Jude's letter to all Christians.
- D. All of the above.
- E. Nowhere in the Bible.

Answer: E

# Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem...



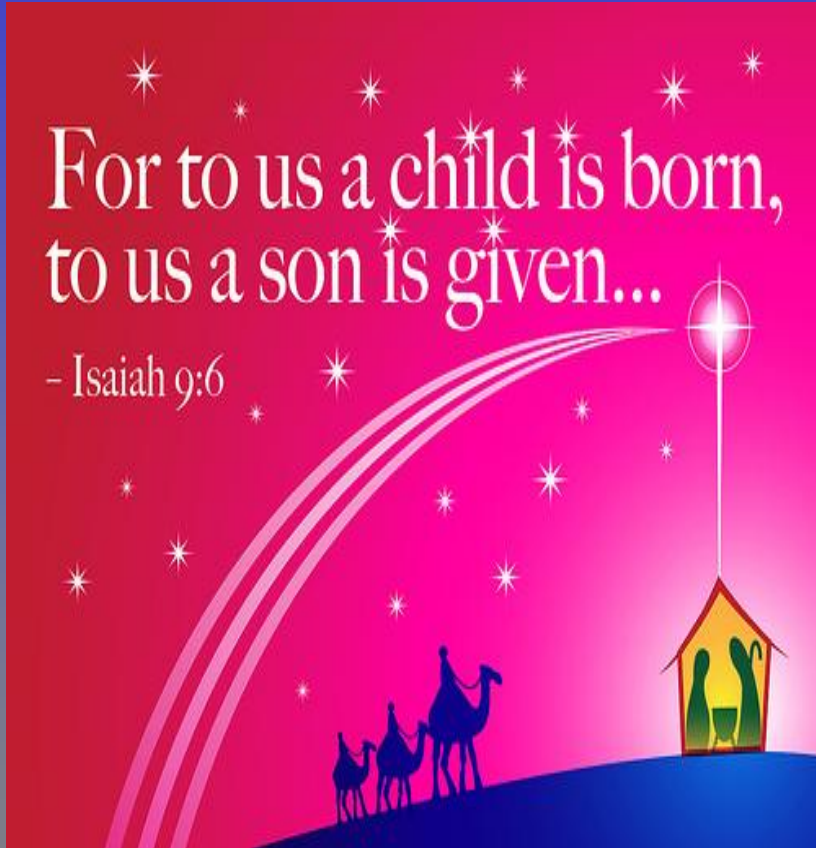
- A. For the annual feast of Stephen.
- B. Because Mary's donkey made a wrong turn at Jericho.
- C. But had to stay in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.
- D. Only in Luke's Gospel, in Matthew's Gospel they live there.

Answer: D

# The name “Jesus” means...

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given...

- Isaiah 9:6



- A. God is with us.
- B. God saves.
- C. Prince of Peace
- D. Wonderful Counselor.
- E. God is my father.

Answer: B

# John the Baptist's...



- A. Father was a priest in the Temple.
- B. Mother was named Sarah.
- C. Father was struck dumb because he did not believe what the angel told him and remained unable to speak until he wrote, "It is a miraculous thing God has done."
- D. Mother, at least according to Matthew, was related to Mary.

Answer: A



# Jesus was born...



- A. On a cold winter night.
- B. While all the animals gathered around the child as if they knew what was happening.
- C. In a cave according to Paul's letter to Philemon.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Answer: E

# The Wise Men...

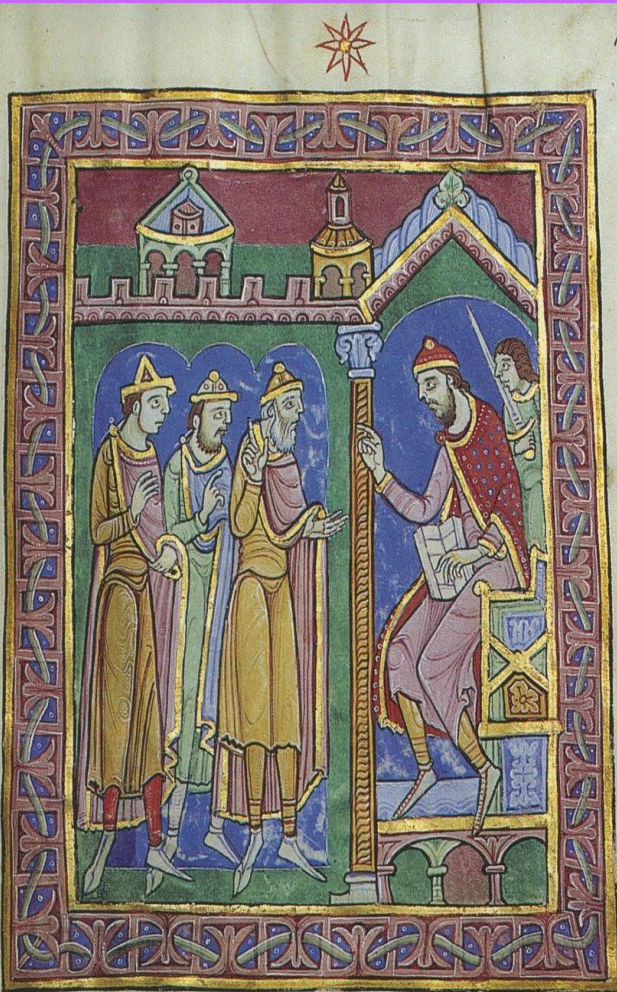


Answer: A

- A. Frightened King Herod and all of Jerusalem with their question about the child born king of the Jews.
- B. Were three kings from the East who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- C. Were told by an angel that the star proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.
- D. Went to see Jesus at the stable in Bethlehem.
- E. All of the above.

# King Herod...

- A. Was glad someone could finally interpret the star he had seen.
- B. Told the Wise Men the Messiah could be found in Bethlehem because he thought he was throwing them off the trail.
- C. Was angry that the Wise Men did not come back to tell him about the child, so he gave orders for all first born male children in Bethlehem to be killed.
- D. Died in 4 B.C., which means Jesus was probably born in 6-8 B.C.



Answer: D

# Joseph took his family to Egypt...



- A. To see the pyramids.
- B. Because he was warned about Herod in a dream.
- C. To fulfill the prophecy that God's son would be called out of Egypt.
- D. Then went to Nazareth rather than back to Bethlehem out of fear for Herod's son thus fulfilling the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean.
- E. All except A.

Answer: E

# The Shepherds...



- A. Were frightened by the angel who appeared to them.
- B. Understood the meaning of the star they had seen after the angel explained it to them.
- C. As they were returning to their flocks, met the Wise Men and gave them directions.
- D. Didn't say anything to anyone about what they had seen.
- E. All except C.

Answer: A

# The Angel...



- A. Told both Mary and Joseph to name their child Jesus.
- B. Who appeared to both John the Baptist's father and Mary was named Gabriel.
- C. Only appears in dreams in Matthew.
- D. Who appeared to the shepherds was named Harold.
- E. All except D.

Answer: E

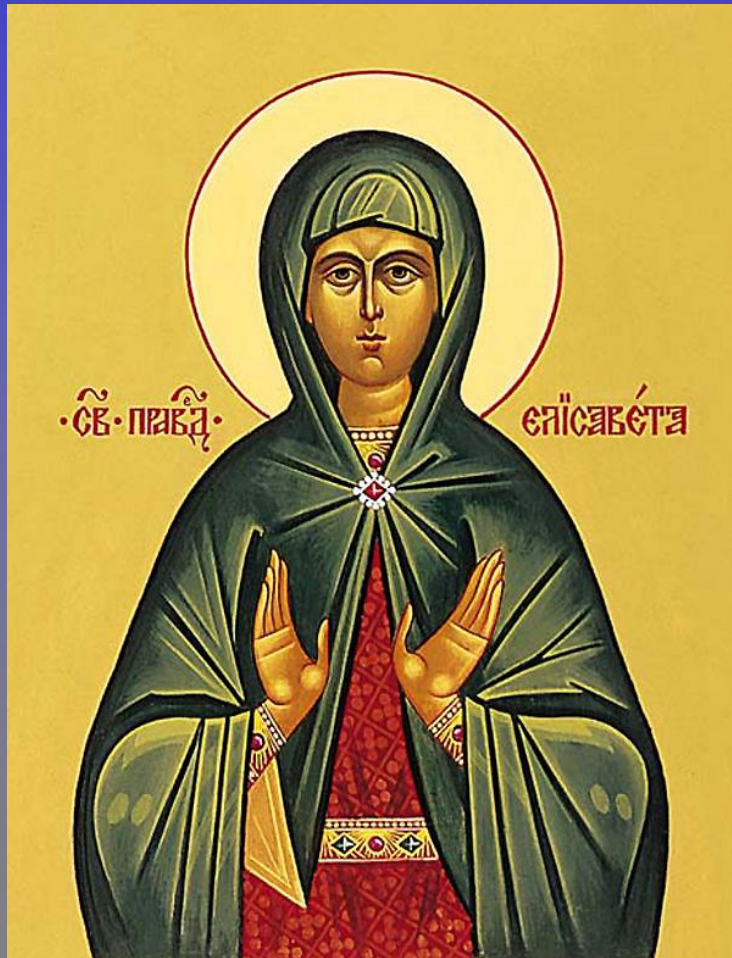
When the Angel appeared to Mary, she...



- A. Was already pregnant.
- B. Got so excited she sang a song.
- C. Fell off her chair.
- D. Said “Let it be with me according to your word.”
- E. All except C.

Answer: D

John the Baptist's mother was disgraced before she became pregnant because...



- A. She did not believe what the angel told her.
- B. She was old and childless.
- C. She was an adulteress.
- D. Her husband had “ring around the collar.”

Answer: B

# After Jesus was born...



- A. Mary and Joseph named him right away since they had been told he was to be called Jesus.
- B. He was presented in the Temple to a priest and priestess named Simeon and Anna who told everyone the child was the Messiah.
- C. His parents took him to Jerusalem so he could be in his Father's house.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Answer: E

# Matthew's Birth Story...



- A. Emphasizes that Jesus' birth occurred as prophesied.
- B. Emphasizes a divine pattern while tracing Jesus ancestry back to Abraham.
- C. Emphasizes Joseph's actions.
- D. Has many echoes of Old Testament stories.
- E. All of the above.

Answer: E

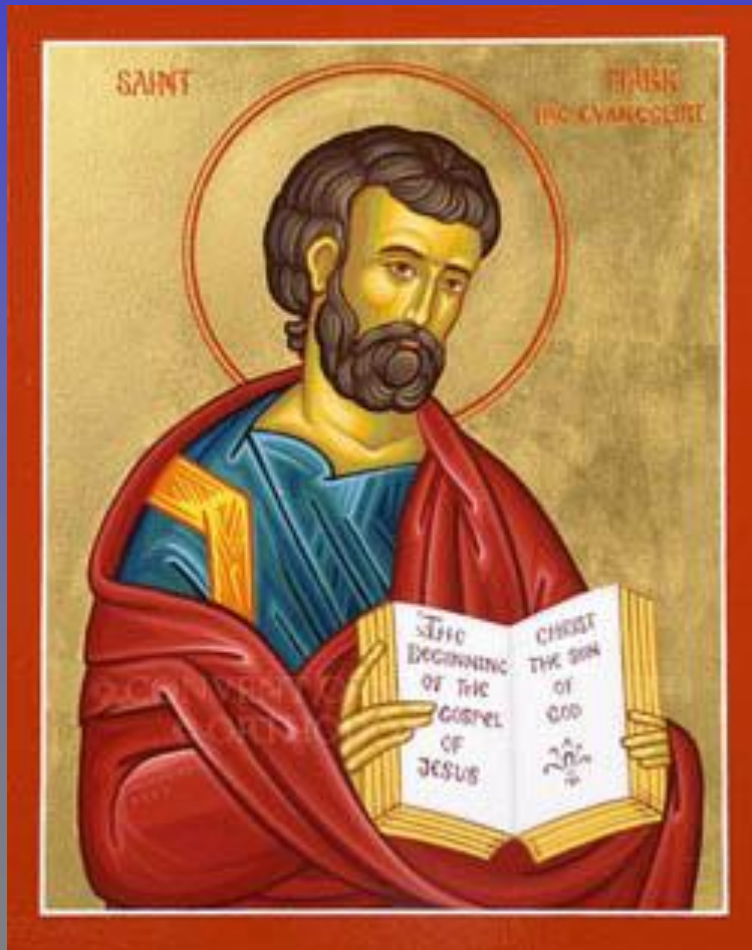
# Luke's Birth Story...



- A. Has the Wise Men going directly to Bethlehem rather than stopping in Jerusalem.
- B. Reports that Joseph was rather upset with Mary and wanted to break the engagement.
- C. Reports that Jesus will be called “Emmanuel, which means God is with us.”
- D. Traces Jesus ancestry back to God.
- E. All of the above.

Answer: D

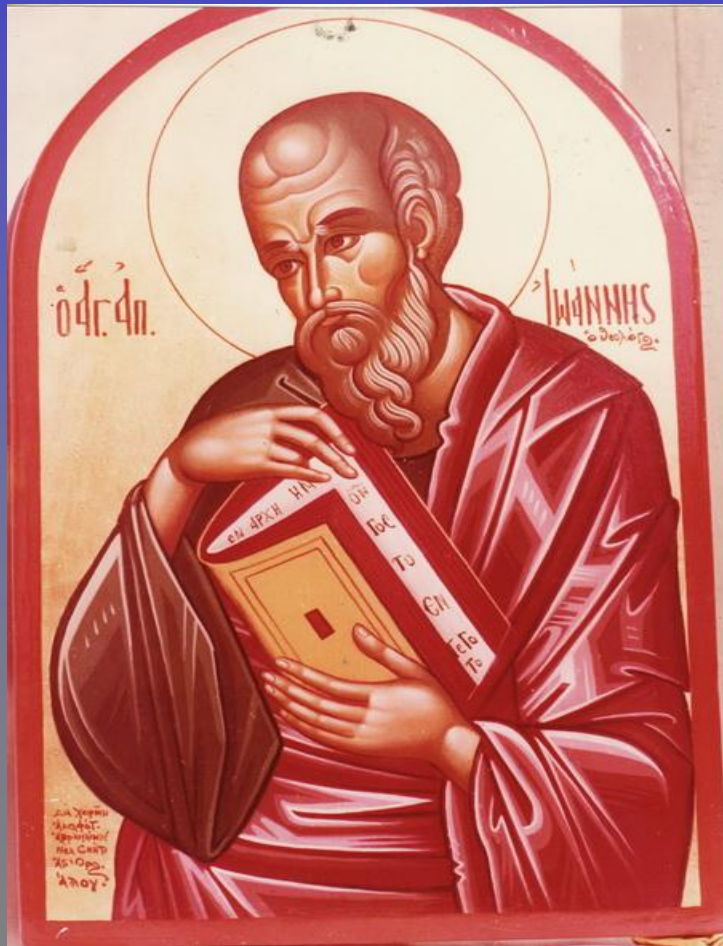
Although there is no birth story in Mark's Gospel, there is mention of...



- A. The virginal conception.
- B. Jesus being born in Bethlehem.
- C. Joseph as his father.
- D. None of the above.
- E. All of the above.

Answer: D

The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, and yet Christ was called Jesus of Nazareth. How does John's Gospel explain this?



- A. He doesn't.
- B. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up in Nazareth.
- C. Jesus' father was from Nazareth.
- D. Jesus went to live with relatives in Nazareth.

Answer: A

The birth narratives of Matthew and Luke are completely different, but do agree on some very important points.

List as many of these as you can.

1. The parents are to be Mary and Joseph who are formally bound together within the marriage process, but have not yet come to live together or had sexual relations (Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27,34).
2. Joseph is of Davidic descent (Mt 1:16, 20; Lk 1:27,32;2:4).
3. There is an angelic announcement of the child's forthcoming birth (Mt 1:20-23;Lk 1:30-35).
4. The conception of the child by Mary is not an accident of relations with her husband (Mt 1:20, 23, 25; Lk 1:34).
5. The conception is through the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:18, 20; Lk 1:35).

## Points Shared by the Narratives (cont.)

6. There is a directive from the angel that the child is to be named Jesus (Mt 1:21; Lk 1:31).
7. An angel states that Jesus is to be the Savior (Mt 1:21, Lk 2:11).
8. The birth takes place after the parents have come to live together (Mt 1:24-25; Lk 2:5-6).
9. The birth takes place in Bethlehem (Mt 2:1; Lk 2:4-6).
10. The birth is chronologically related to the reign (days) of Herod the Great (Mt 2:1; Lk 1:4).
11. The child is reared in Nazareth (Mt 2:23; Lk 2:39).

# Reflections

Both stories could be removed from the Gospels with no textual confusion.

Both narratives emphasize Jesus as Son of God from the moment of conception.

Portrayal of the physical birth underlines the true humanity of Jesus' origins.

The different approaches of the infancy narratives allows for three possibilities:

- Both maybe historical

- One may be historical; the other much freer

- Both may represent non-historical dramatizations

  - A divinely inspired story does not have to be historical

The infancy narratives are vehicles for the Evangelist's Theology.

Both stories are theological masterpieces: Explain whole Gospel in two chapters.