

Three Wise Decisions

December 22, 2024



How do you know when someone is truly wise?

1 Kings 3:10-12 (NLT) – “The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!”

1 Kings 3:28 (NLT) – “When all Israel heard the king’s decision, the people were in awe of the king, for they saw the wisdom God had given him...”

The Three Wise Women

1. _____.

Luke 1:5-7 (CEV) – “When Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest by the name of Zechariah from the priestly group of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was from the family of Aaron. **Both of them were good people and pleased the Lord God by obeying all that he had commanded.** But they did not have children. Elizabeth could not have any, and both Zechariah and Elizabeth were already old.”

_____ does not guarantee a _____.

John 16:33 (NIV) – “In this world you will have trouble.”

Luke 1:12-25 (NLT) – “When Zechariah saw him, he was shaken and overwhelmed with fear. But the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord... He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord.’”¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”¹⁹ Then the angel said, ‘I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.’²⁴ Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. ‘How kind the Lord is!’ she exclaimed. ‘He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.’”

Elizabeth was blessed because she chose _____.

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2. _____.

Luke 1:26-38 (NLT) – “In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible for God.” Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.’ And then the angel left her.”

_____ does not require _____.

Proverbs 20:24 (TLB) – “Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?”

Luke 1:45-49, 56 (NLT) – “You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said. Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.”

Mary was blessed because she chose _____.

3. _____.

Luke 2:22 (TLB) – “When the time came the purification offering at the Temple, as required by the laws of Moses after the birth of a child, his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”

Luke 2:36 -37 (TLB) – “Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple that day. She was the daughter of Phanuel, of the Jewish tribe of Asher, and was very old, for she had been a widow of eighty-four years following seven years of marriage. She never left the Temple but stayed there night and day, worshiping God by praying and often fasting.”

_____ is not defined _____.

Luke 2:38 (TLB) – “She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she also began thanking God and then telling everyone in Jerusalem who had been awaiting the coming of the Savior that the Messiah had finally arrived.”

Anna was blessed because she chose _____.

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