

WHO AM I?



A HINT

- **ISAIAH 53:[6] ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.
[7] HE WAS OPPRESSED, AND HE WAS AFFLICTED, YET HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH: HE IS BROUGHT AS A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER, AND AS A SHEEP BEFORE HER SHEARERS IS DUMB, SO HE OPENETH NOT HIS MOUTH.
[8] HE WAS TAKEN FROM PRISON AND FROM JUDGMENT: AND WHO SHALL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HE WAS CUT OFF OUT OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING: FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WAS HE STRICKEN.
[9] AND HE MADE HIS GRAVE WITH THE WICKED, AND WITH THE RICH IN HIS DEATH; BECAUSE HE HAD DONE NO VIOLENCE, NEITHER WAS ANY DECEIT IN HIS MOUTH.**

MORE CLUES...

- **HE WAS A VERY RICH MAN**
- **HE WAS RELATED TO JESUS**
- **HE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BURIAL OF JESUS**

I AM

- **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**

THE STORY OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

- **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA WAS A WEALTHY JEWISH MAN WHO BURIED THE BODY OF JESUS AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION.**
- **THERE ARE MANY LEGENDS ABOUT HIM, INCLUDING**
 - **ONE THAT HE VISITED BRITAIN WITH THE YOUNG JESUS, AND ANOTHER**
 - **THAT AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION HE BROUGHT THE HOLY GRAIL TO GLASTONBURY IN SOMERSET AND**
 - **ESTABLISHED THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH THERE.**

ARIMATHEA

- **THERE ARE VARYING OPINIONS OF ITS LOCATION**
- **BORN AT ARIMATHEA, OTHERWISE CALLED RAMETH, AND AFTERWARDS RAMULA.**
- **IT WAS A CITY FORMERLY ALLOTTED FOR THE LEVITES, AND SITUATED NEAR SOPHIM ON MOUNT EPHRAIM,**
- **NEAR THE CONFINES OF THE TRIBES OF BENJAMIN AND DAN**
- **NOTED FOR BEING THE BIRTH PLACE OF SAMUEL THE PROPHET, WHO HERE LIVED AND DIED, AND WAS BURIED.**



FAMILY AND EARLY LIFE

- **HE WAS BORN ABOUT EIGHT YEARS BEFORE JESUS**
- **FATHER MATTHIAS**
 - **NOBLE WITH A GREAT REPUTATION IN JERUSALEM**
 - **HIGHLY COMMENDED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- **BROTHER'S NAME WAS MATTHIAS**
- **VERY SCHOLARLY REPUTED TO HAVE BOTH A GREAT MEMORY AND UNDERSTANDING**
- **AT ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE**
 - **COMMENDED BY ALL FOR HIS LOVE OF LEARNING**
 - **THE HIGH PRIESTS AND PRINCIPAL MEN OF THE CITY CAME THEN FREQUENTLY TO KNOW MY OPINION ABOUT THE ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF POINTS OF THE LAW**

RELIGION

- **AT SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD HAD A DESIRE TO SEARCH AND UNDERSTAND THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF THE THREE SECTS OF THE JEWS**
 - **THE PHARISEES**
 - **THE SADUCEES**
 - **THE ESSEANS**
- **ADHERED TO THE PHARISEES DEDICATING HIMSELF TO AUSTERITIES AND LABOUR**
- **DID NOT FOLLOW THE VICES OF THE PHARISEES**
 - **NOT HYPOCRITICAL, JUST IN ALL HIS DEALINGS, PIOUS WITHOUT OSTENTATION, VERY CHARITABLE IN PRIVATE**
 - **OBTAINED THE PRAISE OF THE RICH, AND THE BENEDICTION OF THE POOR, WHERE-EVER HE WENT**
- **BECAME A SINCERE CONVERT OF JESUS**
 - **FOLLOWED IN ALL THE JOURNEYS WHICH HE TOOK THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF JUDEA AND GALILEE**

JOSEPH THE TIN MAN - NOBILIS DECURIO

- **JOSEPH HAD EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL AND BUSINESS ABILITY AND WAS REPUTEDLY**
 - **ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN IN THE WORLD OF THAT TIME.**
 - **A METAL MAGNATE CONTROLLING THE TIN AND LEAD INDUSTRY (EQUIVALENT TO STEEL TODAY)**
 - **HAD VAST HOLDINGS IN THE FAMOUS, ANCIENT TIN MINES OF BRITAIN.**
 - **OWNED ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE MERCHANT SHIPPING FLEETS AFLOAT**
- **THE LATIN VULGATE OF THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK 15:43, AND ST. LUKE 23:50,**
 - **REFERS TO JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA AS 'DECURIO'.**
 - **COMMON ROMAN TERM FOR AN OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF METAL MINES.**
- **TIN WAS THE CHIEF METAL FOR THE MAKING OF ALLOYS**
 - **IN GREAT DEMAND BY THE WARRING ROMANS.**
 - **THE WORLD'S MAJOR PORTION OF TIN WAS MINED IN CORNWALL,**
 - **SMELTED INTO INGOTS AND EXPORTED THROUGHOUT THE THEN KNOWN CIVILIZED WORLD,**

WAS JOSEPH RELATED TO JESUS?

- LUKE 23:[50] AND, BEHOLD, THERE WAS A MAN NAMED JOSEPH, A COUNSELLER; AND HE WAS A GOOD MAN, AND A JUST:
[51] (THE SAME HAD NOT CONSENTED TO THE COUNSEL AND DEED OF THEM;) HE WAS OF ARIMATHAEA, A CITY OF THE JEWS: WHO ALSO HIMSELF WAITED FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
[52] THIS MAN WENT UNTO PILATE, AND BEGGED THE BODY OF JESUS.
[53] AND HE TOOK IT DOWN, AND WRAPPED IT IN LINEN, AND LAID IT IN A SEPULCHRE THAT WAS HEWN IN STONE, WHEREIN NEVER MAN BEFORE WAS LAID. THE SENIOR MALE RELATIVE OF A CRUCIFIED PERSON WAS OBLIGED TO DEAL WITH THE BODY.
- **JESUS' FATHER WAS NO LONGER AROUND**
- **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA DID VOLUNTEER FOR THE TASK OF BURYING JESUS**
- **THIS SUGGESTS THAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN RELATED TO JESUS IN SOME IMPORTANT WAY.**

EARLY VISITS TO ENGLAND WITH THE YOUNG JESUS

ONE OF THE LEGENDS OF EARLY ENGLISH CHRISTIANITY IS THAT JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA VISITED THE WEST COUNTRY OF ENGLAND WITH THE TEENAGE JESUS.

BOTH SOMERSET AND CORNWALL CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN VISITED BY JOSEPH AND JESUS.

THE POEM BY WILLIAM BLAKE IS BASED ON THE SAME LEGEND, AND WAS SET TO MUSIC BY SIR HUBERT PARRY AS 'JERUSALEM':

*AND DID THOSE FEET IN ANCIENT TIME
WALK UPON ENGLAND'S MOUNTAINS GREEN?
AND WAS THE HOLY LAMB OF GOD
ON ENGLAND'S PLEASANT PASTURES SEEN?
AND DID THE COUNTENANCE DIVINE
SHINE FORTH UPON OUR CLOUDED HILLS?
AND WAS JERUSALEM BUILDED HERE
AMONG THOSE DARK SATANIC MILLS?*

JOSEPH AND THE SANHEDRIN

- **WAS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE SANHEDRIN,**
- **A LEGISLATIVE MEMBER OF A PROVINCIAL ROMAN SENATE.**
- **HAD A HIGH FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL STANDING**
 - **HE OWNED A PALATIAL HOME IN THE HOLY CITY**
 - **AND A FINE COUNTRY RESIDENCE JUST OUTSIDE JERUSALEM**
- **WAS WELL PLACED TO BEG THE BODY OF JESUS FROM PILATE**

EXODUS TO BRITAIN

- **THE SANHEDRIN WANTED TO GET RID OF JOSEPH**
- **HE AND 12 OTHERS WERE DISPOSED OF...**
- **CARDINAL BARONIUS, WRITES ABOUT THE EXODUS OF THE YEAR A.D. 36**
 - **HISTORIAN OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. CURATOR OF THE FAMOUS VATICAN LIBRARY,**

‘IN THAT YEAR THE PARTY MENTIONED WAS EXPOSED TO THE SEA IN A VESSEL WITHOUT SAILS OR OARS. THE VESSEL DRIFTED FINALLY TO MARSEILLES AND THEY WERE SAVED. FROM MARSEILLES JOSEPH AND HIS COMPANY PASSED INTO BRITAIN AND AFTER PREACHING THE GOSPEL THERE, DIED.’

ISLE OF AVALON

“REACHING ITS SHORES THE ILLUSTRIOUS BAND SAILED UP THE WATERWAY OF THE WEST, THE SEVERN SEA, UNTIL THEY CAME WITHIN SIGHT OF A LOFTY GREEN HILL, AS DEAN ALFORD WRITES, ‘MOST LIKE TO TABOR’S HOLY MOUNT’, KNOWN TO THIS DAY AS GLASTONBURY TOR. THEY MADE THEIR WAY UP THE ESTUARY OF THE BRUE AND THE PARROT, ARRIVING AT A CLUSTER OF ISLANDS ABOUT TWELVE MILES INLAND FROM THE COAST. THE MOST INSPIRING OF THESE WAS THE ‘SACRED ISLE OF AVALON’, ITS SHORES SHELTERED IN APPLE ORCHARDS. “

DRAMA OF THE LOST DISCIPLES G.F.JOWET

ARRIVAL AT GLASTONBURY (AVALON)

- FOLLOWING THEIR DISEMBARKATION THE TRAVELERS MADE THEIR WAY UP THE HILL
 - JOSEPH, WEARY FROM HIS TRAVEL, STOPPED TO REST, THRUSTING HIS STAFF INTO THE GROUND.
 - TRADITION SAYS THE STAFF BECAME PART OF THE EARTH, TAKING ROOT, AND IN TIME BLOSSOMED
 - HISTORICALLY IT IS KNOWN AS THE 'HOLY THORN'.
 - FROM ANCIENT TIMES IT IS REFERRED TO AS A PHENOMENON OF NATURE
 - THE ONLY THORN TREE IN THE WORLD TO BLOOM AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND IN MAY.
- TO THIS DAY THIS SPOT BEARS THE NAME 'WEARY ALL HILL'.



OTHER LEDGENDS

- **THE HOLY GRAIL**
- **KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE**

GLASTONBURY THORN

There is a custom of sending a budded branch of the Glastonbury thorn to the Queen at Christmas

At the time of the adoption of the revised Gregorian calendar in Britain in 1752, the Gentleman's Magazine reported that curious visitors went to see whether the Glastonbury thorn kept to the Julian calendar or the new one:

‘Glastonbury.-A vast concourse of people attended the noted thorn on Christmas-day, new style; but, to their great disappointment, there was no appearance of its blowing, which made them watch it narrowly the 5th of January, the Christmas-day, old style, when it blew as usual.’

Gentleman's Magazine January 1753

