

Eusebius: Wee Quiz 3

02.15.15

1. Why did Vespasian order a search for all of the descendants of David? And what was the result?
2. Name three persons other than Paul, Peter, and John who, according to Eusebius, composed important epistles read in and circulated among the churches. What happened to those letters?
3. Name two persons other than the writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John who, according to Eusebius, wrote gospels. What happened to those gospels?
4. At least twice Eusebius uses the phrase “humanly speaking” to refer to relatives of Jesus. What does he mean by using this phrase? And whom does he include specifically?
5. What do we know about the two Johns? When Eusebius discusses “John’s writings” on pp, 99-100, to which does he refer? And what do we know about that specific person and the legends surrounding him?
6. Name two or three significant writings which Eusebius rejects as spurious. On what basis does he reject them since there was no official canon yet?

7. Briefly differentiate among the heresies of the Ebionites, the Cerinthians, and the Nicolaitans. Do you see parallels between any of these heresies and contemporary beliefs, Christian or other?

8. What significance might we draw from Eusebius's short section titled "Apostles Who Married"?

9. What is the significance of the correspondence between Pliny the Younger and Trajan? And what is the significance to the early church of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius?

10. Papias contends that he placed emphasis on recording what the various apostles said rather than what others, even church founders and perhaps bishops, wrote. Why? Why would Eusebius, according to the editor, "not hide his disdain for Papias's chiliastic notions"?

11. What is the significance of Clement's writings?

Over the past few weeks, our wee quizzes became, perhaps, too easy; therefore, I added a few short-essay questions here to allow you to explore your own and Eusebius's ideas more fully.