

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## ‘John the Baptist’ bones found

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**18th June, 2012**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

Scientists say they have found bones belonging to St John the Baptist, who is said to have foretold the coming of Jesus. The remains - parts of a skull, bones from a jaw and an arm, and a tooth - were found in the altar of a fifth-century monastery in Bulgaria. The building is on an island in the Black Sea called Sveti Ivan, which means 'St John' in English. Tests show that the bones are around 2,000 years old and that they belong to a man from the Middle East.

Many sites around the world say they have bones belonging to John the Baptist. The Grand Mosque in Damascus says it has his head. Several other places say they have the hand that baptised Jesus. Now tests carried out at Oxford University show the bones in Bulgaria may be for real. Oxford's professor Tom Higham said: "When I first heard this story in 2010, I thought it was a bit of a joke....Whether that person is John the Baptist is a question that we cannot yet definitely answer and probably never will."

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

## Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. bones belonging to  | a. 2,000 years old       |
| 2. foretold the coming | b. 5th-century monastery |
| 3. bones from a        | c. Middle East           |
| 4. the altar of a      | d. St John the Baptist   |
| 5. around              | e. jaw                   |
| 6. a man from the      | f. of Jesus              |

### Paragraph 2

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Many sites                | a. places                   |
| 2. Several other             | b. real                     |
| 3. tests carried             | c. yet definitely answer    |
| 4. may be for                | d. of a joke                |
| 5. I thought it was a bit    | e. around the world         |
| 6. a question that we cannot | f. out at Oxford University |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

Scientists say they have found \_\_\_\_\_ St John the Baptist, who is said to have \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. The remains - parts of a skull, bones from a jaw and an arm, and a tooth - were found in the altar \_\_\_\_\_ monastery in Bulgaria. The building is \_\_\_\_\_ the Black Sea called Sveti Ivan, which means 'St John' in English. \_\_\_\_\_ the bones are around 2,000 years old and that they belong to a man \_\_\_\_\_.

Many sites \_\_\_\_\_ say they have bones belonging to John the Baptist. The Grand Mosque in Damascus says it has his head. \_\_\_\_\_ say they have the hand that baptised Jesus. Now \_\_\_\_\_ at Oxford University show the bones in Bulgaria may be for real. Oxford's professor Tom Higham said: " \_\_\_\_\_ this story in 2010, I thought it was \_\_\_\_\_ ...Whether that person is John the Baptist is a question that we cannot yet definitely answer and \_\_\_\_\_."

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

Scientists say they have found bones (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to St John the Baptist, who is said to have foretold the coming of Jesus. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ - parts of a skull, bones from a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and an arm, and a tooth – were found in the altar of a fifth-(4) \_\_\_\_\_ monastery in Bulgaria. The building is on an island in the Black Sea called Sveti Ivan, which means 'St John' in English. Tests show that the bones are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 2,000 years old and that they belong to a man from the Middle (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Many (7) \_\_\_\_\_ around the world say they have bones belonging to John the Baptist. The Grand Mosque in Damascus says it has his head. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ other places say they have the hand that baptised Jesus. Now tests carried (9) \_\_\_\_\_ at Oxford University show the bones in Bulgaria may be for (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Oxford's professor Tom Higham said: "When I first heard this story in 2010, I thought it was a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of a joke....Whether that person is John the Baptist is a question that we cannot yet (12) \_\_\_\_\_ answer and probably never will."

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                  |                |               |
|-----|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) belonged     | (b) belongs    | (c) belonging |
| 2.  | (a) remains      | (b) Romans     | (c) reins     |
| 3.  | (a) saw          | (b) jaw        | (c) paw       |
| 4.  | (a) decade       | (b) millennium | (c) century   |
| 5.  | (a) around       | (b) along      | (c) after     |
| 6.  | (a) East         | (b) North      | (c) West      |
| 7.  | (a) sights       | (b) sites      | (c) sates     |
| 8.  | (a) Numeral      | (b) Number     | (c) Several   |
| 9.  | (a) out          | (b) up         | (c) in        |
| 10. | (a) really       | (b) real       | (c) realistic |
| 11. | (a) nip          | (b) rid        | (c) bit       |
| 12. | (a) questionably | (b) definitely | (c) about     |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. bones ongilbnge to St John the Baptist
2. foretold the ginomc of Jesus
3. parts of a luksl
4. a fifth-ytencur monastery
5. on an saldni in the Black Sea
6. nuroad 2,000 years old

## Paragraph 2

7. The Grand geusoM in Damascus
8. eeavrls other places
9. tests aicredr out at Oxford University
10. When I first ehard this story
11. cannot yet ytiedfieln answer
12. opbrblay never

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john\\_the\\_baptist.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120618-john_the_baptist.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) this story in 2010, I thought it was a bit of a joke....Whether that
- ( ) in Bulgaria. The building is on an island in the Black Sea called Sveti Ivan, which
- ( ) means 'St John' in English. Tests show that the bones are around
- ( **1** ) Scientists say they have found bones belonging to St John the Baptist, who is said to have foretold
- ( ) be for real. Oxford's professor Tom Higham said: "When I first heard
- ( ) 2,000 years old and that they belong to a man from the Middle East.
- ( ) arm, and a tooth – were found in the altar of a fifth-century monastery
- ( ) Mosque in Damascus says it has his head. Several other places say they have the hand
- ( ) person is John the Baptist is a question that we cannot yet definitely answer and probably never will."
- ( ) that baptised Jesus. Now tests carried out at Oxford University show the bones in Bulgaria may
- ( ) the coming of Jesus. The remains - parts of a skull, bones from a jaw and an
- ( ) Many sites around the world say they have bones belonging to John the Baptist. The Grand

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. belonging They to have St found John bones.

---

2. the a century in of - Found altar fifth monastery.

---

3. on an island in the Black Sea The building is.

---

4. around the Tests years 2,000 bones show old are that.

---

5. the to from East belong man Middle They a.

---

6. have other the places hand say they Several.

---

7. in real Bulgaria may The be bones for.

---

8. this heard first I 2010 in story.

---

9. it bit joke thought a a I was of.

---

10. A yet question definitely that answer we cannot.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. JOHN THE BAPTIST:** Search the Internet and find more information about bones. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the bones. Include an imaginary interview with the scientists. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to an old bones expert. Ask him/her three questions about bones. Give him/her three of your opinions on the bones found in Bulgaria. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.