

Jesus' Mother

Isaiah prophesied about Mary over 700 years before she was born.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The angel Gabriel quoted Isaiah's prophecy to Mary when he told her she was going to give birth to Jesus.

Luke 1:26-27, 31

And in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee**, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the **Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

Scripture makes it clear that Mary was a virgin when she was told she would have a son. Mary's confusion is understandable.

Luke 1:34

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, **seeing I know not a man?**

Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his **mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together**, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:24-25

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: **And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son:** and he called his name JESUS.

When Gabriel answered her question about how she could be pregnant without being with a man, Mary simply believed God, knowing she could be shamed or even killed. Most of us don't stop to think about what she might have faced.

Luke 1:35, 38

³⁵And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:** therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

³⁸And **Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.** And the angel departed from her.

Joseph was understandably confused by Mary's pregnancy.

Matthew 1:19

Then Joseph her husband, **being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example,** was minded to put her away privily.

As a faithful Jew, Joseph knew the penalty, for both the man and woman, if Mary had been with a man, not her husband. Of course, it would have seemed to him to be the only explanation, yet he did not want that to happen to her.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24

If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an

husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; Then **ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die**; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.

Gabriel, once again, was sent to explain the situation, this time to Joseph. Joseph had faith in God.

Matthew 1:20-23

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, **thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he shall save his people from their sins.** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

Mary and Joseph would have grown up hearing the prophecies of a King and Redeemer of Israel.

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about the Righteous Branch who would come from David's line and sit on his throne forever.

Jeremiah 33:14-17

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, **will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.** In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. **For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;**

King David had prophesied that he would have a son in the flesh, Christ, to sit on his throne.

Acts 2:29-30

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of **the patriarch David**, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that **God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;**

Joseph was from the line of David through David's son Solomon. Joseph's father was named Jacob.

Matthew 1:1-2, 6, 16

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

⁶**And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon** of her that had been the wife of Urias;

¹⁶**And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

But since Joseph was Jesus' legal, but not natural father, Jesus did not inherit the right to

the throne of David through Joseph. Jesus' mother Mary had her own claim to the throne of David, through David's son Nathan.

Luke 3:23, 31

²³And **Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,**

³¹Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, **which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David,**

Did you notice, Luke said Heli was Joseph's father? We just learned in Matthew, that Joseph's father was named Jacob. We know the Bible does not contradict itself.

Heli was Mary's father, and we must assume he had no male heirs. By law, Mary's husband could inherit for her. That's why Heli is listed as Joseph's father. Mary's inheritance, her right to the throne, would go to her husband and then to her firstborn son, Jesus.

The story of Jesus' mother includes another mother, Elisabeth, the mother of John the

Baptist. The angel Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, although she had been considered barren.

Luke 1:36-37

And, behold, **thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.** For with God nothing shall be impossible.

The Bible does not say why, but as soon as Elisabeth knew she was pregnant, she hid herself for 5 months. She had been a reproach for being barren and now that reproach was taken away.

Luke 1:24-25

And after those days **his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months,** saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, **to take away my reproach among men.**

As soon as Mary found out that she was going to be a mother, she went to see her cousin Elisabeth.

Luke 1:39-40

And **Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country** with haste, into a city of Juda; And **entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.**

This was the first meeting of cousins, John the Baptist and Jesus. Elisabeth knew right away that Mary was carrying the Lord, Savior, and King of Israel. She also pronounced a blessing on Mary.

Luke 1:41-4

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. **And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And **blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.**

What Mary said next shows that she was a faithful, Jewish woman, as much in need of a Savior as anyone. She acknowledged Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Luke 1:46-49

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And **my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

There are some churches that teach the idea that Mary had been without sin since her conception. There is no Biblical basis for that teaching. She acknowledged God as her savior.

Paul tells us that all have sinned. Mary was not without sin.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, **for that all have sinned:**

Mary stayed with Elisabeth for 3 months, until Elisabeth gave birth to John the Baptist.

Luke 1:56-57

And **Mary abode with her about three months,** and returned to her own house. **Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.**

Another teaching about Mary that is not supported by scripture is that she remained a virgin, “ever-virgin.” Luke tells us that Jesus was firstborn, meaning that Mary had other children. They would have had Joseph for their father.

Luke 2:7

And **she brought forth her firstborn son,** and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Mark records the names of Jesus' 4 half-brothers and that He had at least 2 half-sisters. The follow passage also shows how normal Jesus and His family were. The neighbors did not believe that He was anything special.

Mark 6:3

Is not this the carpenter, **the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?**
And they were offended at him.

Jesus' parents were faithful Jewish believers. They followed the law regarding their firstborn son. While in the temple, Simeon prophesied about Jesus and told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul. (Remember that a sword pierced Jesus' side after He died on the cross?)

Luke 2:27, 33-35

²⁷And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when **the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,**

³³**And Joseph and his mother** marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (**Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,**) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Notice also, how Luke specifies “Joseph and His mother,” not “His father and mother.” It is important to know that Jesus was related to Mary, like everybody is related to their birth mother. Jesus had a corruptible body, just like ours, so He could pay our sin-debt for us.

The last time we hear about Joseph was when Joseph and Mary took 12-year-old Jesus to Jerusalem and Jesus stayed behind in the temple, talking to the religion authorities. Notice again, Luke uses “Joseph and His mother.”

Luke 2:43, 48-49

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; **and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.**

⁴⁸And when they saw him, they were amazed: **and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.** And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Jesus' mother continued to be a part of her son's life. She was responsible for Him performing His first miracle.

John 2:1-5, 11-12

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And **when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. **His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.**

¹¹**This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee,** and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

We also find out that Mary had a sister, who was with her when Jesus was crucified.

John 19:25

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

The Bible does not say where Mary was living or who she was living with when Jesus was crucified. While He was on the cross, Jesus arranged for the disciple He loved to take His mother in, and provide for her as he would his own mother.

John 19:26-27

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

There is good reason to believe that it was the disciple John, who took Mary “unto his own home.” He is called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” several times in the book of John.

Mary and her other children were at Jesus' ascension, and afterwards went with the disciples to select the replacement for Judas.

Acts 1:10-15, 26

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.** Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. **And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room,** where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

²⁶And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Mary is not specifically mentioned at the gathering at Pentecost but it says “they were all with one accord in one place.” We must assume she and her children were there.

Acts 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, **they were all with one accord in one place.**

It is likely that Mary was in the group that had all things in common because it says, “all that believed were together.” She may have lived out the rest of her days with the other believers. The Bible is silent on this.

Acts 2:44-47

And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God,

and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

There are a lot of teachings about Jesus' mother Mary that are not supported by the Bible. We are instructed to receive God's word, but then search the scriptures to see if what we have heard is true.

Acts 17:11-12

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** Therefore many of them believed; also of **honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.**