



A Contemplative, Biblical Analysis of Mary, Mother of Christ

What did Mary really know?

By Kathy L. McFarland

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Quiz 1 – What did Mary really know from her Jewish worldview?

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1 What benefit comes to those that search Bible Scripture and study the things of Mary, Mother of Christ?

Choose one answer.

- a. There is little information concerning Mary in Scripture, and she is unable to be known fully
- b. There are so many different beliefs concerning Mary that it is difficult to know what to learn and believe
- c. There are at least three different Mary's in the New Testament, and they are very difficult to sort.
- d. A deep study of Mary adds depth and awe to spiritual understanding of Christ, viewed through His mother's life and knowledge

2 What is the name given to the period between the Hebrew Old and Christian New Testaments of the Bible, from the end of the rule of Malachi in 420 B.C. to the birth of John the Baptist in the 1st Century?

Choose one answer.

- a. The Apocrypha
- b. The Second Temple Period
- c. Middle Testament
- d. Intertestamental Period

3 What were cities like in the Intertestamental Period in Palestine (Israel)?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. There were no roads connecting cities to other civilizations.

- b. Cities were built haphazardly, and the bigger ones made them the important ones
- c. Cities are crowded, noisy, dangerous, and probably stinky.
- d. Water, police, toilets, and sewage disposal services are provided in some of the larger cities like Jerusalem
- e. Some of the larger cities had walls surrounding them, that offered protection to the smaller cities' inhabitants

4 What were the characteristics of the houses in 1st century Israel during the time of Mary?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Central courtyards were shared by neighbors throughout Israeli housing areas
- b. Flat roofs are the center of activity for Jewish families
- c. They were mostly wooden, built from the cedars of Tyre
- d. Rooms in the houses were mostly circular, to allow for free movement of air flow
- e. There were no windows in 1st century houses to protect the occupants from looters

5 What type of rooms did Intertestamental Period homes in Palestine (Israel) have?

Choose one answer.

- a. Dirt or stone floors were common among many of the rooms in homes in Mary's time.
- b. Polished, hewn stones and mosaics with rugs fastened with nails to the floors were only in the Roman homes in Palestine during this time.
- c. Smooth plaster walls with fresco and stucco decorations were popular in homes during Mary's time
- d. All of the above

6 What are the roofs of Jewish homes in the Intertestamental Period used for?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Eating and praying

- b. Drying olives
- c. Keeping animals
- d. Chamber pots and bathing utensils and containers
- e. Keeping fruits and vegetables

7 What were the typical uses for the courtyard that was shared by two or more dwelling units in Jerusalem during the 1st century?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Washing clothes
- b. Baking and cooking and eating took place in the courtyards
- c. Containment and sheltering of large animals
- d. Bathtubs were also in the courtyard

8 What do we know about the Upper Room that Mary and the disciples and others gathered immediately following Christ's Ascension (Acts 1:13-14)?

Choose one answer.

- a. The Syrians located the Upper Room in Jerusalem, and consecrated it as a church
- b. An ancient dedication written in stone was found that identified Mary's house with John as the location of the Upper Room
- c. There are many, many houses in 1st century Jerusalem that have upper rooms, and the significant ones to Scripture may be impossible to locate with full surety
- d. The house dedicated to Mary that the Syrians claim to be the location of the Upper Room was not the original house
- e. All of the above

9 What has caused the wrong assumption that the Last Supper of Christ in Luke 22:12 was done in the same upper room of Mary's house with John, that was said to be the location of their Pentecostal meeting recorded in Acts 1:13-14?

Choose one answer.

- a. A wrong translation of Scripture by the Syrians connects the two events
- b. The Vulgate translated Scripture wrongly concerning this issue

- c. Syrian Church tradition favors a shared Upper Room for both the Last Supper and Pentecost
- d. All of the above

10 What sites are officially confirmed to be historical, authentic sites in Jerusalem?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. The Garden of Gethsemane
- b. Pools of Bethesda
- c. Antonia Fortress
- d. Herod's Palace
- e. Mary's House
- f. Golgotha
- g. Temple Mount
- h. The Tomb of Christ

11 What role did the Roman government of Palestine and Jews play in the time of Mary?

Choose one answer.

- a. Rome declared Palestine to be Israel officially, giving the Jewish people autonomy
- b. Jewish people were given colonial status by the Roman government
- c. Jewish citizens were made slaves by the heavy-handed Roman government
- d. Jewish citizens during the Roman rule were enamored by their culture and ways

12 What political group did the Intertestamental Jews belong?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Many Jews were loyal to the ruling family

- b. Some Jews were so busy trying to meet basic survival needs in life, that they did not involve themselves in any political relationship
- c. Some Jews supported the Pharisees, and some the Sadducees
- d. Some Jews follow the Romans politically

13 What was the family unit like during the time of Mary?

Choose one answer.

- a. It was patriarchal, ruled by the head male of the home
- b. It was theocratic, with Jewish Rabbis and Synagogue leaders monitoring family heads for compliance to God's laws
- c. Authority was shared between husband and wife with equal relationship
- d. All of the above

14 What was the nature of religion in the lives of Jews during the Intertestamental Period?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. There is a decreased participation in religious activities during the Second Temple period
- b. Fasting is outlawed and adherents were sternly rebuked when their denial of food was made known
- c. There was very little Jewish practice during the Intertestamental Period because of the desire of Jews to achieve Roman character
- d. The Torah regulated every aspect of their lives

15 What were the dominant groups that were part of the social structure of the Roman Empire during the Intertestamental Period?

Choose one answer.

- a. Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes
- b. Centurions, Emperors, and Patriarchs
- c. Scholars, Merchants, and Farmers
- d. All of the Above.

16 What are the specific natures of these Intertestamental Period sects that play important roles in New Testament times? (Circle answer at end of each paragraph)

They do not believe in the mysteries or supernatural events expressed by our LORD God and Lord Jesus Christ. Their belief rejects the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27), and the resurrections of spirit and angels (Acts 23:8). Josephus describes Sadducees as originating from the upper class of society; however, there is no evidence that all Sadducees are from this higher economic level. Their social presence is superior to most Jews and through the scattered references in the writings of Josephus, Scripture, and Rabbinic literature, we are able to classify them as arrogant know-it-all's who demand reasoned and visible proof before belief is validated. The Sadducees are the least known of the influential religious groups in Second Temple Judaism; their views are not described in detail by contemporary sources. **Pharisees, Sadducees, or Essenes?**

These self-focused men give impression that they think themselves better than all other men, especially the vile publicans. They easily identify the sin of other men, while extolling their own self-perceived righteousness as they give public religious offerings to God and bless the world with their presence (Luke 18:10-13). They oppose Christ and want to destroy Him (Matthew 12:14), entrap His words (Matthew 22:15), and test Him (Mark 8:11). Christ warns His followers of the leaven that is dispersed by them into matters of faith, changing the Truth of God into tainted false belief (Matthew 23:13-29). They sew tiny bells into their garments and wear garlands in their showy religious attire that raises them above all other sects. They are the strictest in religious interpretations (Acts 23:6) that show bias by elevating their faulty beliefs over others

and against the Word of God. **Pharisees, Sadducees, or Essenes?**

These men separate themselves from normal Jewish society. They are a Jewish sect in a Qumran community that withdraw themselves from the world and focus solely upon the things of God. However, they are never completely cut off from the Jewish society and remain a part of Judaism, taxpayers to Hasmoneans and Romans, and a known influence outside their society. They become well-known in our present day because of their writings that are found in jars in caves in the desert that confirm the validity and inerrancy of Scripture, while adding new non-biblical information that adds depth to the study of the Word of God. **Pharisees, Sadducees, or Essenes?**

17 How do Bible students know about the nature of the Pharisees?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. There is a great deal of Pharisee evidence in rabbinic literature
- b. Archeological evidence has confirmed the presence of the Pharisees
- c. The nature of Pharisees is discovered within Scripture
- d. Josephus records the history of the Pharisees

18 What is the difference between Publicans and Pharisees during the Intertestamental Period reflected in the New Testament Gospels?

Choose one answer.

- a. The Publicans are dirty on their outsides and the Pharisees are dirty on their insides
- b. Publicans boast in the law of God, while Pharisees forsake the law of God
- c. Publicans pray at the temple continuously, while Pharisees think themselves too good to be bothered by such trifles
- d. All of the Above

19 Where does a Bible student's knowledge of the nature of Sadducees originate?

Choose one answer.

- a. Scripture, especially the New Testament
- b. Rabbinic writings
- c. Tradition
- d. All of the Above

20 What Jewish sect is John the Baptist thought to have participated in before his ministry began?

Choose one answer.

- a. Pharisees
- b. Sadducees
- c. Essenes
- d. All of the Above