



## **A Contemplative, Biblical Analysis of Mary, Mother of Christ**

### **What did Mary really know?**

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**Quiz 3 – Virgin Mary’s Knowledge Before Conception**

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**1** What are some of modern-day Biblical scholars’ attempts to disprove the virginity of Mary before her conception of Jesus? (May be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. They question the inerrancy of the Word of God
- b. They compare the Greek word that means virgin to the Hebrew word that does not
- c. They debate the Greek translation of the Word
- d. They argue about the definition of the word virgin

(a) Correct. If Scripture is merely considered flawed historical accounts of past events, then the virginity of Mary is one of the first to go.

(b) Yes. When Hebrew speaks of a virgin, the word they use is "young maiden." Once the young maiden interpretation is applied, the virginity of Mary can then be questioned.

(c) Correct. The Greek translation for the word "virgin" (παρθένος) when defined with nonbiblical literary uses during that time lead to different translations; however, when the Word is examined through Scripture, there is no debate to its meaning.

(d) Correct. Misguided Bible scholars try to present the definition of the word "virgin" as meaning something different than "without carnal relationship" in the Intertestamental Period.

**2** Who declares Mary's virginity three times in Luke 1:26-38?

Choose one answer.

- a. None of the above
- b. John the Baptist
- c. Mary's betrothed husband Joseph

d. Angel Gabriel

(a) Incorrect

(b) Incorrect

(c) Incorrect

(d) Yes. There is little skeptics can do with the fact that Gabriel mentions Mary as a virgin three times, by both name and her betrothal to Joseph

**3** And after Gabriel announces Mary's virginity 3 times officially, who offers irrefutable evidence that the term virgin meant that she had never known a man in that way? (Luke 1:34)

Choose one answer.

a. Joseph

b. Mary

c. Martha

d. John

(a) Incorrect.

(b) That's right; right after the Angel Gabriel tells Mary of the miracle that will come to her, she asks him how that can be since she was a virgin. Modern-day scholars take note; it is irrefutable. Leave this one alone.

(c) Nope.

(d) Wrong.

**4** What statements of fact can be formed through Mary's declaration in Luke 1:34 that she was a virgin, without ever having known a man through sexual intercourse and carnal relationship?

Choose one answer.

a. Mary had a pure body that was reserved for her soon-to-be husband Joseph

b. The LORD God recognizes Mary's purity

- c. Mary had knowledge of the need for sexual relations to reproduce children
- d. All of the above.

(a) Correct.

(b) Correct. Great theological insight of God's knowledge of man's affairs, including those of carnal nature, is revealed through His recognition of Mary's purity. While sexual themes often are debated in present-day society among religious folk, the argument that it does not matter to God cannot be stated as fact. In the case of Mary, it matters a great deal.

(c) That's right; Mary was a young girl, yet fully knowledgeable of the things that a woman needs to know before she marries a man.

(d) Correct! Sometimes, statements of fact formed upon one piece of Scripture begin to illuminate God's Word with deeper things of study stirred by this approach. Statements of fact are the beginning study technique that Becker Bible Studies teachers and authors teach. Mary's virginity has revealed many pieces of information through this process that might go unnoticed in a regular Bible study of bigger ideas.

**5** Joseph does not have sexual relations with Mary until after she brings forth her first born son Jesus according to Matthew 1:18-25.

Answer:

- True
- False

True - Correct! Joseph did not have sexual relationship with his wife Mary until after the birth of Christ. There are some denominations that argue Mary remained a perpetual virgin her entire life but there is absolutely no biblical evidence to support this belief, and contrary to the brothers and sister of Jesus that were born after him from their parent Joseph and Mary.

False – Incorrect; there are a few non-believers that mock the notion of Mary's virginity and Joseph's wait for sexual relationship with his wife until after the birth of Christ; however, the evidence in the inerrant Word of God fully expresses the sexual purity of Mary until after His birth.

**6** What condition exists for those "betrothed" in 1st Century Judaism that Mary and Joseph experienced at the time of the conception of Jesus? (There will be multiple answers)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. If a break-up or one party dies during betrothal and before the official marriage, they are considered widow or widower
- b. A betrothal agreement includes a promise to marry
- c. It is a formal prenuptial contract
- d. A betrothal is arranged by the parents usually
- e. There are witnesses present for the betrothal ceremony
- f. If the woman betrays the betrothal contract, she can be stoned
- g. Betrothed girls do not have sexual relations and usually stay at their parent's house
- h. A prenuptial was normally given to a young woman around the age of 12 or 13

(a) That's correct. Though betrothal is not official marriage, it is so close legally to that union, that society considers it the same.

(b) Correct. It is the second and final public ceremony that seals the deal.

(c) Correct; the prenuptial contract binds the man and young woman.

(d) That's right.

(e) True.

(f) That's correct; breaking the betrothal contract is considered committing adultery, which brings the possibility of the punishment of death to come to the woman.

(g) Correct; it is only after the second official ceremony of marriage that the full expression of sexual intercourse is allowed.

(h) Correct.

**7** What does the Greek word *parthenos* (virgin) mean specifically?

Choose one answer.

- a. Period of young womanhood
- b. Young Maiden
- c. Period between childhood and adulthood, who is ripe for bearing children
- d. None of the above

- (a) Nope. Parthenos occurs, and then gyne.
- (b) Nope; that's how Hebrew translates it.
- (c) Correct; but she has not attained the status of gyne in which sexual intercourse is implied.
- (d) Wrong

8 The Greek word *parthenos* fully denies sexual intercourse has taken place.

Answer:

- True  False

True - Incorrect. It is the Greek word *parthenia* that actually indicates the virgin status fully; Parthenos does not deny sexual intercourse, but rather, strongly implies it.

False - Correct. *Parthenos* does not deny sexual intercourse, but rather strongly implies it. The derivative of the word, *parthenia*, indicates the virgin status of a pure young woman fully.

9 What evidence exists to support the virginal conception of Christ, since the Greek word parthenos is not fully conclusive?

Choose one answer.

- a. Old Testament
- b. New Testament
- c. Scripture
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. Isaiah 7:14 pronounces the virgin birth also.

(b) Yes. Especially Matthew and Luke accounts of Mary's conception speak directly of her virginity in context that leaves no doubt to the certainty of her pure state.

(c) Exactly. The entire revelation of the Word of God through the Canon of Scripture, including the deeper mysteries of God, fully reveal with certain fact that Mary was a virgin before she conceived Jesus through the miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit.

(d) Correct. Mary is revealed as a pure virgin before the conception of Christ, and Joseph and her maintained her virgin status until after the birth of Jesus.

**10** What situation(s) lead to the incorrect assumption that the account of Mary's virginity is unsupported and the Scripture word should indicate "young maiden" instead?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. The Greek word "parthenos" speaks of the period between childhood and adulthood, rather than womanhood
- b. There is a strong possibility that the virginity of Mary is not an issue
- c. Interpretation of the Greek word "parthenos" without Scripture exegesis supports alternative translations
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. The Greek word parthenos does not fully deny that sexual relationship; however, it is the assumed meaning historically.

(b) Incorrect. The virginity of Mary is directly related to the conception and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Without her virgin status, the divine nature of Christ can be debated. It is in the best interest of naysayers, agnostic critics, and some non-Christian religious groups to remove the divine nature of Christ to give their arguments advantage.

(c) Correct. When the Greek word is separated from Scripture, and examined in the literal sense, then argument to its meaning can form. However, any important word in Scripture that is defined by a dictionary separate from the contextual meaning can confuse understanding.

(d) Incorrect.

**11** What early pre-Christian literature records a virginal conception taking place?

Choose one answer.

- a. Traditional stories passed down through generations have mentioned virginal births
- b. Only the Old Testament reference in Isaiah 7:14 hints of virginal conception prior to the establishment of Christianity
- c. There are numerous accounts of virginal births in early pagan literature.
- d. Rare, but legitimate references can be found in some of the early pagan literature prior to Christian faith

(a) Incorrect. There are no known references prior to Christian faith development.

(b) Correct! There are no accounts in early pagan literature or pre-Christian Judaism that reports virginal conception.

(c) Nope. No other accounts of virginal birth in early pagan literature are known.

(d) Incorrect. There are none.

## 12 How do some Jewish scholars debate the meaning of Isaiah 7:14?

Choose one answer.

- a. They make a point that the Hebrew word "alma" does not fully claim virgin status
- b. When the Hebrew word "alma" and the Greek word "parthenos" are combined, the definition of virgin becomes confused
- c. Jewish scholars do not debate the Hebrew meaning of the word "alma" found in Isaiah 7:14
- d. They argue that the Hebrew word "alma" does not presume virginity, thus, making the word "virgin" a misrepresentation of Scripture

(a) Correct. Once again, when the Hebrew word "alma" is removed from Scripture and examined by a Hebrew dictionary, it does not fully claim virgin status for a young lady; but, scholars must acknowledge the presumption of virginity is also contained within the expression of the Word.

(b) That's a silly assumption. Hebrew and Greek are never combined in serious study of the Bible, though this ridiculous practice is sometimes attempted. Hebrew and Greek cannot be combined into a "catch-all" meaning that can exchange exact meanings. Though both the Hebrew word "alma" and the Greek word "parthenos" is not exact in relaying virginity, its use in the Word of God leaves no doubt to the virgin conception and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, when context is examined. Mary was a virgin when she conceived her human son Jesus Christ, through the moving of the Holy Spirit upon her, as the divine Son of God is placed within her womb.

(c) Incorrect. The Hebrew word "alma" is debatable in scholarly exegesis circles when it is removed from the context of Scripture and a popular "go to" for Jewish scholars that try to remove the divine presence of Jesus Christ through the virgin conception and birth from His mother Mary.



(d) Incorrect. While some Hebrew scholars argue that "alma" does not speak of virginity exclusively, there is still a presumption in the Hebrew language that expresses virginity in the word "alma."

**13** When all evidences of the historical accounts in Matthew, Luke, and Isaiah are considered together, and the Greek and Hebrew words examined closely, there is no doubt to the virginity of Mary before the conception of Christ.

Answer:

True  False

True – Exactly Right! Joseph and Mary remained together without sexual intercourse until after the birth of Christ. It was the Holy Spirit, and only the Holy Spirit, that came upon Mary and made her with child.

False - Wrong. There is clear evidence of Mary's virginity prior to conception until after the birth of Christ within the historical accounts of the inerrant Word of God.

**14** What messages did Angel Gabriel deliver to Mary as recorded in Luke 1:31-33?  
(Will be many answers)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Angel Gabriel explained how she would be impregnated by the Holy Ghost
- b. Angel Gabriel tells here that the conception will bring forth a son that will be named Jesus
- c. Angel Gabriel informs Mary that she would become the Mother of God
- d. Angel Gabriel tells here that she is highly favored by God
- e. Angel Gabriel comforts Mary's fear
- f. Angel Gabriel told Mary that her human son would actually be holy and called the Son of God
- g. Angel Gabriel reveals that JESUS would be great and called the Son of the Highest
- h. Angel Gabriel reveals that Jesus will receive the throne of his father David

(a) Correct. He tells here that she will conceive in her womb with a Holy Conception.

(b) Correct. It is the LORD God that chooses the name of His Son; Mary did not choose the name.

(c) No. Angel Gabriel did not bestow this title.

(d) Correct! Mary was a young virgin girl that had drawn the favorable attention of the LORD God. As a result, she was favored by God over all other women that were alive in her day.

(e) That's right. Mary was fearful when she sighted Gabriel's presence and received his message.

(f) That's Right! Angel Gabriel left no doubt unturned, no explanation lacking, with full information relayed to her of the process that will soon envelop her womb, impregnate her with God's Son, and make her the unique and blessed mother above all others.

(g) Yes. Angel Gabriel gave full disclosure to Mary concerning the divine nature of Jesus.

(h) Correct. As prophesized in the Old Testament, Mary was told that Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy and he will reign over the house of Jacob, from the throne of David, over God's kingdom which shall never end.

**15** What was Mary's reaction upon hearing Angel Gabriel's message as recorded in Luke 1:31-35?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. She became confused
- b. She feared
- c. She pondered
- d. She laughed.

(a) Yes; that is right also. She did not understand how she could become pregnant as a virgin. Angel Gabriel carefully explained the Holy Ghost conception to her with details that helped her to understand.

(b) That's right. She was fearful also; so much so that the Angel Gabriel had to comfort her before the full message could be received.

(c) Correct. To understand the nature of Mary fully, her pondering of the things of God reveals her character substantially, and gives understanding of why she attracted the favor of God.

(d) Incorrect. Laughter was not present on this occasion. Mary's pondering nature would be far removed from the laughter of profane women when made nervous by the things of God.

**16** How did the Holy Ghost impregnate the Virgin Mary with the Son of God in human form?

Choose one answer.

- a. Human Jesus was created through the fertilization of Mary's eggs
- b. None of the above
- c. It was a two-step process; the power of God overshadowed Mary, and her egg was fertilized to create baby Jesus
- d. The Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary with His Power

(a) Incorrect. The usual process of sexual reproduction did not occur. It was not a mere human reproduced from another that God willed; rather, it was His Son, placed into Mary's womb that begin the initiation of His New Covenant with mankind.

(b) Incorrect

(c) Incorrect. Mary was overshadowed with the power of God; but it was not an egg that traveled the normal human path along fallopian tubes that attaches to the womb after fertilization. Rather, the power of God placed Jesus within Mary's womb.

(d) Correct. We do not know the time or place this occurred, but we do know that the Power of God came upon Mary and created Jesus within her womb.

**17** Why was the overshadowing process utilized by God in the impregnation of Virgin Mary?

Choose one answer.

- a. The Power of God could obliterate Mary if in His Presence without an external shadow
- b. Since the power of God surges through Mary, God formed a internal shadow to prevent damage to her
- c. The overshadowing might also have allowed the divine Jesus to grow inside the human mother
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. No man or woman is able to stand fully in the presence of God. His power is too much for human beings to survive. (Exodus 19:19-24)

(b) That's also correct. It was not only the inability of human beings to stand in the full power of the LORD God. The overshadowing shielded Mary during the creation process to prevent internal damage to come upon her also.

(c) Yes. Logically, if the nature of Jesus as a baby holds divine content, then a shadow would protect human Mary from harm as her womb was occupied by Him.

(d) Correct! Much about the overshadowing of Mary must be reasoned with logical consideration. We do not know when or where the overshadowing occurred but we do know that the Holy Ghost could not have been received by Mary with His power unless precautions were taken to prevent harm from coming to her.

**18** The mountain in Moses' day, the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies in the Temple of God, and the Virgin Mary were all overshadowed by the Holy Ghost to protect human beings from being overcome and destroyed by the full Power of God.

Answer:

True  False

True – That right. Overshadowing with the power of God is first seen in Exodus 19:9 when God's cloud conceals His full power from the eyes of humans. This type of divine manifestation comes upon the Tabernacle raised by Moses in Exodus 40:34, which is fully expressed in the conception of Jesus Christ through the Virgin Mary.

False - Incorrect. The shadowing of God prevents mere human beings from being destroyed when His Presence is near to them. His Holy Presence would destroy unprepared human flesh with full contact of His power and glory. The overshadowing always possesses the place His power comes upon.

**19** What is the theological term that expresses God's presence with humanity?

Choose one answer.

a. Divine Immanence

b. Hypostatic Union

- c. Incarnation
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. Mary's womb duplicates the process of divine immanence in her womb as she holds the presence of the Son of God; yet, God no longer separates Himself from His Creation. Hypostatic union of the divine and the human natures of Christ connect humanity with Him.

(b) Incorrect. Hypostatic Union is the joining together of the divine and human natures seen in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

(c) Incorrect. Incarnation is the theological term that expresses the divine nature of God connecting within a human body.

(d) Incorrect.

**20** What reactions did Joseph experience during the time of the Virgin Mary's pregnancy?

Choose one answer.

- a. When he first heard of Mary's pregnancy, he contemplated a private divorce to avoid public stoning
- b. He is forced to spiritually and morally contemplate the supernatural events occurring in his life
- c. Joseph has a supernatural dream that is so convincing he immediately takes Mary to be his wife
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. (Matthew 1:18-19)

(b) Correct. Both His and Mary's life were fully under the control of God; it took not only Mary's acceptance, but her betrothed husband's as well, to fully complete His intended will.

(c) Correct. When he wakes up, he makes Mary his wife, but restrains from sexual relationship with her until after the birth of Christ.

(d) Correct. Joseph is often neglected, but an important person in the unfolding of the supernatural drama of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.