



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

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

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**Quiz 5 – The Development of Marian Theology in History**

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1 The different doctrines that conflict the Protestant ideas concerning Mary with the deep attachment to Marian theology with Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox religions is a matter of interpretation of Scripture.

Answer:

True  False

2 What does the Gnostic document *Pistis Sophia* question?

Choose one answer.

a. The virginity of Mary

b. The Divinity of Christ

c. The actual occurrence of the human birth of Jesus.

d. All of the above

3 Apocryphal literature contains some accounts of Mary's own birth described in miraculous terms.

Answer:

True  False

4 The early Church Fathers reemphasize the biblical accounts of Mary as the mother of Jesus in their writings.

Answer:

True  False

5 The writings of the early church fathers reemphasize the biblical accounts of Mary as the mother of Jesus.

Answer:

True  False

6 What interest do the early Church Fathers have in Mary?

Choose one answer.

- a. They are interested in Mary as an object of their faith
- b. They approach her as a sign of proof that God has intervened through human history
- c. They felt that Mary's unique status leads to shared co-redemption abilities with her Son.
- d. All of the above

7 Who do the early Church Fathers associate the Virgin Mary?

Choose one answer.

- a. A new Adam
- b. The Holy Ghost
- c. John the Baptist
- d. A new Eve

8 Why is it faulty thinking with the early Church Fathers' idea that Mary is the rescuer of the fallen human race by comparing her to a new Eve? (May be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. It gives excessive blame to Eve for the fall of mankind

- b. There is nothing faulty with the idea that Mary is a "New Eve"
- c. It gives Mary undue credit for human salvation
- d. It creates a difficult theological relationship with Christ as Adam and His Mother as Eve.

9 Match the sentiments with the thinkers during the early church times.

A. Many early writers in the early church

B. Apocryphal literature

C. Augustine

D. Early Church Fathers

E. Hippolytus

F. The early church

(1) Contain some accounts of Mary's own birth described in miraculous terms

(2) Says Mary is the "incorruptible wood" from which the body of Jesus was formed

(3) Thinks Mary is a sign of proof that God has intervened in human history and taken the flesh of Jesus of Nazareth through her womb

(4) Declares "Concerning the Virgin, I wish to raise no question when it touches the subject of sin, out of honor to the Lord, for from Him we know what abundance of grace to overcome sin in every way was conferred upon her who undoubtedly had no sin."

(5) Does not question Mary's virginity

(6) Declares Mary sinless

10 The turning point in Marian doctrinal and traditional development comes at The Council of Ephesus in A.D. 431.

Answer:

True  False

11 How does the Council of Ephesus define the divine maternity of Mary?

Choose one answer.

a. As "Theopolis" which means mother God of the world

b. As "Theosentric" which means Mother focused solely upon God

c. As "Theotokos" which means God-bearer

d. All of the above

12 Before the Council of Ephesus in A.D. 431, some Christian leaders were greatly concerned that the uniqueness of Christ would be compromised if Mary were elevated.

Answer:

True  False

13 What does the "perfect disciple" concept of Mary lead to when the Church establishes this orthodox doctrine?

Choose at least one answer.

a. Mary's chasteness, purity, and poverty become an ascetic ideal in orthodoxy

b. Mary becomes the example for the ideal woman

c. Mary also was seen as separate from a normal human existence

- d. Mary represents a pure Church

**14** What happens to Marian dogma in the Medieval Period following the Council of Ephesus?

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Marian doctrine established by the Council of Ephesus did not change prior to the Reformation
- b. A complex and excessive Marian dogma develops
- c. The last 500 years leading to Reformation brings the idea of Mary as Co-Redemptrix with the Son of God
- d. For the first 500 years of the Medieval Period, doctrines expressing Mary's virginity and divine maternity are added upon.

**15** The Church officially embraced Mary as "Co-redemptrix, Queen of heaven, and Queen of Mercies" 500 years before the Reformation.

Answer:

- True  False

**16** How does the Medieval Period Church belief in Mary's nature change as Reformation draws closers?

Choose one answer.

- a. Mary is the expiator of all sins that a sinner commits
- b. Mary is the Mother of God
- c. Mary's intercession and mediation through God will give her power to provide answers to prayers lifted up to her by believers
- d. All of the above

17 Match the Church leaders with their ideas concerning Mary during the time of Reformation.

A. Anselm

B. Thomas Kempis

C. Martin Luther

D. Huldrych Zwingli

(1) Great admirer of the “mother of God’

(2) Refers to Mary as “the expiator of all the sins I have committed” and “my only hope.”

(3) "Thinks she is "an instrument of salvation-history, and a model of Christian life, a sign and a witness, who points to the miracle and mystery of Christ."

(4) Therefore, O Lady, Gate of life, Door of salvation, Way of reconciliation, Entrance to restoration, I beseech thee by thy saving fruitful-ness, see that the pardon of my sins and the grace to live well are granted to me, and that thy servant is guarded even to the end under thy protection God, therefore, is the father of created things, and Mary is the Mother of re-created things— The Mother of God is our Mother.

18 What did John Calvin think about the developing doctrine of Mary? (May be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. He proclaimed her the Mother of God
- b. He relied upon her intercession for the forgiveness of his sins
- c. He has little to say about Mary in his writings

- d. He is uncomfortable with the title of Theotokos that is bestowed upon Mary
- e. He fears that the increased attention upon Mary removes the praise from Christ

**19** How is Mary viewed in the Modern Period? (Will be multiple answers)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. She is identified as the perfect Christian, with divine maternity, worthy character, and a role in the mediation of sins
- b. Many worshippers stand aloof of Mary, and fail to spiritually examine her contribution to faith
- c. Mary is identified as the Virgin Mother of Jesus
- d. Some reject traditional interpretation of Scripture of Mary's womanhood, making her instead a strong woman standing alone
- e. Mary is sometimes associated with the false goddess "Sophia"

**20** What is the nature of Mary? (Multiple answers allowed)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. She is hyper-spiritual, hyper-sexual, and a superhuman.
- b. She is without sin
- c. She quietly ponders the things that God reveals to her
- d. She is blessed by God and chosen by Him to bear His Son because she had His Favor