



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

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

By Kathy L. McFarland

3/8/2012

Becker Bible Scholar Data Archive  
<http://biblestudydata.com/moodle/>  
[beckerbible@gmail.com](mailto:beckerbible@gmail.com)

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

**Quiz 6 – Blessings and Songs**

By

Kathy L. McFarland

3/8/2012

**1** Mary hears the blessings given to her by God first from Angel Gabriel in his initial greeting to her.

Answer:

True  False

(True) Correct. He told her "Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." (Luke 1:28)

(False) Incorrect. Check out Luke 1:28.

**2** Who did Angel Gabriel declare Mary to be blessed among? (Luke 1:28)

Choose one answer.

- a. Men
- b. Among women
- c. Mankind
- d. God's Creation

(a) Wrong. Mary was not blessed among men.

(b) Correct. If Mary were to stand in the midst of women, she would easily be recognized to be most blessed by God.

(c) Incorrect. It is important for the disputation of some doctrines that falsely claim Mary to be redeemer of mankind to recognize that it is not mankind that she is blessed above.

(d) Nope. God's blessing to Mary did not exceed the blessings of the entire creation of God.

**3** Why is Mary troubled at Angel Gabriel's salutation in his initial greeting? (Luke 1:28-29)

Choose one answer.

- a. Mary was a humble young girl who did not consider herself special
- b. Mary did not believe that Gabriel was an angel sent with a message for her by God
- c. Mary's daily life was proceeding as all other girls her age and time
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. To be told that she is highly favored, that the Lord is with her, and that she is blessed among women, must have troubled her self-identity tremendously.

(b) Incorrect. There is no evidence that Mary doubts the encounter with Gabriel.

(c) Partially incorrect. Though Mary was no different than other young girls her age in her time and place, preparing for marriage after first receiving betrothal to him, she was not ordinary. For God to give her favor, be with her, and choose her to make blessed among all women fully indicates that Mary was one-of-a-kind. No points for this choice.

(d) Wrong.

**4** According to Mary's worldview, where had the presence of the LORD God dwelt among men in Jewish past?

Choose one answer.

- a. The Ark of the Covenant of the Tabernacle and Temple of God
- b. In the hearts of all men
- c. The third part of the Trinity, the Holy Ghost, provided the presence of God to come to mankind
- d. All of the above.

(a) Correct. While the presence of the LORD God was missing in the Second Temple because the Ark of the Covenant was lost in the destruction of the First Temple, her Jewish knowledge would have understood the awesome association of God's presence within her being.

(b) Negative. God's presence was not thought on these terms until after the introduction of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost recorded in Acts.

(c) Incorrect. The Holy Ghost did not come until after Christ had ascended to His Father.

(d) Incorrect

**5** While the supernatural presence of Angel Gabriel confirms to Mary the extraordinary message of God to her, it confused her.

Answer:

True  False

(True) Correct. She ponders the message, because she doesn't understand it. Her historical knowledge of God's relationship with mankind was based upon Institutional Judaism in the Temple system.

(False) Incorrect. Mary actually was troubled that so much attention was given to her by God and she did not understand this focus.

**6** What were some of the historical considerations that confused Mary's initial understanding of Gabriel's message? (Will most surely be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. The history of the Jews
- b. She is not a priest
- c. That it is she that is favored by God
- d. The History of the Temple of God

(a) Mary had in her mind and heart generations of Jewish history that way back to the time of Abraham and Sarah. As part of the Chosen people of God, she does not have the present-day considerations that are debated concerning His Divine nature, for it was shown to her people throughout the course of history. Everything she knew from her people's history had to be adjusted to understand that a new covenant was coming, and she would be part of making that happen.

(b) Correct. It is only the chief priest, fully sanctified and clothed to enter the presence of God that can offer the full sacrifice in His full presence. Yet, the message Gabriel reveals to Mary

implies that she will contain God's presence within her. Questions concerning her sanctification and holiness must have arisen in her ponderings.

(c) Mary was a young, innocent girl; clearly, she was not a supernaturally confident and faithful leader of men, as had the leaders God had chosen in the past had been. Certainly, her goodness of heart was apparent among her people, and she must surely have recognized how her heart and dedication towards God might have differed from that of other girls. But, as this present study suggests, it is her characteristic to ponder the things of God that surely made an impression on Him and causing Him to examine and approve her as choice to bear the Son of God.

(d) Correct. During the Intertestamental Period, Jews, including Mary, were aware of the Tabernacle, with the Ark of the Covenant in which God dwelt among men, and later, as it was carried into Solomon's Temple. It was this Temple that sacrifices were offered to the presence of God, and it was this Temple that was destroyed, with the essential Temple items lost, including the Ark of the Covenant in which the presence of the Lord came upon. The Second Temple, finished in the Intertestamental Period, and the one Mary was familiar with, was without the Ark and the Presence. So, when the Presence of the Son of God was to fill her womb, her ponderings must surely have considered this connection.

**7** Mary's response to Gabriel's recognition of her blessedness before God was laughter.

Answer:

True  False

(True) Incorrect. Mary did not have an outgoing, aggressive, or doubting personality. She was quiet and faithful and considerate; it is her pondering nature that reveals the depth of her faith and obedience to God.

(False) Correct. Mary would never laugh. She is a ponderer, and thinks upon all the things God reveals to her through Gabriel.

**8** What identity did Mary claim for herself when she humbly accepts the unique role of mother to the Son of God?

Choose one answer.

- a. Obedient servant
- b. Handmaid of the Lord
- c. Mother of God

d. None of the above

(a) Incorrect.

(b) Correct. We're reminded of the handmaid of Sarai (Abraham's wife Sarah) who was barren and had her maid Hagar lie with her husband to conceive a child (Genesis 16:1). As a handmaid, the child actually belongs to the father, and the substituted concubine's body is used as a representation of his wife, giving her full rights and responsibilities to the child.

(c) Incorrect. Mary was neither the mother to the divine God, nor did she hold such a personality to declare such. It is apparent through her acceptance that she understood that the baby she would bear for God belonged fully to Him, and she was merely a vessel to carry the child to term with only his human nature a part of her motherhood.

(d) Incorrect.

**9** What happened within Elisabeth when she first heard Mary's voice call out to her in greeting (Luke 1:39-41)? (May be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. The babe within her womb leaped
- b. She was given full knowledge of the arrival of the Messiah
- c. The Holy Ghost filled Elisabeth
- d. She was given recognition that Mary was the mother of God

(a) Correct. We have spoken of it often in this lesson because it is a favorite account of mine that shows the recognition of Christ's Lordship even before He is born. John the Baptist has been in the womb of Elisabeth's about six months when a pregnant Mary came to them. The Lord was recognized by the yet unborn baby John with his leaping in his mother's womb an apparent sign of his joy at being in yet unborn baby Jesus' presence.

(b) Incorrect. God allowed Elisabeth to realize a small part of His unfolding plans, and the little that she did know, overwhelmed her soul with great joy and praise.

(c) Correct. It is an important note that the Holy Ghost fills Elisabeth only after the presence of Christ is near. This allows us to know with certainty that John the Baptist was not the Messiah, not created with Immaculate Conception or Holy Ghost envelopment. John the Baptist was a product of two people, Elisabeth and Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25). But, it is also clear in Scripture that John the Baptist was a special situation, and that the spirit within him had lived before in

the form of Elijah (Matthew 17:10-13). Clearly, this symbiotic relationship between John and Christ was planned specifically by the LORD God.

(d) Incorrect. It was made known to Elisabeth that Mary carried her Lord, Jesus Christ, within her womb. The declaration that Mary was the mother of God did not come during this time, and was not the response by Elisabeth. She was overjoyed in her soul that the presence of her Lord was near, and felt blessed to be associated with the supernatural event and delighted that her cousin Mary played such an important role in God's unfolding New Covenant with man.

**10** What are the first six words of the Song of Mary captured in Luke 1:46-47?

Choose one answer.

- a. My soul doth magnify the Lord
- b. My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior
- c. Blessings to the handmaiden of the Lord
- d. None of the above

(a) Correct! Those six words speak a deep revelation of the nature of a faithful soul when Christ is present.

(b) Nope. Beautiful and powerful words follow the first six words of Mary's song.

(c) Incorrect.

(d) Nope.

**11** What is the Song of Mary expressed in Luke 1:46-56 traditionally called?

Choose one answer.

- a. Magnificat
- b. Song of Hannah
- c. Magnificent
- d. Gospel of Mary

(a) Correct. Note the spelling; it is commonly misspelled.

(b) Wrong.

(c) Wrong; the spelling is incorrect.

(d) Incorrect.

## 12 How is the traditional title to Mary's Song in Luke 1:45-56 derived?

Choose one answer.

- a. All of the above
- b. It is the title designated by the Roman Catholic Church
- c. It comes from the fourth word "magnify" at the beginning of the song
- d. It is the title that introduces the Gospel of Mary

(a) Incorrect.

(b) Sort of. Certainly the traditional Latin rites by the Roman Catholic Church contributed to the title, probably more than less. But, it is known by the Latin title "Magnificat" by most believers of all Christian persuasions, and an acceptable title to use in conversation amongst the faithful.

(c) Correct. Mary said "My soul doth magnify the Lord," at the beginning of the song, and the Latin word for "magnify" becomes the title to her song.

(d) Incorrect. There is no Gospel according to Mary that was written and accepted into the Canon of Christian faith.

## 13 The Song of Mary in Luke 1:46-56 parallels Psalms 112 and 117 with clear Messianic reflections that declare His eternal presence.

Answer:

- True  False

(True) Correct. Okay, the parallel in Psalm 117 is really stretching things, since that small verse adds little to the Messianic understanding of things. But, traditionally, Psalm 117 is classified as a Messianic Psalm because it is the song of all the nations looking to His coming. Psalm 112 more powerfully denotes the nature of the Messiah, and the Song of Mary in Luke 1:46-56 exalts His arrival.

(False) Wrong.



**14** What do some mistakenly claim that Mary's song in Luke 1:46-56 derives from?

Choose one answer.

- a. Ruth's thanksgiving song for deliverance
- b. Martha's prayerful mourning song
- c. Hannah's tearful song filled with expressions of the bitterness of her soul
- d. A combination of all the above

(a) Incorrect.

(b) Nope.

(c) Correct. Some mistakenly connect the joyful song of Mary to the sorrowful song of Hannah found in 1 Samuel 1.

(d) Incorrect.

**15** The Magnificat Song of Mary is original, purposeful, moving, and filled with praise that is fully and perfectly expressed by the Holy Ghost within her.

Answer:

- True  False

(True) Correct. The exclamations contained within Mary's Song reveal her sure faith in the Lord.

(False) Incorrect.

**16** What does Mary reveal concerning the power of God in her song captured in Luke 1:46-56? (More than one answer probable)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. She recognizes that God is merciful towards those that fear Him
- b. She knows God will scatter the proud
- c. She understands that God makes the haughty follow after their imaginations
- d. She knows that God unseat powerful leaders, and raises up those of humble spirit

(a) Correct. She praises God for His mercy (Luke 1:50).

(b) That's right. It is God's omnipotent arm that scatters those that do not fear Him. (Luke 1:51)

(c) A certain truth. Probably one of the most often seen among secular, worldly, and non-believers, the imaginations of those thinking themselves superior to God are fully expressed in today's world. That is why we see so much perversity unfold, as the haughty modern mankind thinks of new profanity to advance their thoughts. (Luke 1:51)

(d) Traditional, historical belief has recognized God's movement in the government of men often. Mary acknowledges God's power to remove arrogant leaders, and raise up those of poor in spirit, according to his will. In today's world, we still see that happen sporadically, as powerful leaders are removed and representatives of common people elevated. (Luke 1:52)

**17** What teachings of Christ were reflected in the Song of Mary found in Luke 1:46-56?

Choose one answer.

a. The Beatitudes

b. The Parables

c. The Revelations of things to come

d. All of the above

(a) Correct. Jesus' teaching of the Blessings given to people at the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-12 reflect the same type of blessings that Mary praised God for in her song. The full development of His Beatitude teachings begins with the simple blessings expressed by Mary while He is still in her womb, as the beginning principles of his ministry form, to be taught to His followers thirty years later.

(b) Incorrect. Mary did not teach new doctrine concerning the new covenant through the Lord Jesus Christ; parables were used by Him to teach new understanding of the things concerning the Kingdom of God.

(c) Wrong. Mary's song focuses on the present as the supernatural events in her life unfold.

(d) Nope.

**18** What does Mary know at the time she sings her song to God in Luke 1:46-56?

Choose one answer.

- a. She knows that the food of God satisfies the hungry while the worldly rich starve
- b. She knows that Israel is chosen by God to be His people, and that they do not even deserve His notice
- c. She recognized the connection between the lineage of Abraham through David to her Son as prophesized
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. Her realization that the knowledge she has concerning God derives from Him alone, blessing her with new ideas that are denied to the worldly non-believers.

(b) That's right. She had pondered her people's history, and recognized that the blessings God had bestowed upon them on the past to the present and in the future were undeserved grace given freely to them.

(c) That's right. She had pondered her people's history, and recognized that the blessings God had bestowed upon them on the past to the present and in the future were undeserved grace given freely to them.

(d) Correct!

**19** When did Zacharias sing his powerful song to God captured in Luke 1:68-79? (May be multiple answers)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. Right after mute Zacharias receives his voice once again
- b. Before his son John is born
- c. After John's birth, naming, and circumcision
- d. All of the above

(a) Correct. The first words were sung in powerful praises to God for fulfilling prophesy

(b) Incorrect. Zacharias remained mute until after his son's circumcision.

(c) Correct. When God saw Zacharias obey the instructions of Angel Gabriel recorded in Luke 1:11-22, his voice was returned.

(d) Incorrect.

**20** What were some of the important declarations made by Zacharias in his song to God recorded in Luke 1:68-80? (Will be more than one answer)

Choose at least one answer.

- a. He announced the redemption and salvation of God's people has begun
- b. He declared that his son would be known as a prophet of the most Highest
- c. He said that his son would prepare the path for the Lord
- d. He sings of hidden mysteries of the Lord that will soon unfold

(a) Correct. He recognized that his son, later known as John the Baptist, was the beginning of God's supernatural unfolding plans to redeem His chosen people.

(b) Correct. Luke 1:76

(c) Correct. Luke 1:76 Zacharias begins to pave the path that adult John will one day lay straight for the Lord.

(d) Correct. (Luke 1:77-79) Soon confirmed by the Lord's appearance, the spiritual depths revealed in Zacharias' song prepares onlookers with a foundation to be completed by the coming Messiah.