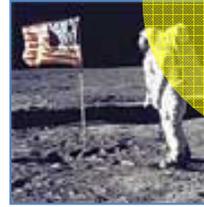


QUESTIONS:

- Which of the four gospels include information about the birth of Christ? Circle your answer(s) below
Matthew Mark Luke John
- Which of the four gospels include information about Zachariah and Elizabeth? Circle your answer(s) below
- Matthew Mark Luke John
- Did Jesus have any brothers and sisters? (Mark 6:3)
YES / NO
- Jesus was a Levite TRUE / FALSE
- We know from the Bible that Jesus was related to:
 - Matthew the tax-collector.
 - John the Baptist.
 - Peter the fisherman.
 - Caiaphas the priest.
- What sort of man was Joseph?
 - Clueless
 - Angry
 - Righteous
 - Scared
- Does God want us to pray to or through Mary? YES / NO
- While Jesus was on Earth He was recognized as:
 - Son of Man
 - Son of David
 - Son of Mary
 - All of the above
- Jesus came in the flesh and went back to Heaven after providing the sacrifice for sins. YES / NO
- Since that time his followers did not refer to Him as Mary's son. YES / NO
- Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on all flesh. YES / NO
- Those who are born again of water and the Spirit are now the body of Christ in the world. YES / NO

Finger Lakes Church of Christ: 607 708 4048
fingerlakescoc.com
PO Box 4917 Ithaca, NY 14852

LIFE-SEARCH



But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29

A LOOK INTO THE HEART OF GOD THROUGH THE STUDY OF HIS WORD

Part Seven

The Womb of Salvation

Mary

Almighty God used the womb of a young Jewish virgin to gain entrance into our world of sin and death. The Son of God was born in Bethlehem of Judea. This is a familiar story and Mary is a well-known historical figure but do you know what the Bible actually has to say about Mary? Luke has most of the information in his gospel.

- Her Family:** Luke 1:36 says she was a relative of Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. This is usually taken to mean that John and Jesus were cousins. We are not told what tribe she was from but this would suggest she could have been of the tribe of Levi as Elizabeth was a "daughter of Aaron" (Luke 1:5).
- Her Husband:** His name was Joseph and he was definitely descended from King David of the tribe of Judah (Luke 1:27). This is very important because the Jewish people knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of David. Many prophecies from the Old Testament testified to that fact. Eg Isaiah 9:6,7.
- Her son:** When the teaching about Jesus flooded the world, after His resurrection and ascension, nobody spoke of Mary. Paul mentioned the ancestry of Jesus in Romans 1:3, 4. He described Him as both David's son and God's Son. He did not mention Mary.

...concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

1. While Jesus was on the earth, however, He was known as Mary's Son (Matthew 13:55). When the angel Gabriel appeared to her he gave her this prediction:
And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." Luke 1:30,31
 2. So far this prediction is not unbelievable because, although Mary was a virgin at the time, she was engaged to be married to Joseph and Joseph was of the house of David. But listen to the next part:
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. Luke 1:32
 3. So Jesus would be born into the house of Joseph but God would be His father. If you think this is hard to understand try putting yourself in Mary's place. She has a very obvious question:
And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" Luke 1:34
 4. Here is the explanation she receives:
And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." Luke 1:35
- D. **Her Faith:** You would think that this young girl must have had a thousand questions when she heard this but she was satisfied and gave this reply:
And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.
1. Could Mary have refused? Yes, she could have opted out, but she gave God permission. What would you say if God told you He wanted to use your body to pay a visit to the world?
 2. The name Jesus means "Jehovah is salvation" and the purpose of this visit was to "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)
 3. While she was still pregnant, Mary visited her relative, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the baptist.

In Luke 1:39-45 we read of that encounter. When Mary entered the house of Zachariah and Elizabeth the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped and it caused Elizabeth to cry out *"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

4. Mary then sang a song of praise (Luke 1:46-55) in which she demonstrates that she understood that the fruit of her womb was the Messiah who was coming to rescue Israel as the prophets had predicted. (Luke 1:54,55)
- E. **Her Position:** Nowhere does God give any indication that Mary is to be elevated to a position of worship. God only allows for praise and prayer to be offered to Himself through His Son. (Matthew 4:10; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 19:10)
1. Mary was an example of humility and submission before God.
 2. Mary was a vessel for the Holy Spirit.
 3. Mary provided a womb for salvation.
- F. **What can we learn from Mary and her son?**
1. God wants to save sinners. (1 Timothy 2:4)
 2. God has to be in the flesh to save sinners. (Hebrews 2:14)
 3. God's Son put on flesh and blood to save sinners.
 4. When Jesus had provided the sacrifice for sins He returned to Heaven and poured out the Holy Spirit on all flesh. (Acts 2:14-33)
 5. People who are saved must be born again of water and the Spirit. (John 3:3-5)
 6. When that happens such people are called "Sons of God" because God adopts them into His family (Galatians 4:5). They are legitimate sons of God just like Jesus was considered a legitimate son of Joseph who adopted Him while on Earth.
 7. God needs people with a heart like Mary so that other people in the world can experience the birth of Christ.
 8. Like Mary, who was warned that a sword would pierce through her own soul (Luke 2:35), anyone who offers themselves as a vessel of the Holy Spirit will know the torment of seeing Jesus being punished. The world still rises up against Him.