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## A Biographical Study of Mary the Mother of Jesus

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# *Mary, the Mother of Jesus*<sup>1</sup>

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Mary and Gabriel (the angel of the Lord)
  - A. His announcement about Mary
    1. Concerning the father of her unborn Son—“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18-20).
    2. Concerning the fruits of her unborn Son—“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).
  - B. His announcement to Mary
    1. The salutation—“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be” (Luke 1:26-29).
      - a. Concerning the birth of Jesus
        - (1) The choice of Mary—“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God” (Luke 1:30).
        - (2) The child in Mary—“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:31-33).
        - (3) The concern of Mary—“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).
        - (4) The clarification to Mary—“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).
      - b. Concerning the birth of John—“And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth

month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:36-37).

2. The submission—"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1:38).

II. Mary and Elisabeth (the affirmation of the Lord)—God reassured both Mary and Elisabeth, each of which had experienced a supernatural conception.

- A. The meeting—"And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, in the city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth" (Luke 1:39-40).
- B. The miracle
  1. Elisabeth's babe—"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: (Luke 1:41).
  2. Elisabeth's blessing—"And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord" (Luke 1:42-45).
- C. The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56)—In these verses Mary quoted from at least 15 Old Testament sources and praised God for his various attributes:
  1. His grace (Luke 1:46-48)
  2. His power (Luke 1:49)
  3. His mercy (Luke 1:50)
  4. His holiness (Luke 1:49)
  5. His goodness (Luke 1:53)
  6. His faithfulness (Luke 1:54-56)

III. Mary and Jesus (the Anointed of the Lord)

- A. Jesus, the infant—"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. . . . And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him" (Luke 2:19, 33).
  1. Events in Bethlehem
    - a. The birth of Jesus—"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7).
    - b. The worship of Jesus—"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to

pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:15-16).

- c. The circumcision of Jesus—"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (Luke 2:21).

## 2. Events in Jerusalem

- a. The dedication of the Babe—"And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord. . . . And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:22, 24).
- b. The declaration concerning the Babe—"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him"  
(1) His words concerning the Messiah—"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. . . . And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against" (Luke 2:30-32, 34).  
(2) His words concerning the mother—"Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35).

## B. Jesus, the young child

- 1. The testimony of the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12)—"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11).
- 2. The trip to Egypt—"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son" (Matt. 2:13-15)

- C. Jesus, the boy—“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it” (Luke 2:41-43).
1. The concern of Mary—“And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing” (Luke 2:48).
  2. The correction by Jesus—“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” (Luke 2:49).
- D. Jesus, the man
1. His words to Mary in the city of Cana
    - a. Mary and the Savior
      - (1) Her request—“And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine” (John 2:1-3).
      - (2) His reply—“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come” (John 2:4).
    - b. Mary and the servants—“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it” (John 2:5).
  2. His words to Mary on the cross of Calvary—“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home” (John 19:26-27).
- IV. Mary and the 120 (the ambassadors of the Lord)—She was numbered with the 120 in the upper room on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:12-15). “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14).

## STATISTICS

*Spouse:* Joseph

*Sons:* Jesus, James, Joseph, Simon, Judas (Luke 2:7; Matt. 13:55)

*Daughters:* Several unnamed (Matt. 13:56)

*First mention:* Matthew 1:16

*Final mention:* Acts 1:14

*Meaning of her name:* “Bitter”

*Frequency of her name:* Referred to 19 times

*Biblical books mentioning her:* Four (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts)

*Place of birth:* Probably Bethlehem

*Important fact about her life:* She was God's chosen vessel to give birth to the Savior of the world.