

Doctrines Of The Faith - A Study in Truth



What The Bible Says About...

MARY

The Mother of Jesus

PASTOR ART KOHL



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by Pastor Art Kohl

Scripture verses in this booklet are from the King James Holy Bible.

Doctrine of the Faith - A Study in Truth

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I. Introduction.....	1
II. General Events in Mary's Life	2
III. Attitudes of Mary	8
IV. Attitudes of Jesus Toward Mary	9
V. Spiritual Aspects of Mary.....	10

I. Introduction

The Bible is the infallible Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Isaiah 8:20, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

We are instructed to search the scriptures, John 5:39, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Even children can understand the scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:15, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 11:25, “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”

The Bible is for everyone, no one has a special claim on it. 2 Peter 1:20, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”

With these thoughts in mind, let us expose - for the truth's sake - the error of men's traditions, (See Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-9).

All man-made tradition, doctrine and religion is to be rejected and the truth of the Word of God is to be believed and contended for (see Jude 1:3).

Let us see what the Bible says about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

II. General Events in Mary's Life

A. She is initially introduced as a virgin.

Luke 1:27, "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:23, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

B. She was espoused to Joseph, her husband.

They were legally married, but had not had a physical relationship. This was typical method of marriage in the day.

Matthew 1:18, "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."

Luke 1:27, "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

Luke 2:5, "To be taxed with Mary his espoused **wife**, being great with child."

C. She conceived a child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:18, "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."

Luke 1:34-35, "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 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."

This was a miracle! God planted Divine Seed into virgin Mary's womb. Because no human man was involved, there was no sin involved. Sin is passed on by the seed of a man.

Romans 5:12 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

D. After the birth of Christ, Mary would have a physical relationship with Joseph.

Matthew 1:18, "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.”

Matthew 1:25, “And **knew her not till** she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”

E. Mary would have at least six children by Joseph.

Matthew 13:55-56, “Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”

Mark 6:3, “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.”

Mary’s other sons were: James, Joses, Simon, and Judas. Jesus also had “sisters” (plural- which means at least two). Therefore there were at least six other children in the house.

1. She is called the “mother of Jesus” three times: John 2:1,3; Acts 1:14.
2. She is called the “mother of James and Joses” two times: Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40.
3. She is called the “mother of James” (the less) two other times: Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10.
4. She is called the “mother of Joses” one other time: Mark 15:47
5. She is called the “mother of my Lord’ one time by her cousin Elisabeth in Luke 1:43.
6. The phrase “mother of God” never occurs in the Bible, in reference to Mary or anyone.

F. She and Joseph were poor.

Luke 2:22-24, “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; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy 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.**”

This was the offering of a poor woman.

Leviticus 12:8, “And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the

priest shall make an atonement **for her**, and **she** shall be clean.” (more on this later.)

G. She gave birth to Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem.

Luke 2:4-7, “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 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.”

H. She fled with Jesus and Joseph into Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-14, “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.”

I. She returned to live in Nazareth of Galilee.

Matthew 2:15, “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.”

Matthew 2:20-23, “Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child’s life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”

J. She went to Jerusalem every year for the Passover Feast.

Luke 2:41, “Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.”

K. She unknowingly left Jesus in Jerusalem when He was 12 years old.

Luke 2:41-52, “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. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

“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. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

“And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

L. She witnessed the first miracle of Jesus’ public ministry.

John 2:1-11, “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. Jesus saith unto her, **Woman**, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

“And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

“And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith

unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

“This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”

(Note: We have no biblical record of Jesus ever calling her “Mother”.)

M. She went with Jesus to minister to Him throughout His public ministry.

John 2:12, “After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.”

Matthew 27:55-56, “And many women were there beholding afar off, **which followed Jesus from Galilee**, ministering unto him: Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s children.”

Galilee marked the beginning of Christ’s public ministry.

N. She was probably widowed.

John 19:25-27, “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 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.”

If Joseph had still been alive, there would have been no need for Mary to live elsewhere.

O. She stood by the cross as Christ died.

John 19:25, “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

P. She went to live with John at the death of her son Jesus.

John 19:27, “Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

Why didn’t Jesus want Mary to live with her other sons? Probably because they were not believers at the time.

John 7:5, “For neither did his brethren believe in him.”
Jesus, the eldest son, wanted His mother to be cared for by a believer.

Q. She went to the tomb of Jesus.

Luke 24:10, “It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.”

Mark 16:1-2, “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.”

R. She attended the great prayer meeting before Pentecost.

Acts 1:14, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

(It is good to see that Jesus’ brethren became believers after His resurrection!)

S. She is never again mentioned in the Bible.

Anything else that is said about Mary is based on the traditions of men, not after the Word of God.

III. Attitudes of Mary

A. A confidence in her Son.

John 2:3-5, “And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, **Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.**”

B. A love toward her Son.

Luke 2:48, “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.”

John 19:25, “Now **there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother**, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

C. A humility about her Son.

Luke 1:41-42, “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: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou **among** women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”

Luke 1:48, “For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”

Mary knew she was blessed **among** women for being chosen to have the Christ-child. But she did not consider herself above women.

The angel said of her, “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.” (Luke 1:28)

Only one woman is said to be “blessed above women”, and she was named Jael. Read her story in Judges 5.

IV. Attitudes of Jesus Towards Mary

A. As a Child, He submitted to her.

Luke 2:51, “And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.”

B. As an Adult, He showed her no special treatment.

John 2:4, “Jesus saith unto her, **Woman**, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.” Again, there is no biblical record of Him ever calling her “Mother.”

C. Now, He considers all disciples equal to His mother.

Matthew 12:46-50, “While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

“Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

“But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother?** and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother** and my brethren! For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, **and mother.**”

We can be equal to Mary in God’s sight if we will follow Jesus, and keep His commandments!

V. Spiritual Aspects of Mary

A. Realized she needed a Savior from her sins.

Luke 1:47, “And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”
Only sinners need a Savior.

B. She gave a sacrifice to make atonement for her soul, and in cleansing from her sin.

Luke 2:21-24, “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.

“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.”

The offering of this sacrifice was **for the mother’s atonement. Not** for the father of the child or the child.

Leviticus 12:1-4;6-8, “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **If a woman** have conceived seed, and born a man child: then **she shall be unclean** seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity **shall she be unclean.**

“And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall then continue in the blood of **her purifying** three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.

“And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement **for her**; and **she** shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood.

“This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the **one for the burnt offering**, and **the other for a sin offering**: and the priest shall make an atonement **for her**, and she shall be clean.”

C. She had spiritual perception.

Luke 1:49-54, “For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.”

D. She knew the scriptures.

Luke 1:55, “As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.”

Luke 2:21-24, “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.

“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; (**As it is written in the law** of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy 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.”

She knew what the scriptures said prophetically, and what the Lord expected of her.

E. She was spiritually-minded and meditated.

Luke 1:29, “And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.”

Luke 1:49, “For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.”

Luke 2:19, “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”

Luke 2:51, “And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.”

(See also Romans 8:6.)

F. She had submission to God.

Luke 1:38, “And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”

Luke 1:46-55, “And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.”

G. She gave only one command.

John 2:5, “His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”

“Study to shew thyself approved
unto God, a workman that
needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15
