

MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Luke 1:48, "From now on all generations shall call me blessed."

The earliest New Testament account of Mary is found in [the epistle to the Galatians](#), which was written before the [gospels](#). She is known as "a woman" and is not named: "But when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). ^[50]

Mary appears by name in the Synoptic Gospels and in the book of Acts. Luke contains most of the references to Mary and places the greatest emphasis on her role in God's plan.

Mary is mentioned by name in the genealogy of Jesus, in the annunciation, in Mary's visit to Elizabeth, in the birth of Jesus, in the visit of the Magi, in the presentation of

Mary is mentioned several times in the canonical Gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles:

- Luke's [Gospel](#) mentions Mary most frequently, identifying her by name twelve times, all of them in the infancy narrative (Luke 1:27-2:34). ^[51]
- [Matthew's Gospel](#) mentions her by name five times, four of them (1:16, 18, 20:2:12)[52] in the infancy narrative and only once (Matthew 13:55)^[53] outside the infancy narrative .
- Mark's [Gospel](#) names her once (Mark 6:3)^[54] and mentions Jesus' mother without naming her in Mark 3:31-32. ^[55]
- The [Gospel of John](#) refers to Jesus' mother twice, but never mentions her name. She is first seen at [the wedding at Cana](#) (John 2:1-12). ^[56] The second reference has her standing near the cross of Jesus along with [Mary Magdalene](#), [Mary of Clopas](#) (or Cleophas), and her own sister (possibly the same as Mary of Clopas; the wording is semantically ambiguous), along with the "[disciple whom Jesus loved](#)" (John 19:25-26). ^[57] John 2:1-12^[56] is the only text in the canonical gospels in which the adult Jesus has a conversation with Mary. He does not address her as "Mother" but as "Woman." In [Koine Greek](#) (the language in which the Gospel of John was composed), calling the mother "Woman" was not disrespectful, and could even be tender. ^[58] Consequently, some versions of the Bible translate it as "Dear Woman." ^[59]

--- **Matthew 1:18**, "The birth of Jesus Christ went like this: When Mary her mother was betrothed to Joseph, before they were put together, she was found to have conceived of the Holy Spirit."

--- "Handcuffed". This word is used from the commitment between man and woman to be husbands, husband and wife. That is why Mary was Joseph's wife before they lived together as husband and wife.

--- Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born, but after Jesus was born Mary had several children. Matthew 13:55-56. James, Joseph, Simon, Judas and also had daughters.

In Acts, she is known as "Mary, the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14), where she participates in the community of believers and prays with the apostles. The Gospel of John never mentions Mary by name, but refers to the "mother of Jesus" in the account of the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) and standing near the cross at the crucifixion (John 19:25-27).

Mary found herself in the presence of the angel Gabriel listening to his announcement. I could never have expected to hear the most incredible news: that I would have a son and that your son would be the Messiah. Although he could not understand how he would conceive the Savior, he responded to God with humble belief and obedience.

Although Mary's call had great honor, it would also demand great suffering. There would be pain in childbirth and motherhood, as well as in the privilege of being the mother of the Messiah. The angel told Mary in Luke 1:28 that she was greatly favored by God. This phrase simply meant that Mary had received much grace or "unmerited favor" from God. Even with God's favor, Mary would still suffer greatly.

Although she would be very honored as the Savior's mother, she would first know misfortune as a single mother. She almost lost her fiancé. Her beloved son was rejected and cruelly murdered. Mary's submission to God's plan would cost her dearly, but she was willing to be God's servant.

God knew that Mary was a woman of rare strength. She was the only human being who was with Jesus throughout his life, from birth to death.

She gave birth to Jesus as her baby and watched Him die as her Savior. Mary also knew the Scriptures. When the angel appeared and told her that the baby would be the Son of God, Mary replied, "I am the servant of the Lord... Let it be for me as you have said." (Luke 1:38). She knew of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah.

Luke 1:39 - 56, Elizabeth and Mary.

[Wayne Partain, April 3, 2023]