

# Mary [Mother of Jesus Christ]

**Our information about the mother of Jesus Christ is largely confined to the infancy narratives of Jesus Christ in Matthew and Luke.**

From these records we learn that when the angelic announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ occurred, Mary was living at Nazareth, in Galilee, and was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph, [Luke 1:26-27].

**Although not mentioned, Mary's lineage is possibly the same as Joseph, for the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Luke 3 is traced through His mother.**

Heli may have been Joseph's father-in-law. If that were the case, this would be Mary's genealogy that Luke may have received personally from her.

Joseph was begotten by Jacob and was his natural son, [Matthew 1:16]. He could be "son of Heli" [verse 23] only by marriage with Heli's daughter [Mary] be recorded so by the law. Note Luke does not use the word "begat" in the case of Heli or the rest of his genealogy, as Matthew does.

**It is fitting that Luke would show Mary's genealogy because of the prominence he gives to women in his gospel.**

**Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam, showing that Jesus Christ is related to all human beings. This is consistent with Luke's picture of Jesus Christ being the Saviour of the whole world.**

The conception of Mary's first child Jesus Christ is described as "of the Holy Spirit" [Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35] and His birth as taking place at Bethlehem towards the end of the reign of Herod the Great, [Matthew 2:1; Luke 1:5; Luke 2:4].

**Matthew 2:13-18** [New King James] *"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you 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 for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, 'Out of Egypt I called My Son.' Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.'"*

**The family fled to Egypt to avoid being murdered by Herod, only returning to Nazareth [Matthew 2:19-23] to avoid living in the region governed by Herod's son Archelaus.**

Luke records Mary's visit to Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, before the birth of Jesus Christ, [Luke 1:39-45] and also Mary's song of praise, [Luke 1:46-56].

Luke records the typical anxious words of Mary, at the discovery of the lost boy Jesus Christ, [Luke 2:41-50].

**The remaining references to Mary in the gospels are few and relatively uninformative. Apparently she did not accompany Jesus Christ on His missionary journeys, though she was present with Him at the marriage in Cana [John 2:1-12].**

**Finally we meet Mary at the foot of Jesus Christ's cross [John 19:25] when she and the beloved disciple are entrusted by Him to each other's care, [John 19:26-27].**

The only other explicit New Testament reference to Mary is in **Acts 1:14**, where she and the disciples are described as "*devoting themselves to prayer.*"

**The record of Mary in the New Testament does not give any validity to the many legends attributed to her.**

[Please download and study the articles under the main heading on this website of '*Religion*' with the titles '*Mary Worship*' and '*Mother and Child Worship*'.]