

How should we properly understand the virgin birth and why Mary was not a perpetual virgin:

- **Refuting the Teaching of the Perpetual Virginity of Mary:** Joseph Reason: (1) Matt. 1:18-25, Joseph is betrothed to Mary who is pregnant, and is commanded to keep Mary as his wife and for her to remain a virgin until after Jesus is born, V25. (2) Family Reason: Mark.6:3, Jesus had at least (4) brothers and (2) sisters. (3) Contradiction Reason: The Catholic Church states that sexual intimacy is a blessing to both man and woman in marriage and not to be withheld. Mary would have violated those rules, thereby committing sin under the “One Flesh” command in Scripture if she never consummated her marriage with Joseph.
- **What Did Mary Believe About God?**
 1. **Mary believed in the faithfulness of God:** V50, Yahweh keeps His covenant to a thousand generations, Duet. 7:9. 2 Tim. 2:13, He is faithful even if we are faithless. From generation to generation, Yahweh has shown His lovingkindness to those who fear Him, Ps. 103:11&17. Mary knows that Yahweh has been faithful to keep His word to Israel, Ps. 103:7-18 & Luke 1:54.
 2. **Mary believed in the omnipotence of God:** V51, as God scattered the mind of Nebuchadnezzar and brought it back in Daniel 4:34. God is God over all things, Ps. 18:13-15, His arrows and lightning brings confusion. Ps. 62:11, all strength belongs to God. V51, God has done a mighty deed with His arm. V52, Yahweh brings down rulers and exalts the humble. God struck King Herod Agrippa for not giving glory to God, Acts 12:20-25.
 - Zech. 14:9, “Yahweh will be king over all the earth.” He will be the only One who rules.
 - Rev. 19:6, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”
 3. **Mary believed in the omniscience of God:** V51, God reveals the deep and hidden things, Dan. 2:22. All things are laid bare before Him, Heb. 4:13. God knows the words that I will speak, when I stand and sit, and all the days of my life, Ps. 139:1-24. He is aware of all things about me because He formed me and counted my days. Ezek. 11:5, Yahweh knows what is in the spirit of man.
 - Rev. 6:16, the peoples ask for mountains to fall on them and to hide them from the Lamb.
 - Jer. 25:15-16, the people stagger and go mad because of Yahweh who makes them drink of the cup of His wrath.
 - Zech. 12:4, Yahweh will strike the enemies of God with bewilderment and madness and every horse with blindness as He watches over Israel.
 - God knows all things and all persons and every motive and intent of their hearts.
 4. **Mary believed in the mercy of God:** V54, “in remembrance of His mercy.” Mary knew of God’s mercy.
 - Mercy is needed from God because of sin. It is also bestowed on us as God holds creation together and in order, Col. 1:15-23, Heb. 1:1-4.
 - Mercy is more specifically given to us by God to sustain life, give us food, water, plants, livestock, etc., and in helping all people live and breathe.
 - Yahweh’s sovereign mercy is demonstrated by choosing to forgive the sins of those He has called unto salvation and with those that He has established His covenant with (Abraham, David, Noah, Israel, Jesus, etc.).
 - Exodus 33:17-19, God is gracious and compassionate to those to whom He will be gracious and compassionate. God has given us His glory (His word and His name, V13, 18-19).
 - Mary sings of God’s help of Israel by the Servant (Jesus), His great mercy towards them, and His grace to Abraham, V54-55.
 - V53, the quote, “And sent away the rich empty-handed,” is a demonstration of the glory of God that man’s effort and resource are useless to God. The rich young ruler didn’t receive the gift of God. The Pharisees would not receive God’s gift. A man can’t trust in riches and trust God. Those with power, the kings and men of renown, had to be humbled to receive Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

Why must we believe that God is faithful? The basis of our salvation is His word. What does His word promise to us about our salvation, our future, and our sin?

Why must we believe that God is omnipotent? If He doesn't hold everything together, if He doesn't have the power to raise the dead, what is our faith in? Read 1 Cor. 15:12-17. What does our faith rest upon? What does the believer in Christ hope for because of the power of God?

Why must we be certain that God's knows everything about everything? What happens to our faith if God doesn't know one single thing? If God doesn't know everything about me, even things I don't know about myself (the future, my hidden sins, my hidden ways) why might my salvation be uncertain? Would I be assured that He would forgive all my sins if He didn't know them all? Why is Psalm 139 an important revelation for us to know about ourselves?

Read Col. 1:21-23. How is God's mercy demonstrated every morning? How is His mercy demonstrated when I fail or hurt others? How is His mercy demonstrated when I repent of my sins and confess my sins to Him? What is the basis of my acceptance before the Lord? Why I am no longer His enemy?

Read Rom. 5:1-2. Christians are justified by faith in Christ alone. We also stand in the grace of God through faith in Christ and we boast in hope of the glory of God. This unmeasurable grace is hard to fathom. We stand before God in the perfection and righteousness of Christ. We receive credit for the life He lived. We also live in hope of being glorified together with Christ in heaven. As Mary sings her song, why is her song our testimony as well? How does the word of God prove to be the bedrock of Mary's faith and ours as well?