

Yahshua the Messiah is analogous to a perfect and grown-up child, exactly reflecting the values and nature of His Divine Parents. ***Both the power of the Father and the Holy Spirit worked together to quicken the womb of Miriam*** with the tiny embryo that would become Yahshua (Luke 1:35). This meant that the Messiah had a divine Mind and Spirit that was melded with his fully human, yet sinless nature. ***This made Yahshua both fully human, and fully God.*** He sported a flesh and blood body that was weak like his human mother Miriam's. It required sleep, food, and exercise. His body also could be wounded, and it would die one day. It also temporarily limited Yahshua's ability to see and know all things. ***But Yahshua's mind and Spirit were literally Yahweh's own immortal essence.***

The Virgin Mary: Our Spiritual Mother, or Mortal Flesh?

Though Yahshua took on human flesh, and became fully human through the womb of Miriam, Yahshua's Spirit always existed as the Word of God (John 1:1-3). The Bible states emphatically that, as the Word of God, Yahshua existed before all things were created and - along with the Father and the Holy Spirit - He shared in the Creation of all things (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:15-17). ***Therefore, Yahshua's sinless and perfect nature is eternal, and has no human counterpart.*** Though Yahshua had free will, and was tempted to sin just as we are, Yahshua was born without the Original Sin imbedded in His genes, and always chose to be obedient to His heavenly Father. No human being except Yahshua could ever claim to be sinless. This is because Yahshua's Spirit was the Father's very own Spirit (Matthew 11:27; John 5:23, 8:28, 10:30).

This is why the belief that, since Yahshua was holy, His human mother Miriam was also pure and sinless is *highly* erroneous. Openly blasphemous, this idolatry of the "Virgin Mary" leads to the twisted thinking that Miriam can somehow propitiate or guarantee our salvation. Because of this teaching, many erroneously believe they can gain salvation or forgiveness of sin if they pray to the Virgin Mary, and ask her to intercede for them before Yahweh God. Some also believe that the spirits of the saints beatified by the Roman Catholic Church can intercede for them, and provide them

with Yah's blessings and protection. However, ***this distinction of Mediator between God and mankind is Christ's alone.*** It never was intended to apply to anyone else:

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (The Anointed One Yahshua), who gave Himself as a ransom for all, to be testified in due time..." - 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NKJ)

This Scripture clearly teaches that Yahshua, our Messiah or Anointed One, is our only Mediator before Yahweh. In addition to this Scripture, there is the testimony of the Apostle John:

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." - 1 John 2:1-2 (NKJ)

Yahshua alone works with His Spirit to intercede for us before God's Judgment seat, and thereby absolve us of sin for all time. Only Yahshua can be our intercessor before Yah because He alone, of all people ever born, was sinless:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - 2 Cor. 5:21 (NKJ)

Furthermore, Yahshua remained sinless - never sinning as Adam did:

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -- yet was without sin." - Hebrews 4:14-15 (NIV)

Unlike her fully divine Son, Miriam was a sinner, which she openly admitted when she called God her Savior:

Chapter Seven: Seeing Yahweh in Family Bonds

“And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.’” - Luke 1:46-48

If Mary herself admitted to needing God as her Savior, how can anyone deny her imperfection? Though she was a pious and godly young maiden, ***the virgin Miriam was as tainted by the Original Sin as all human beings are except for the fruit of her womb, which the Holy Spirit made perfect.*** She was an imperfect human vessel that housed the perfection that is Christ. As a sinner in need of a Savior, Miriam was born with a rebellious sin nature, and needed discipline and instruction to live righteously - just as all human beings do. Though pious Jews from the Tribe of Judah, Miriam’s parents were also sinful people like she was. They had faith in Yahweh, and did their best to know, and follow His Will. But they were *not* free from sin. Scripture emphasizes this point:

*“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Anointed One) to all who believe. **There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (The Anointed One Yahshua).**” - Romans 3:21-24 (NIV)*

The preceding Scripture makes it clear that ***all human beings including Miriam, and the beatified saints are sinful***, and fall short of God’s holiness. Furthermore, they required Christ’s redemption to be justified by faith alone. Until then they were subject to, and cursed by the written Law. Therefore, though the Holy Spirit overshadowed Miriam so that she became pregnant with Yahshua, she was never divine in nature. Miriam was, rather, a fully human woman tainted with the Original Sin. Miriam had to struggle with her sinful nature just like all of us do, and she had to work hard to conform her sinful nature to God’s perfect Will.

Nonetheless, as Yahshua’s mother, Miriam should be highly regarded as the most blessed among sinful women. We can esteem

Miriam, and strive to be like her, but we should never worship her, or see her (or any other saint) as an acceptable intercessor between God and ourselves. Scripture is clear on this point, and repeatedly tells us that God alone is our Savior:

*“Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD (Yahweh)? And **there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.**” -Isaiah 45:21 (NKJ)*

*“Yet I am the LORD your God (Yahweh your Elohim) ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; for **there is no Savior besides Me.**” - Hosea 13:4 (NKJ)*

*“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that... we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (i.e. Yahshua Ha Mashiach), who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**” - Titus 2:11-14 (NKJ)*

Miriam: A Perpetual Virgin, or Prolific Mother?

Another misconception some believers have about Miriam is that she was always a virgin. Nonetheless, Scripture teaches otherwise. It tells us that, ***though Miriam was a virgin when she became Yahshua’s earthly mother, she likely had other children by Joseph (i.e. Yoseph) afterward.*** Many people are ignorant of the fact that, under Jewish Law, a marriage isn’t consummated or fully binding until intercourse between the man and woman occurs. Therefore, if they had not lain together after Yahshua’s miraculous birth, Miriam and Joseph’s marriage would have remained unconsummated, and therefore not legally binding. Yahweh, however, surely intended for the mother of Yahshua to be honored

by a legitimate, legally binding marriage. In addition, as a good Jewess, Miriam would have expected her husband to lay with her, and give her as many children as Yahweh would allow so that she could be further blessed. As a good Jewish husband, Joseph also would have expected to father his own children with Miriam in order to fulfill the mandate of Yahweh that, once married, we should be fruitful and multiply.

The Bible fully supports the idea that Miriam was *not* perpetually virgin, and had a legal marriage to Joseph. This is clear in the following Scripture, where Yahshua's mother Miriam is seen with Yahshua's biologically-related brothers:

"While He (Yahshua) was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside..." But He answered and said... "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." - Matthew 12:46-50 (NKJ)

This Scripture tells us that ***Yahshua had at least two brothers*** accompanying Miriam at that time. Furthermore, it shows that ***Yahshua did not view His human mother as more special than any other human being***. Yahshua proves this by stating emphatically that whoever does the Will of Yahshua's Father in Heaven is considered a part of His Family. By this statement, ***Yahshua also implied that the need to do Yahweh's Will applies to everyone - including His own flesh and blood mother and brothers***. Yahshua's words in this Scripture also intimate that His own family did not accept or understand His claims that He was the Son of God and Messiah. Sadly, until Yahshua rose from the dead, even His mother Miriam misunderstood the angel Gabriel's message to her:

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus (Yahshua). He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,

and of His kingdom there will be no end.” - Luke 1:31-33 (NKJ)

Here, the angel Gabriel says nothing to Miriam of Yahshua’s coming suffering and death on the Cross for our sins. Instead, Miriam is told that she will give birth to a son who will become a king like His father David - one who will reign over the House of Jacob forever. Taken in the context it was given, Miriam was likely under the mistaken impression that her son would become the literal king of an independent kingdom of Israel during her lifetime. In fact, as a daughter of devout Jews, Miriam was surely well acquainted with the Jewish expectation in a coming Messiah and leader who would raise an army and conquer the foreign oppressors of the Jews - just as the Maccabees had done two hundred years before.

As a result, Miriam and her children were likely more than a little concerned when Yahshua showed signs of being against any type of armed insurrection (Mat. 5:38-41), and also began attacking the most respected Jewish leaders of their community by calling them a *“brood of vipers,”* and other unflattering names on more than one occasion (Mat. 12:34, 23:23-33). In fact, it likely made them all doubt Miriam’s recollection of her angelic visitation, and question her understanding that Yahshua was to become the King of Israel. Undeniably, the following Scripture confirms that Yahshua’s brothers really did not believe that He was the expected Messiah:

“For even his own brothers did not believe in him.” - John 7:5 (NIV)

Adding to this picture that Yahshua’s own blood family did not understand His First Advent ministry, the following Scripture makes it clear that some of them thought He was crazy:

“When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind.’” - Mark 3:21 (NIV)

A chronology of the Four Gospels reveals that the preceding passage from the Gospel of Mark is referring to the same event as detailed in Matthew 12:46. This means that ***Yahshua’s “family” in Mark’s Gospel were those identified as Yahshua’s “mother and***

brothers” in Matthew’s Gospel. Thus, we can also conclude that Yahshua’s mother was among those family members who were not convinced of her firstborn son’s divine status, or role as the Messiah - at least not at this stage in Yahshua’s earthly ministry. Like some of her other children, Miriam may have thought that her son had lost his mind, and was in need of special care.

Some have argued that the flesh and blood brothers and sisters of Yahshua referred to in Matthew 12:46-50 and 13:55-56, Mark 3:21 and 31-35, Luke 8:19-21, and John 7:5 belonged to Joseph by a prior marriage. This would have made them stepsiblings who were not biologically related to Yahshua at all. However, I must ask readers who are sympathetic to the idea of Miriam being a perpetual virgin to consider this: ***“Did Yahweh truly wish to curse the young virgin mother of Yahshua by marrying her to an old man with grown children?”*** I think that such a devout and special woman as Miriam would have been greatly blessed by Yahweh in all respects. Her husband Joseph therefore should have been an attractive, youthful, healthy, talented, intelligent, and devout Jew - just as we assume Miriam already was!

Though Joseph may not have been old when he married Miriam, the Gospels are silent about his whereabouts after Yahshua’s appearance at the Temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:41-50). This has given rise to the speculation that Joseph may have died shortly after that from old age. However, if Joseph did die, it could have been from many other reasons besides old age. For example, he could have died from disease, an accidental injury, or an injury sustained while protecting his family. Judea, after all, was a very unsettled and dangerous place to live in under Roman rule. Alternatively, Joseph may not have died, but simply been inactive in Yahshua’s ministry due to a preoccupation with his work, or from contempt, or apathy toward Yahshua’s ministry. He therefore was not mentioned in relation to it.

But what of the mysterious character known as Joseph of Arimathea - who appears as a disciple toward the end of Yahshua’s ministry (Mat. 27:57)? This man is given Yahshua’s lifeless body after His death on the Cross. However, according to Roman law, a dead body could only be given to someone who had a family relationship with the deceased. Though legends say that Joseph of Arimathea was Yahshua’s mother Miriam’s uncle, could it be possible that he was Yahshua’s stepfather? If so, this Joseph was

not a poor carpenter, but a wealthy member of the council of the Sanhedrin, and - at some point - became a secret disciple of Christ (Mark 15:43; John 19:38). As a Jewish leader, Joseph could boldly claim his relative's body in front of Pontius Pilate without being afraid of immediate reprisals. There is, however, no Scriptural support that Joseph of Arimathea was Yahshua's stepfather. Therefore, Yahshua's stepfather Joseph's whereabouts at the time of Yahshua's death still remains a mystery.

In English legend, after Yahshua's death and resurrection, Joseph of Arimathea is believed to have traveled to a Jewish community at Glastonbury, England. Once settled there, Joseph is credited with spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on England's shores. He is also credited with establishing one of the first Christian Churches outside of the Roman Empire and Judea. This legend about Joseph of Arimathea is intriguing because, as a devout Jew and disciple of Christ, Joseph would have been well qualified to tell both Jews and Gentiles about the Savior.

Regardless of whether or not Joseph of Arimathea went to England, however, it is a historical fact that the Christian Church at Glastonbury was founded long before the Holy Roman Emperor Constantine melded Christianity with Paganism to unify his kingdom. Though Constantine laid the foundation for the formation of the Roman Catholic faith and its subsequent spread throughout Europe, a fledgling Christian church and community of believers was already well established in England before then.

Is Mary the Mother of God, and Queen of Heaven?

Because she was chosen as the vessel by which the Son of God took on human flesh, Yahshua's mother Miriam was very blessed by Yah. As stated before, Miriam must have been a very devout Jewess with a great love for God, and her fellow man. Yet, despite her many virtues, Miriam was born with the Original Sin - just like every other human being. This is because, just like all of us, Miriam is a descendant of Adam and Eve. In support of this, the Bible never makes an exception for Miriam, or states that she was sinless. On the contrary, besides the clear admonition in Paul's Epistle to the Romans that "*all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,*" the Gospel of John declares that:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." - I John 1:8 (NKJ)

As already shown, by her own admonition, Miriam was a sinner like everyone else who needed God to be her Savior (Luke 1:46). Yahshua was the only exception, and that is because the Holy Spirit is His real Mother and Father. Miriam's virginity at the time of Yahshua's conception makes it clear that, through His own Spirit alone - and not through any physical action - God miraculously supplied the male chromosomes needed to fertilize the egg that implanted itself in Miriam's womb. This is why, in his Gospel, Luke clearly indicated that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Miriam:

*"And the angel answered and said to her, **The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.**" - Luke 1:35 (NKJ)*

As a child conceived with holy seed in a virgin woman, Yahshua was the Son of God both physically and spiritually. Furthermore, ***Yahshua's perfection was in no way dependent upon Miriam's. In relation to His Mind and Spirit, Yahshua was Yahweh's Divine Son alone.*** Of all the descendants of Adam and Eve, Yahshua alone shared the Divine Mind of His heavenly Father, and the Spirit of His heavenly Mother. Only Yahshua's fleshly body issued forth from Miriam, and even that human part of Him was conceived with the perfect and sinless essence of the Spirit of God.

Because Yahshua's body was supernaturally conceived, it was not ordinary human flesh. Instead, it was *perfect* - meaning it was completely without sin or physical blemish (1 Peter 1:18-19). In addition, Yahshua's mind and Spirit are divine, so He was completely good, pure, and untainted by sin - just as His Father Yahweh is (Isaiah 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:20-21; Hebrews 4:15, 7:26). This is why Yahshua was the only person ever born who could justifiably be called the *"only begotten Son of the Father"* (John 1:14-18, 3:16). In fact, ***Yahshua has always existed, and created the Universe as the preincarnate Son of God long before His conception in Miriam*** (Col. 1:15-17; Rev. 1:8, 2:8, 17:11). Therefore, the part of Yahshua that was fully God had no mother or father, but always existed as

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one of the three Persons in our Triune Godhead. The writer of the Book of Hebrews attests to this:

“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God... to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness’ and then also ‘king of peace,’ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.” - Hebrews 7:1-3 (NKJ)

Though Yahshua’s fully human body could feel thirst and weariness, and could be bloodied, bruised, and killed like Miriam’s, Miriam’s sinful nature was not in Yahshua. Therefore, Miriam cannot be considered to be the Mother of God. ***In Scripture, Miriam is never called “the Mother of God,” but “the mother of Jesus (Yahshua),” which implies she was mother to Christ’s humanity only, and not His deity*** (John 2:1, 2:3, Acts 1:14). This is because, prior to His human birth, Yahshua manifested Himself as the Creator God Yahweh. Therefore, to call Miriam the “Mother of God” as Roman Catholics do is not only misleading, but blasphemous! Miriam was not god, but the human mother of the *human, physically manifested* side of Yahshua as the Son of Man (Mat. 8:20, 9:6, 12:8). As the Son of Man, Yahshua will return in the flesh to rule as King of kings on Earth one day (Mat. 24:44, 25:31, 26:64). Nonetheless, Yahshua will also reign as the Son of God, who is the fully Divine Mind and Spirit of Yah in human form.

In the Book of Ezekiel, Yahweh called the Prophet Ezekiel the “*Son of Man*” countless times. This title was an honorary one, indicating the great righteousness of this prophet in the eyes of Yahweh. Yet, though he was very blessed as a prophet of Yah, Ezekiel never had a claim to deity, nor was he without sin. This same title, “*Son of Man*,” was attributed to Yahshua because He was a *fully human* prophet, as well as the sinless, divine Word of God. ***As the fully human aspect of Yahshua, the Son of Man was Miriam’s son. However, Miriam was only a stepmother to the literal Son of God!*** This is why the Scriptures tell us that Yahshua had two natures. One nature was the human, physically conceived Son of Man belonging to Miriam, and the other was the only divinely “begotten” Son of God belonging to Yahweh (Romans 1:3-4, 9:5; John 1:14,18; Galatians 4:4; Phillip. 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:14-16).

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Before His crucifixion, Yahshua's physical body was perfectly formed, and without defect, or disease. Even though - without the Father's protection - Yahshua's body was mortal flesh, it was mortal flesh at its earthly best. Miriam, however, could not claim physical or spiritual perfection. Since the Bible tells us that the only human being ever supernaturally born of a virgin would be Christ, Miriam must have been conceived in the womb of her own mother via her parent's sexual union after marriage. Since the Holy Spirit was not involved in her conception, Miriam was imperfect, and tainted with the Original Sin - just like everyone else ever born except Christ.

Among some Roman Catholics, Miriam is seen as having a divinely preincarnate nature like Yahshua. Since Miriam is touted as having been divine in nature before she was born, deluded worshippers have crowned Miriam as the immaculately conceived, sinless Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, and Co-redemptor with Christ! Sadly, because some people have placed Miriam right alongside Christ, they see no problem in giving her these blasphemous titles. However, instead of Miriam, the Scriptures tell us that *Yahshua alone* is co-equal with the Father, the sole Redeemer of mankind, and the past, present, and future King of Heaven and Earth (Redeemer: Isaiah 49:26, John 3:16, Titus 2:14; Equal to the Father: 8:58, 10:30, 14:9-10; King of kings: 1 Timothy 6:15, Rev. 17:14). Therefore, there is absolutely no scriptural support for giving any of these divine titles to Miriam, or in believing that Miriam is co-equal with Christ!

Sadly - rather than show Miriam's equality with Christ - her blasphemous titles connect her to several Pagan goddesses, especially Ishtar/Innana, who was the top goddess of ancient Babylon. Ishtar was an idolatrous representation of the constellation Cassiopeia, and was actually a demon spirit that was venerated as the Earth Mother, and mother of the god Tammuz (who is associated with Yahweh, and Yahshua in Pagan circles). Furthermore, Ishtar was given many blasphemous titles, such as the Queen of Heaven, the Light of the World, the Supreme Judge, the Goddess of goddesses, the Morning and Evening Star (Venus), and many other titles that mimic those associated with Yahweh, and Yahshua in the Bible.

Nonetheless, as an ordinary, sinful human being, Miriam never had a right to any divine titles. She was not divine, and

should *never* have been venerated as a goddess. Furthermore, Miriam cannot be co-equal with Christ because, as stated earlier, the Bible declares that: *“there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (Messiah Yahshua)”* (1 Timothy 2:5).

Despite this, like all Messianic Jews who love Christ, Miriam does have a special role to play in the future. At the Wedding Supper of the Lamb in Heaven, Christ will represent His earthly mother Miriam, and all saved Jews as the Bridegroom. At the same time, God’s Gentile children shall become the Bride of Christ, while her five faithful virgin attendants will witness the union. Together, these believing Jews and Gentiles will form part of the Body of Christ. They thereby shall become an integral part of the perfect family of Yahweh God. Ultimately, as husband and wife, Yahshua and His Bride the Church shall be intertwined so tightly together in love that they will be virtually indistinguishable from one another.

Though they actually will be separate beings, Yahshua and His Bride will function as one unified being working together. They shall therefore be an inseparable and eternal part of the Family of God represented by the Trinity. Someday, all believers will be part of the Body, and Family of Christ. At that time, they will be united to the Son of Man and God either by marriage, or through adoption, and will become *as one flesh* with Christ for all eternity. By this symbolic union, ***believers become an extension of Yahshua’s divine being, working with Him forever in perfect harmony, and love.*** This union will *not* be sexual in any way, but will generate intense spiritual pleasure, and a wonderful kind of joy that transcends anything we can currently experience in the fallen physical world we live in.

The Bride Seen As Two Olive Trees Grafted Together

In Chapter One, the analogy of a tree was used to show how God reveals Himself to us in layer upon layer, a bit at a time, so we don’t become overwhelmed, or lost in the details. We also examined the Two Witnesses, who are seen as Two Olive Trees, as well as two lampstands, in the Book of Revelation. We also discovered that the Two Witnesses of Revelation are most likely Enoch and Elijah. Enoch represents the promise of salvation by faith, blood sacrifice,