

# THE THREE MARYS

*Devoted Disciples of Jesus*

MARY KING



*Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

*The Three Marys: Devoted Disciples of Jesus*

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# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

The study of particular characters in the Bible is always profitable. There may be little actually said by the person, but much can be learned through the careful study of their attitudes and actions. Application to our own lives should always follow, where suitable, in order that lasting benefit might result from time spent with the Word of God.

Three women will be considered in this study: Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary of Bethany; and Mary Magdalene. All were close to the Lord—their relationships being family, friend, and follower, respectively. By looking at *their* attitudes and abilities we will see how the grace of God can enable *us* to use our potential for the glory and honor of the Lord Jesus.

## Lessons You Will Study

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10. The Resurrection . . . . . 38

## **Course Components**

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

## **How To Study**

This study has ten chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

## **Exams**

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

## **How Your Exams Are Graded**

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

## 1

## MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

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# THE ANGEL SENT FROM GOD

### **Gabriel (Luke 1:5-29)**

Someone once said that isolated events were “like angel’s visits, few and far between.” But in the months preceding the birth of the Lord, and for a time after, there were plenty of angelic comings and goings. The most important messages were entrusted to the angel Gabriel. His name means “the strong one of God” and we read of him first in the book of Daniel (Dan. 8:15-16; 9:21-22).

Gabriel next appears in the temple at Jerusalem to tell Zacharias, a priest, that his wife would be having a child, John (who would be John the Baptist, the one sent to prepare the way for the Messiah’s coming). When Zacharias protests that he and his wife were too old to have children, the angel said: “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you” (Luke 1:19). The dignity and authority of the angel underline the importance of the message and the seriousness of Zacharias’s questioning and unbelief. The child would be born, but the father would be silent until the birth (Luke 1:20).

About six months after Gabriel’s visit to the temple he was sent by God to Nazareth. The time had come; God was about to send His Son, the Savior of the world (Gal. 4:4). His mission was to a young virgin, Mary, betrothed to a carpenter called Joseph.

The angel’s greeting troubled her: “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” How is it, thought Mary, that I should be singled out for blessing? She was not conscious of anything special about herself—like Moses, when he came away from talking to the Lord, he

“did not know that the skin of his face shone” (Ex. 34:29). Her occupation with the Lord shielded her from the sins of pride and self-importance and gave Mary a humility of spirit which must have been a delight to her God and those around her. “A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor” (Prov. 29:23).

### **The Home in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-30)**

There could have been no greater contrast in the places that Gabriel was sent—the temple in Jerusalem and a humble home in Nazareth. The former we would have expected, but hardly the latter. And yet, how significant—the greatest message ever sent to mankind came to a young woman, in the peace and quiet of her home.

We are, quite rightly, often occupied with the angel’s message—but consider where the message was given. If Mary had been in the synagogue or the temple there may well have been other people around, causing distractions; but in the quietness of the home Gabriel was able to calm her mind and tell her clearly what the Lord had in mind for her. “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”

Mary was to be the recipient of God’s mercy and loving kindness. Like David (another who found favor with God—Acts 7:46) this was the One she had always looked to for help and guidance, “My eyes are ever toward the LORD” (Ps. 25:15). In her own home and humble circumstances, Mary had cultivated the presence of the Lord, and it was there that Gabriel, who had come from the presence of God (v. 19), was free to speak.

We are all responsible, to a greater or lesser degree, for the spiritual atmosphere in our home; may we be like Mary and cultivate God’s presence through prayer and Bible study. Then we will be able to experience the truth of David’s words: “You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures for evermore” (Ps. 16:11).

### **The Angel’s Message (Luke 1:31-37)**

Having assured Mary that she had nothing to fear, Gabriel tells her, very simply, that she was to have a Son, who was to be called Jesus (which means “Jehovah-Savior”). Mothers are always interested in the characters of their children, and Mary’s Son was to bear the Savior character of her God both in His Name and Person (Luke 1:47). “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the

throne of His father David. . . . and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32-33). The child would be unique, the Son of God, the promised Messiah of Israel (cp. Isaiah 9:6-7).

In answer to Mary’s question “How can this be?”, the angel replies that “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you” (Luke 1:35). This Child would have a unique conception, for there was nothing of man in His formation. “That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” The writer to the Hebrews speaks of the Lord Jesus as “holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners” (Heb. 7:26) and so He was, and is, and ever will be (cp. Hebrews 13:8).

The angel’s message began with a word of encouragement (v. 28), and it ended in the same way: “For with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37). The word had been brought: God was about to appear in the flesh, bringing salvation, and yet God is mindful of the need of Mary. “Like as a father pities His children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame” (Ps. 103:13-14).

### **Mary’s Response (Luke 1:38)**

The announcement of the birth of the Messiah would not come as a complete surprise to someone like Mary. There were many in Israel who were looking for the Messiah, e.g. Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38). However, it is important that we do not minimize Mary’s responsibility or the shame and misunderstanding that would be hers. She would be the target for scandal-mongers in the district, and for a time at least the man who was to be her husband would be deeply distressed (Matt. 1:19). There is no doubt that she was well aware of the consequences of her submission to the Lord, and yet she did not hesitate: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”

**Maidservant** — slave girl, expressing her *obedience* to the word of God.

**Let it be to me** — expressing her *submission* to the will of God.

In this simple response we see the perfect balance of a spiritually minded woman. Mary may have been young in years and experience, and yet her desire was to please God and walk in His ways. Her prospects were limited—a carpenter’s wife in a small town in Israel—but because of her deep appreciation of the character and ways of God and her willingness to trust Him, her desires would be granted (Ps. 37:4; 84:11). Much of Mary’s

spiritual knowledge had been gained in the home; now God was proving her, finding out what was in her heart, in the same sphere, the home, the family experience.

When the children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, God said through His servant Moses, “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not” (Deut. 8:2). God’s way has always been to prove His people in their daily lives.

### **The Hill Country of Judah (Luke 1:39-45)**

Gabriel’s final words to Mary had been about her cousin Elizabeth: “Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age” (Luke 1:36). This news was meant not only as a sign and encouragement—it also served as a directive. Mary had received a wonderful revelation from the Lord; she had taken the step of faith and committed herself to Him; now she needed something to do, somewhere to go, and above all, someone to talk to. Who better than Elizabeth, an older woman, a godly woman, herself the recipient of God’s grace and power? (Luke 1:6, 25).

Mary hurried away from Nazareth to the hill country of Judah, thinking perhaps of what Elizabeth would say to her. Would she understand? Mary need have had no fears. Her cousin had a divine revelation, and as soon as Mary greeted her, Elizabeth knew the mother of the promised Messiah stood before her. Even her own unborn baby was aware of the event, and his mother, filled with the Holy Spirit, dispelled any fears in Mary’s mind by echoing the words of Gabriel: “Blessed are you among women” (Luke 1:28-42).

Elizabeth’s acknowledgement of Mary’s blessing from the Lord reveals there was no jealousy in her heart. She was thrilled to receive Mary into her home, and no doubt their three months together was a time of real help and benefit for them both.

“How nice to have a friend like Elizabeth,” we might say. May the Lord enable us to *be* a friend like Elizabeth! Elizabeth showed the strength of such a relationship as she listened to Mary and supported her at this special time, with no hint of envy or resentment. “A friend loves at all times” (Prov. 17:17), and there in the hill country of Judah, Mary was given the companionship she needed, although Elizabeth would have said that the blessing was all hers (Luke 1:43.).



# THE THREE MARYS

*Devoted Disciples of Jesus*

## EXAM BOOKLET AK '10 (1 UNIT) TTM

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STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTRUCTOR



*Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

## A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue                      C. yellow  
B. green                     D. orange

     **B**     

### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

### RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES**

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# CHAPTER 1 EXAM

## THE ANGEL SENT FROM GOD

### EXAM GRADE

***Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.***

*Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. Zacharias was silent until his son's birth because
  - A. he was struck dumb by fear
  - B. the message left him speechless
  - C. he doubted the truth of God's word
  - D. the angel didn't like him

\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Gabriel's name means
  - A. a messenger of God
  - B. I stand in the presence of God
  - C. God is my King
  - D. the Strong One of God

\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Mary received the news of the coming of Jesus
 

A. at the synagogue	C. by the Sea of Galilee
B. in her own home	D. in the temple

\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The conception of Jesus was
  - A. absolutely unique
  - B. through the power of the Holy Spirit
  - C. the fulfilment of prophecy
  - D. all of the above

\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. The name "Jesus" tells us of His
 

A. healing character	C. Savior character
B. teaching character	D. preaching character

\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. How did the angel conclude God's message to Mary?
  - A. with a word of encouragement
  - B. with a miraculous sign
  - C. with a hymn of praise
  - D. with a command

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Simeon

- A. brought gifts to the Lord Jesus
  - B. looked for the coming of the Messiah
  - C. prayed for the overthrow of Rome
  - D. was a Gentile, not a Jew
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. Mary's obedient response was because of

- A. pressure from her friends
  - B. concern to please her family
  - C. her submission to the will of God
  - D. Joseph's influence
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. Elizabeth echoed Gabriel's words when she said

- A. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb"
  - B. "Blessed is she that believed"
  - C. "There shall be a performance of those things"
  - D. "Blessed are you among women"
- \_\_\_\_\_

10. A true friend loves

- A. when times are good
  - B. at all times
  - C. during times of special need
  - D. after many years of friendship
- \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

How important do you feel it is to have a true Christian friend? What qualities would you look for?

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