

What Did Mary Know?

by Wayne Goff

During the Christmas holiday season, many radio stations played the haunting song, "Mary, Did You Know?" I say "haunting," because **what** Mary *knew* and *understood* about the baby Jesus she had just given birth to is an intriguing question. Did she know that when she kissed her newborn baby's face that she was kissing the face of God?!

I preached a lesson with this title on December 16, 2017, but it went unrecorded. Just the same, there are a few things of which we can be certain that Mary knew based on the Gospel texts:

The Angel Gabriel

In Luke 1:26-33, Luke records the appearance of Gabriel to Mary to announce that the coming Messiah's virgin birth which had been prophesied in Isaiah 9:6 would come to pass through Mary herself! The son born through her would be named "*Jesus*," and He would be great and be called "*the Son of the Most High*." Furthermore, He would reign on David's throne forever! **Mary knew this much.**

The Shepherds In The Field

Again Luke records for us the appearance of an angel of the Lord to shepherds who were tending their flock at night in the region. The angel announced that the birth of "*a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*" had been born in the city of David (2:8-19). The angel instructed them to find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. A heavenly host praised God, and then departed. The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. The shepherds told Joseph and Mary what had happened. While others "wondered" at the message, Mary "*treasured up all these things*" in her heart. **This much she knew.**

Simeon's Blessing

Luke tells us of an aged man in Jerusalem, named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the coming of the Messiah and was filled with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was brought to the Temple to fulfill the requirements of the Law for a newborn son, Simeon picked up Jesus and declared that He was the child God had promised to bring salvation to all people (Luke 2:25-35). However, Simeon warned Mary that while the child was destined to determine the rise and fall of many in Israel, a sword would pierce through her heart. **Mary knew this much.**

The Prophetess Anna

Finally, the prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who worshiped in the Temple, fasting and praying, also prophesied concerning Jesus Christ. She spoke of Him to all who looked for redemption in Israel (Lk. 2:36-38). **Mary knew this much as well.**

Observations

Mary may not have fully understood all that was being declared to her by the angels, and the prophets, but she knew that her baby, Jesus, would be the Savior of mankind, and that He would sit on the throne of their ancestor David, as God had foretold through the ancient prophets. She knew that an unbelievable task had been given to her and Joseph, and it changed their lives in many ways forever.

What we should consider now is that the coming of Jesus Christ was for **the spiritual salvation** of those in the world who would seek *forgiveness of their sins*. The world seems as disinterested in that topic now as they were when Jesus arrived on the earth some 2,000 years ago! But you and I should stop, consider and obey the Gospel to the best of our ability so that the unbelievable promise of eternal salvation through His blood might be ours! **Reader, do you know?!**