

Did Jesus Marry and Have Children?

For a number of years both scholars and readers of such fictional works as Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* have speculated on the possibility that Jesus of Nazareth married. Ten ossuaries were found in Jerusalem in 1980, six of these ossuaries have inscriptions with names similar to those of Jesus and his relatives. One inscription reads Jesus, son of Joseph, another Mariamene e Mara. DNA analysis revealed that these two samples were not related. This analysis led some to speculate that Mariamene e Mara's bones are in the tomb because she and Jesus ben Joseph were married. *The Da Vinci Code* states on page 249 "The greatest cover-up in human history. Not only was Jesus Christ married, but also He was a father. My dear, Mary Magdalene was the Holy Vessel. She was the chalice that bore the royal bloodline of Jesus Christ. She was the womb that bore the lineage, and the vine from which the sacred fruit sprang forth." Is there validity to this assertion? Could Jesus have been a married man? What do the scriptures indicate? *The Da Vinci Code* is of course a work of fiction. The ossuaries in no way prove that the tomb is that of Jesus' family. Most families were buried in their native village. The family of Jesus was from Nazareth. This tomb was found in Jerusalem. No bones were found with evidence of crucifixion. Tombs containing ossuaries were common in the first century and the ossuaries found in this tomb, contained fragments of 35 individuals. Even the name Jesus ben Joseph was disputed. It could read Nahum. Even if the names were Jesus and Mary, one in three women were named Mary in the first century with one in twenty men being named Jesus. There is obviously no conclusive scientific evidence of which family owned this specific tomb, nor that the ossuaries are those of Jesus of Nazareth. For Christians there is only one valid testimony on which to rely, the Bible. What does the holy record say concerning Jesus' personal life? The scriptures give no evidence that Jesus was a married man. A wife is never mentioned. Jesus' other family members are listed. In Matthew 13:55 we read "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Mark 6:3 further elaborates, "Aren't his sisters here with us?" We are told that John the Baptist is related to Jesus. (Luke 1:36) Joseph was believed by his contemporaries to be Jesus' father. (John 6:32) Does it not appear logical that if he were married, some mention of it would come down to us in the accounts of his life? Yet nowhere is it mentioned, not even in the Gnostic writings. Many Christians today believe that Jesus was more than a man. They believe Jesus had both a spiritual and human nature simultaneously. Bible Students do not agree with this tenet, being fully convinced that Jesus is exactly what the Holy Scriptures and his early disciples believed him to be, a perfect human man. (See *The Doctrine of Christ*) For arguments sake, what does the bible say, if anything, about spiritual beings having relations with human women? Genesis 6:2 states "That the sons (angels) of God saw the daughters of men that they [were] fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." The results? Verse 4 of Genesis 6 states "And

they bear children to them, the same became mighty men, which were of old, men of renown." Who were these mighty men? Angels who rebelled against God fathered these mighty men. These angels were disobedient to God when they assumed human form and married women. They defiled their heavenly purity. By so doing they produced hybrid offspring, which was contrary to God's will. (Lev. 19:19) All manner of sinfulness and violence filled the earth as a result of this disobedient blending of two natures. God saw that "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." (Gen. 6:5) This resulted in God bringing the flood upon the earth. (Gen. 6:7) The offspring of the disobedient angels drown. The disobedient angels were no longer permitted to take human form. "And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great Day of Judgment." (Jude 1:6) We can clearly see that if Jesus had a dual nature, both human and spiritual, being as the bible clearly tells us in 1 Cor. 5:21 and Heb 4:15, sinless, he would not have broken God's law and taken a daughter of the sons of men as wife. The scriptures tell us he came to do the will of the Father. (Heb 10:7) "I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me." (John 14:31) But if as Bible says, Jesus was born a perfect man, could he have not taken a wife and produced children? Jesus as a perfect human man had all the rights of a perfect human man. He could indeed marry and produce offspring, but did he? Jesus' own words "I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me," indicates where his priorities lay. What was God's purpose for this perfect human son? Even as a boy of twelve, Jesus said "I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49) What was his Father's business? "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22) "In justice, our place was in unending death, the wages of sin. But for our substitute, "the man Christ Jesus," there could have been no escape: to be our Redeemer, this and no less was the price; yet it pleased God to lay on him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:4-10), and he obediently consented to the plan. (R1335) Jesus said in John 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." It was God's will that his beloved son should lay down his perfect human life to ransom mankind from sin and death. "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34) Nothing was as important to Jesus as to do the work that his father sent him to earth to accomplish. What was this work? The Apostle Paul writes concerning Jesus in 2 Cor 5:18-19. "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." Christ's mission was that through his death, he would reconcile the world of mankind to God. We learn through careful study of the scriptures that the very purpose for which Christ took the human nature was, that "by the grace of God he might taste death for every man."--"That through death he might destroy him that had the power over death, i.e., the devil, and deliver them who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb. 10:14-15) (R483) Christ's

purpose in coming to earth was to offer through his death a ransom for all mankind, both living and dead. Matthew 20:28 clearly states this when it says "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (See: Jesus Died and Paid It All) Though it is true that marriage is encouraged in rabbinic literature, there is also a tradition of the incompatibility of sexual intercourse with being in God's presence or when participating in his service. From the age of twelve, Jesus was already concerned with being about his Father's business. At age 30, the age at which the Levitical priests began their service and also the age at which David became king of Israel, Jesus presented himself at the Jordan River to be baptized, to make a consecration to do God's will. We know from the Gospel accounts that Jesus spent the last three years of his life in constant service, healing the sick, training his disciples, preaching the gospel, raising the dead, and preparing himself for the sacrifice he would make at Calvary. When Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple for the purification rites, the devote man Simeon declared, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32) Jesus' purpose was not to marry and have children, but to do the will of his Father, to give his life as a ransom for all mankind. Jesus himself tells us in John 17:17 that God's word is truth. The scriptures clearly show the purpose of Jesus' birth, life, and death. No mention is made of his being married or even contemplating marriage. He made no mention of a wife or children during his crucifixion even though he specially made arrangement for the care of his mother in his dying moments. Surely if he had been married, he would have also shown similar concern for their welfare. It is clear he dedicated his life to doing the will of God. By so doing, he cleared a path for our reconciliation to God. With his precious blood, he became mankind's everlasting Father. (Isa 9:6) For his faithfulness unto death, he was exalted to the right hand of God. It is obvious from the foregoing that there is no credible evidence that Jesus ever married.