

*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*

*Chapter 5 The Perpetual Virgin 28 February 2024*

1. *Why do we believe that in the new creation, everyone will be celibate (Scripture evidence) pp. 101-102 ?*
2. *Explore how Mary's response to the angel Gabriel ("How shall this be...not know man?") makes more sense in light of an implicit vow of virginity (pp. 103-107).*
3. *Is there evidence (Biblical and non-Biblical) for women to take vows of abstinence from sexual relations (pp. 108-112)? How might a husband influence this decision for a married woman, or a father for an unwed virgin?*
4. *Review Matthew 1:20-21, 24-25. Does the word "until" in this passage work as "proof" (by many) against the perpetual virginity of Mary? Why or why not (pp. 112-114)?*
5. *The only plausible explanation for the abstinence of Joseph and Mary on their wedding night is that Mary had taken a vow of abstinence in accordance with Number 30, and Joseph had accepted it. What 3 pieces of evidence (taken together) support this (pp. 115)? Why might Joseph accept such an arrangement?*
6. *Passages referring to "brothers and sisters" of Jesus seem to be a strong argument against Mary's perpetual virginity. How does Dr. Pitre refute this claim with the "other Marys"? Is there evidence in ancient Christian writings that they were actually not Jesus's brothers (pp. 116-126)?*
7. *How do early Christian writers (St. Athanasius, St. John Chrysostom, St. Augustine, Origen, St. Jerome) confirm the perpetual virginity of Mary? What council proclaimed Mary as 'Ever-Virgin' – (Greek Aeiparthenos) (pp. 126-129)?*
8. *Why does the Perpetual Virginity of Mary matter?*