

## YESHUA'S FAMILY

The following are some things to think about in regards to the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah and His family:

### SISTERS

As per **Mark 6:3** *"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offence at Him.* We see in the gospel of Mark that Yeshua is said to have at least two sisters.

It was customary for the mother to name the children in the tradition of Judaism. In those days Miryam (Mary) was a very common name. In fact it was so common that it is thought by many that about 50% of the girls were named so. It was forbidden to name a child after a living person. Women named their babies also by asserting their thoughts into the name. The attributes they expected the children to be blessed with were in the name of the child. All Hebrew names have special meanings.

### SALOME

Well known historians Eusebius of Alexandria and Jerome wrote in Syriac what is called "The infancy Narrative Of James". In this narrative they mention a woman named Salome that they believe was the Messiah's sister from Joseph's first wife. The following verses shed some light on this idea. **Mark 15:40-41** *There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and **Salome**. When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem."* **Mark 16:1** *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and **Salome**, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.* In both these scriptures we see someone named Salome that was obviously very close to Yeshua's family. Only direct family members and very close friends would ever be involved in the death of a family member, so it stands to reason Salome just may have been Yeshua's half-sister.

### YESHUA'S BROTHERS

**Mark 6:3** *"Is not this the carpenter, the **son of Mary**, and brother of **James and Joses and Judas and Simon?** Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offence at Him.(NAS)*



**Mark 6:3** *"Isn't He just the carpenter? the **son of Miryam? the brother of Ya'akov and Yosi and Y'hudah and Shim'on?** Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him.(CJB)* It appears that Yeshua had four brothers; Ya'akov (James), Yosi (Joses), Y'Hudaah (Judas), and Shim'on (Simon).

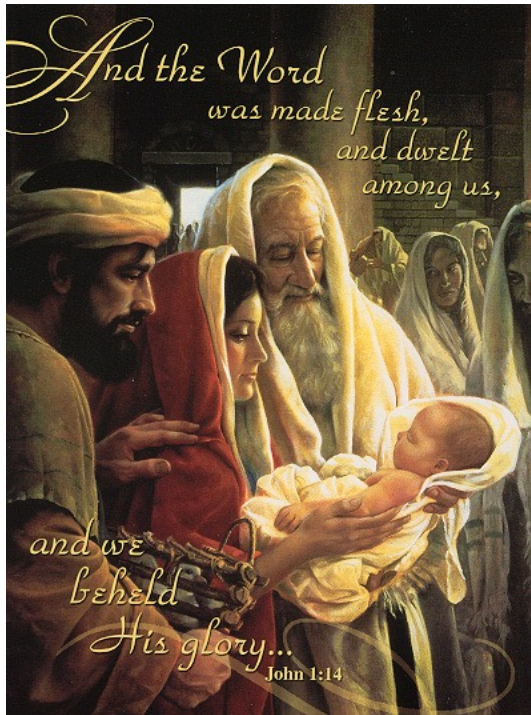
I would like to make note that in **Matt. 13:55** it says something different: *"Is not this the carpenter's son? **Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?*** Here we see the order changed and Joses is now called Joseph. In Mark 6:3 the Greek Joseph is Strong's #2501 which is clearly Joseph. In Matt. 13:55 the Greek Joses is Strong's #2500, clearly Joses, not Joseph. Obviously we have a discrepancy in the two scrolls which I cannot explain other than it being just another translation error.

As we see the great possibility that Yeshua had at least six half brothers and sisters, there is a good possibility that Yoseph's first wife simply died of natural causes after raising six children. There is another interesting fact we need to also keep in mind; in those days only about 50% of the children ever made it to the age of 18. If that was the case then you can see that Joseph's first wife may have been quite old, like Joseph.

James (Ya'akov), Yeshua's older stepbrother was not only His brother, but one of the apostles..disciples. **1Cor. 15:7-11** *then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of Yah. But by the grace of Yah I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I laboured even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of Yah with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed."* Yeshua appeared first to His brother Ya'akov, that tells you Ya'akov must have been very very important to Yeshua. James was one of the pillars of the church body at that time and long after Yeshua's death. James later became the head of the church body in Jerusalem.

Yeshua's younger stepbrother Judas was also believed to be one of the apostles..disciples who was nick named "Doubting Thomas". Thomas in Aramaic means "twin". It was not a common name in those days, it

was probably a nick name given to Thomas because he looked so much like Yeshua. It was maybe given to distinguish him from the other disciple Judas of Iscariot. In Eusebius's writings, he mentions that Judas (Yeshua's brother), had two grandsons named James (Yakov) and Zoker who also became very prominent spiritual leaders in that era.



Something else that needs to be considered is the probable sibling rivalry, even jealousy between Yakov, the first born of Yoseph's (Joseph's) first marriage, and Yeshua the first born of Joseph's second marriage.

#### **YOSEPH AND MIRYAM**

The four names for Yeshua's brothers are truly common original Galilean names. It was customary to always list the names of your children from first-born to youngest. By understanding this tradition it is safe to say that James (actually Ya'akov) was the first-born son. Ya'akov was Yoseph's first-born from his first wife. It is also believed that Yoseph was from Joseph's first marriage. The reason for this possibility is because in those days the women named their sons after very special men of old. Obviously Jacob and Joseph were well known names of great men, while Simon and Judas were more than likely named after the two great military leaders (rebels) of the time of Joseph and Miriam. There was a great rebellion taking place at the time and Miriam probably named their boys after these two great leaders.

With the gathered information in regard to Yeshua having elder brothers and sisters there can only one conclusion be made, Yoseph was married twice. The children listed in the bible and otherwise noted were from his first wife. How she died or when we have no idea, but the fact that she existed is quite provable.

#### **FAMILY**

The homes in those days were designed with rooms surrounding a huge courtyard in the middle of the complex. Families and relatives lived together using the courtyard as a communal area. It's a good possibility that Yeshua lived like that with many of his cousins.

The family concept prior to Calvary was typical in all respects, but after Calvary the family idea changed dramatically. The true family of the Almighty was, and still is, those who follow the written Word, not those who are biologically related. That is probably the reason little is written about the family of Yeshua. Yeshua's divinity was recognized and His family life and family members became insignificant and marginalized.

In the fourth century, well know historians Eusebius of Alexandria and Jerome wrote in Syriac what is called "The infancy Narrative Of James" (discovered in 1902) that at Yeshua's birth there was one other person there, named Salome. In these historical writings from the fourth century, they wrote when Yoseph and Miriam went to Bethlehem they met up with Yoseph's two oldest sons, Ya'akov and Yoseph. It is assumed that these two boys were young adults because they were on their own when they met up with their parents on the road to Bethlehem.

Another fourth century historian by the name of Epiphany wrote of Yeshua having a sister named Miriam. These writings were 300 years after Yeshua's death. It would seem very plausible for Yeshua's other sister to be named Miriam as explained earlier.

It's safe to say that because the Gospel of Luke was written while Yeshua was still alive, it must have been accurate. If it had not been so, surely something would have been noted somewhere.

#### **Could it be possible that John The Baptist was Yeshua's second cousin?**

The following scriptures talk about Zecharius and his wife Elizabeth, the parents of John The baptist.  
**Luke 1:18-25** *Z'kharyah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man; my wife too is well on in years." "I am Gavri'el," the angel answered him, "and I stand in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you, to give you this good news. Now, because you didn't believe what I said, which will be fulfilled when the time comes, you will be silent, unable to speak until the day these things take place." (21) Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Z'kharyah; they were surprised at his taking so long in the Temple. But when he came out unable to talk to them, they realised that he had seen a vision in the Temple; speechless, he communicated to them with signs. When his period of his Temple service was over, he returned home. Following this, **Elisheva his wife conceived**, and she remained five months in seclusion, saying, (25) "ADONAI has done this for me; he has shown me favor at this time, so as to remove my public disgrace."*

Let's continue to follow along here and get the complete picture. **Luke 1:26-42** *In the sixth month, the angel Gavri'el was sent by God to a city in the Galil called Natzeret, to a virgin engaged to a man named Yosef, of the house of David; the virgin's name was Miryam. Approaching her, the angel said, "Shalom, favored*

lady! ADONAI is with you!" She was deeply troubled by his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. (30) The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Miryam, for you have found favor with God. Look! You will become pregnant, **you will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Yeshua**. He will be great, he will be called Son of Ha'elyon. ADONAI, God, will give him the throne of his forefather David; and he will rule the House of Ya'akov forever — there will be no end to his Kingdom." "How can this be," asked Miryam of the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Ruach Hakodesh will come over you, the power of Ha'elyon will cover you. Therefore the holy child born to you will be called the Son of God. (36) "You have a relative, Elisheva, who is an old woman; and everyone says she is barren. **But she has conceived a son and is six months pregnant!** For with God, nothing is impossible." Miryam said, "I am the servant of ADONAI; may it happen to me as you have said." Without delay, Miryam set out and hurried to the town in the hill country of Y'hudah (40) where Z'kharyah lived, entered his house and greeted Elisheva. When Elisheva heard Miryam's greeting, **the baby in her womb stirred**. Elisheva was filled with the Ruach Hakodesh (42) and spoke up in a loud voice, "How blessed are you among women! And how blessed is the child in your womb!" **Luke 1:56 Miryam stayed with Elisheva for about three months** and then returned home.

In these scriptures it shows that Miriam and Elizabeth must have been very close friends.. relatives because Miriam was willing to visit the pregnant Elizabeth in the hill country which was about 100 miles from Nazareth. She did this while she was quite pregnant.

It seems we hear no more about Yoseph after Yeshua's 12th birthday, why is this? Could it be because Joseph was indeed an old man and he simply died?

According to Eusebius of Alexandria, Cliop'as, or Clopes (in Greek), was Joseph's brother, a close relative of Zacharius, John The Baptists father. If this is indeed a fact, then Elizabeth and Miriam would have been related. This being the case, it would put much more emphasis on why John The Baptist knew who the REAL Messiah was and when He would appear, simply because they were cousins and probably good friends. **Luke 3:15-17** Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Messiah, John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; **but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**. "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Another fact that needs to be looked at is in regards to **John 8:41** You are doing the things your father does." **"We're not illegitimate children!"** they said to him. "We have only one Father — God!" Here we see Yeshua arguing with the local Jewish population. What they are discussing is not important, but the fact that they may have been hinting that Yeshua was considered by many to be a bastard is important. There is a good possibility that throughout Yeshua's life He may have been harassed by people because He was suspiciously born.

For a more detailed explanation of Yeshua's birth and connection to John the Baptist as per Daniel's chapter nine prophesy, see the Book of the Feasts.

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