

Family Life of Jesus Christ: Did Jesus Have Siblings? - Pt. 1

Copyright 1994-2025 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On: Jun. 1, 1997

Last Updated: Oct. 21, 2025

Centuries-Old Debate, Inaccurate Hollywood Movies, "Noah" Was Extremely Bad Hollywood Movie, Mary's Perpetual Virginity Is Roman Catholic False Doctrine, The Biblical Basis Concerning Sanctified Heterosexual Marriage, Human Sexual Intercourse And Childbearing Are Ordained And Blessed By God, Abortion Is Outright Murder, Bible Condemns Gay And Lesbian Relationships, Lifelong Dependence On The RCC: Why The Roman Catholic Church Elevates Mary The Apostles And Saints To Such Extreme Degrees, We Are Saved Solely By God's Grace And Not By Our Good Works, RCC False Doctrine Claims Mary Is Co-mediatrix And Redemptrix, Idolatry In The Bible And Modern-Day Roman Catholic Idolatry, Jesus Is Our Only Mediator, Scriptural Proof Regarding Jesus' Siblings, Seven Biological Brothers And Sisters At A Minimum, Various Marys In The New Testament, Actual Brothers Or Simply Cousins Debate, Jesus' Very Own Brethren Rejected Him At First

The issue of whether or not Jesus Christ had any siblings has been hotly debated between Catholics and Protestants for many years. In fact, it has been debated amongst theologians and Christian laymen alike for literally centuries. Furthermore, in every single Bible-related movie I have ever watched over the years which concerns the life of Jesus Christ, there has never been any mention of other family members. By tradition, most productions center on Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Of course, many Bible-knowledgeable Christians know that most Hollywood movies are not known for their historical accuracy. This is particularly true when it comes to Bible-related movies.

Thus, to base our understanding of God's Word on a Hollywood movie is ludicrous and foolish to say the least. In certain cases, movie producers just don't do enough research. Either that, or they just do not care about Biblical facts, and so they purposely choose to ignore what is actually contained in the Scriptures. As a result, some producers and directors will rely heavily on artistic license, and won't hesitate to really embellish and distort the actual facts by adding unnecessary drama, inventing fictitious characters, changing the order of

events, changing characters' names, etc. They will do whatever is necessary if it results in drawing in the audiences, and thus increasing their profit margin and recouping as much of their initial investment as possible.

Let me share one good example before returning to our main topic of discussion. If there is one Hollywood movie which really irked me, it was 2014's "Noah" starring Russell Crowe in the lead role as Noah. Barely had the movie begun, and I knew that I was in for a bad ride. Rock monsters which were Fallen Angels? Where is that found in the Scriptures? As if that was not bad enough, later on, once they are on the Ark, according to this movie, Noah interprets a sign from God to mean that every baby who is born after the Flood should be killed. In this way, Noah intends to prevent humanity from continuing, and thus from corrupting the world any further.

So according to this movie, what happens next? Believe it or not, but upon learning that one of his daughters-in-law is pregnant, what does this version of Noah do? He threatens to kill her if she gives birth to a girl. After all, it requires women to repopulate the Earth, right? If you are shaking your head, I don't blame you one single bit. Such is the accuracy of Hollywood movies. So beware! Read your Bible if you want the real truth and NOT Hollywood fantasy!

But regarding the issue of whether or not Jesus Christ had biological brothers and sisters, on one hand is the Roman Catholic Church which dogmatically claims that following Jesus' miraculous Conception and Birth -- which resulted from intervention by God's Holy Spirit -- Mary retained her virginity for the remainder of her mortal life, and never bore any more children. According to this erroneous Roman Catholic doctrine, we are to believe that for some strange reason, Joseph chose to become a celibate, which resulted in Mary remaining a perpetual virgin. This is why Catholics refer to her as the Virgin Mary. It isn't just because they believe that she was a virgin prior to Jesus' birth. It is because they are fully convinced that she remained a virgin afterwards as well.

The logic behind this position is flawed, and the unspoken intent behind making this claim is wrong as well. In other words, my impression at least, is that the Roman Catholic Church appears to believe that it would have somehow been wrong, or perhaps even sinful, for Joseph and Mary to have engaged in sex following Jesus' Birth. If this is truly the

case, then I find it rather ironic, because the Catholics often have some of the largest families around, similar to the Mormons. Now, for the record, engaging in human sexual relations is perfectly normal, and perfectly healthy, when it is performed in accordance with God's mandates, as we find in the following group of Bible verses:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28, KJV

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:23-24, KJV

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:5-6, KJV

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:6-9, KJV

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:28-31, KJV

If you are interested in learning more about the topic of Biblical marriages, please consider reading the two-part article entitled "Biblical Marriage Ceremonies".

To reiterate, sexual relations between a married couple is a very healthy, natural thing to do. It was ordained -- and is blessed -- by our Heavenly Father. It is not a sin, or dirty in any way. There is absolutely no reason why Joseph and Mary should have abstained from sexual intercourse following the Conception and Birth of Jesus. As I explain in articles such as "The Fruit of the Womb", childbearing is a blessing from the Lord. It is the natural order which He has ordained for mankind. Thus, for Joseph to have suddenly become a celibate, and denied himself to Mary, or vice versa, would have been against the very nature and plan which had been ordained and blessed by God.

In contrast, as I also point out in the controversial series entitled "Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent", as well as in "Unrepentant Abortionist" and "Murdering Millions by Mail: The Abortion Controversy", abortion amounts to violent, intentional, first-degree murder. It is murder for the sake of personal convenience in most cases, yet it is disguised as so-called "women's health" and "reproductive rights". Oh how God must weep! On the opposite extreme, gay and lesbian relationships are also strongly prohibited by God's Word; as I explain in the series "The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!", as well as in the articles "When Sin is no Longer a Sin", "Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!" and "Future of Same-Sex Marriage".

At any rate, being as Roman Catholics obviously do not view sexual relations within a marriage as being sinful, there must be some other reason regarding why the Roman Catholic Church so desperately clings to this illogical doctrine. In my view, after giving the issue some thought, I have arrived at the conclusion that it must be because to do otherwise is to tear down the sacred image of one of their most beloved idols: the Virgin Mary. In other words, in the Catholic mind, maintaining Mary as a perpetual virgin for life adds to her level of saintliness. It raises her above every other mortal woman, and dare I say even above every other saint of God?

If you are at all familiar with Roman Catholic theology, then you will already know that the Roman Catholic Church places a huge amount of emphasis and importance on saintliness, piety and piousness. If one invests time in reading Roman Catholic

manuscripts going back centuries, he or she will discover in short order that they are filled with personages who were the holiest people to ever walk the earth. At least so says the Roman Catholic Church. As I explain in BBB articles such as "Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?", "Saints, Holiness and Perfectionism", and possibly a few others, this is intentional.

In other words, my friends, the Roman Catholic Church sets the bar very high, because by so doing, it purposely makes its adherents even more dependent on the so-called "Holy Mother Church" for their Salvation. As I have explained on previous occasions, the RCC believes itself to be the only authorized dispenser of Eternal Salvation. Furthermore, it firmly believes that other Christians are inferior, lesser beings and even wayward brethren. We do not quite make the Catholic grade. According to RCC beliefs, we're outside of God's one true fold, because we're outside of the "one true faith", as Roman Catholics like to refer to themselves. If you doubt what I saying here, please go to the URL below, and then scroll down to the section called "Non-BBB Roman Catholic Church Resources":

<https://www.billkochman.com/Articles-Non-BBB/index.html#RCC-1>

Salvation the Roman Catholic Church way is heavily based on good works and deeds, and living the most holy and saintly life possible. The goal is to strive to live like the First Century Apostles who were surely the most saintly people to have ever lived, except for Jesus Christ himself, of course. At least that is what the Roman Catholic Church would have us to believe. Now please stop and consider how maintaining Mary as a perpetual virgin plays right into this picture of exceptional saintliness. Likewise, think of how remaining celibate for one's entire mortal life also plays into this very same picture of saintliness. It is all works-based Salvation based on our own goodness and righteousness.

Can you see it? Do you recognize how the RCC sets the bar so high so that you can never hope to reach it, and thus must always depend on the Roman Catholic Church for your personal Salvation? So I believe that this is why they elevate Mary, why they elevate the Apostles, and why they likewise elevate other Saints of God as well. It appears to be about strict control over their flocks, and keeping them dependent on the "Holy Mother Church" for their Salvation. You must do things the RCC way in order to merit Salvation. That means honoring

Mary, observing the Sacraments, going to yearly confession if not more often, attending catechism, being baptized and confirmed in the church, going to mass, honoring the saints, engaging in piety and performing good works, etc. Those are the things which make one a good Catholic. However, it is all works, works and more works. But our Salvation is NOT based on our good works, is it? Consider this set of verses:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

Now regarding Mary herself, as I mention in articles such as "Mary Worship, Christianity and Roman Catholicism", and the equally controversial article "Catholic Purgatory: Another False Doctrine Exposed!", Mary was indeed chosen and blessed by God to be the vessel for His very own Son. However, that is no reason to set her up on a pedestal as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Perpetual Virgin, such as the Roman Catholic faith has done. Regardless of what they like to call it, it still amounts to outright idolatry, plain and simple, and God absolutely hates it! That is what the Bible teaches us. It is also very interesting to note that the only people who we see creating statues in the pages of the Bible are the seriously backslidden Israelites, and the heathen nations. Think about that fact for a moment.

Furthermore, as I also clearly explain in other articles, it is known to all Bible-believing Christians that Jesus Christ is the one and only true Mediator between God and man. Why is this? Because Jesus alone shed His precious blood for the sins of the world. Jesus alone met the requirements of Divine Law, and paid the full ransom price, thus purchasing Salvation and Redemption for us all. The name of Jesus alone will ever save us. Consider the following verses which verify these points:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

Hebrews 8:6, KJV

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 9:15, KJV

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Hebrews 12:24, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

Returning to our main discussion regarding Jesus' siblings, in contrast to the Roman Catholics who strongly insist that Mary remained a perpetual virgin for her entire life, on the opposite end of the spectrum we discover certain Protestant denominations which insist that the Lord blessed Joseph and Mary with additional children following Jesus' birth. Now, it seems obvious that both sides can't possibly be right. So what is the real truth regarding this controversial matter?

As I have taught for many years now, the best way to find an answer regarding any Biblical matter is to go straight to the Scriptures and conduct serious Biblical research. Since some of my readers may not have the time to do this for yourselves, or may not know where or how to find the proper verses which address this issue, I have already done the work for you. So, I will now be presenting the results of my research below for your careful and prayerful consideration. In my opinion, the following verses are very clear in their meaning. I honestly don't believe that there is any other way to understand them than to conclude that Jesus did in fact have other family. He did in fact have a number of siblings. What do you think?:

"While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and HIS BRETHREN stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and THY BRETHREN stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Matthew 12:46-50, KJV

"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and HIS BRETHREN, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And HIS SISTERS, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?"

Matthew 13:55-56, KJV

"Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the MOTHER OF JAMES AND JOSES, and the mother of Zebedee's children."

Matthew 27:56, KJV

"There came then HIS BRETHREN and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and THY BRETHREN without seek for thee."

Mark 3:31-32, KJV

"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, THE BROTHER of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not HIS SISTERS here with us? And they were offended at him."

Mark 6:3, KJV

There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;"

Mark 15:40, KJV

"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And JUDAS THE BROTHER OF JAMES, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor."

Luke 6:13-16, KJV

"Then came to him his mother and HIS BRETHREN, and could not come at him for the press. And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and THY BRETHREN stand without, desiring to see thee."

Luke 8:19-20, KJV

"HIS BRETHREN therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did HIS BRETHREN believe in him . . . But when HIS BRETHREN were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret."

John 7:3-5, 10, KJV

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper

room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and JUDAS THE BROTHER OF JAMES. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

Acts 1:13-14, KJV

But other of the apostles saw I none, save James THE LORD'S BROTHER."

Galatians 1:19, KJV

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and BROTHER OF JAMES, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:"

Jude 1:1, KJV

Taken as a whole, we can garner quite a bit of information from the previous verses. First of all, in my opinion, it can be easily understood -- without the need for any kind of interpretation or speculation -- that Jesus had a minimum of four biological brothers, as well as two sisters, and maybe even more. More specifically, His brothers' names were James, Joses, Simon and Judas. The latter was also known as Jude. The names of Jesus's sisters do not appear to be mentioned anywhere in the Gospels. At any rate, from the information that we are given, it appears that Joseph and Mary had at least seven children: Jesus, James, Joses, Judas, Simon and two or more unnamed sisters.

Now, if we really want to be technical about it, we can say that James, Joses, Judas and Simon were Jesus' half-brothers in a biological sense, because Joseph was not Jesus' actual biological father. However, for all intents and purposes, they were a family, they grew up together, and they were Jesus' siblings.

Regarding the various women who we find mentioned in these verses, let me point out that being as Mary -- or Miriam -- was a very common name in those days, just as it is popular at our current time as well, it can become a bit difficult to sort out who the various Marys were in the Gospels, as well as in the remainder of the New Testament. As a result, I have written another article entitled "Women in the Lives of Jesus and the Apostles", which you may be interested in reading as well.

In fact, as a result of this possible confusion concerning the various Marys, it can also be challenging to understand exactly who was married to who, and which children were born to which parents. This fact has not gone unnoticed by those parties -- such as the Roman Catholics -- who refuse to see that Jesus Christ was not a lone child. As such, they try to use the argument that the words "brethren" and "brother" are rather ambiguous in the Holy Scriptures.

The fact of the matter is that both of these words originate from the Greek word "adelphos", just as the word "sister" is derived from the feminine form "adelphe". While it is indeed true that "adelphos" has a variety of meanings in the Bible, the fact still remains that even if we were to remove some of the previous verses which seem somewhat ambiguous -- such as those regarding the various Marys -- we are still left with sufficient information to prove, in my view, that Jesus was NOT Joseph and Mary's only child. The Lord did indeed have siblings in the form of both biological brothers and sisters.

In their foolish attempt to repudiate the belief that Jesus had biological brothers and sisters, some of these naysayers even go so far as to claim that the word "brethren" really means cousins. This is another manmade invention and fallacy. The actual word "cousin" is only used one time in the entire New Testament. That is when the Angel Gabriel informs Mary that her cousin Elisabeth is also pregnant with child, as we see by the following verse which is found in the Gospel of Luke:

"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

Luke 1:36, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "cousin" is derived from the Greek word "suggenes". This word signifies being of the same kin. That is to say, to be related by blood. As you can see, it has a much more liberal definition, as opposed to the more strict definition that we apply to the word "cousin" in our modern day. However, the authors of the New Testament didn't use "suggenes" to describe Jesus' four brothers. They used "adelphos" instead. In my view, it suggests that their intent was to imply a closer relationship between Jesus and James, Joses, Juda, Simon and their sisters. In other words, they wanted us to understand that these men were Jesus' actual

biological siblings, and NOT merely cousins, or perhaps even more distant relatives.

From reading these verses closely, it appears that at first, all -- or maybe at least some -- of his biological brothers doubted His divine status, and refused to acknowledge Him as the Son of God and Savior of the world. You will notice in the Gospel of John we are told "For neither did his brethren believe in him". Can anyone really blame them? We shouldn't be too harsh with Jesus siblings. If any of us were in their position, we probably would have reacted in a very similar manner. Perhaps they thought to themselves that their older brother was crazy and delusional, and that he had a "messiah complex". At the very least, He must have been full of pride in order to make such preposterous claims. Perhaps they even found it embarrassing. Imagine what their friends thought.

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

Family Life of Jesus Christ: Did Jesus Have Siblings? - Pt. 2

Copyright 1994-2025 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On: Jun. 1, 1997

Last Updated: Oct. 21, 2025

James And Jude Were The Lord's Biological Siblings And Also Apostles As Well, The Different Jameses In The New Testament, James And Matthew May Possibly Have Been Brothers, Jesus May Have Chosen Brothers To Be Apostles For Mutual Encouragement And Spiritual Support, Peter And Andrew, Jesus' Divinity Is Not Diminished As A Result Of Having Biological Brothers And Sisters, Cleansed From Sin And Made Righteous By The Blood Of Jesus Christ, Concluding Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, as I concluded there, in the beginning, some or all of Jesus' siblings rejected His

claim of being God's Son and the promised Savior of the world. However, please notice what happened after the Lord has done a few miracles. It seems that at the very least, James and Jude came to understand the unique ministry and calling of their special older brother, and even became two of His most devout Disciples. Eventually, they would write the Epistles of James and Jude. Thus we see that not only have we all been blessed by Jesus Himself, but we have been blessed by His biological brethren as well.

In case you have not quite understood why I stated that James and Jude weren't only the Lord's biological siblings, but also later became true Disciples and Apostles, allow me to explain it to you more fully by highlighting some points which we find mentioned in the previous set of verses that I shared with you in part one.

In Luke 6:13-16, Judas is identified as "Judas the brother of James". In Acts 1:13-14, Judas is identified as "Judas the brother of James". In Jude 1:1, Jude identifies himself as "brother of James". In Galatians 1:19, James is likewise identified as "James the Lord's brother". In reality, Judas and Jude are both derived from the same Greek name "Ioudas". Other than Judas Iscariot -- who was Jesus' betrayer -- all of the other verses where Judas and Jude are mentioned, are referring to the very same individual. That is to say, to one of Jesus' four biological brothers.

In the aforementioned verses where Judas is mentioned as the brother of James, and James is described as being "the Lord's brother", this is NOT referring to James, who along with his brother John, were the sons of Zebedee. Rather, those verses are referring to Jesus' biological brother who was also named James. It stands to reason then, that if James was the Lord's brother, and Judas -- or Jude -- was the brother of James, we can only conclude that James and Jude were two of Jesus' four brothers who eventually believed, and in fact became Apostles of the First Century Church, who wrote Epistles of their own.

What makes this issue even more complicated is the fact that there are actually three or four different men by the name of James who are mentioned in the Scriptures. The ones that we know of for certain are the following:

- 1) James, the son of Zebedee. He was an Apostle, and also the brother of the Apostle John. Thus, together they're referred to as "the sons of Zebedee" in the New Testament. This James

is commonly referred to as James the Greater, or as James the Elder. This particular James was killed by evil King Herod in the Book of Acts, as we see by the following two verses:

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword."

Acts 12:1-2, KJV

2) James, the son of Alphaeus. This James was likewise an Apostle. He is commonly referred to as James the Less. He is specifically mentioned in the following four Bible verses:

"Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;"

Matthew 10:3, KJV

"And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,"

Mark 3:18, KJV

"Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,"

Luke 6:15, KJV

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James."

Acts 1:13, KJV

3) James, the brother of Jesus Christ. As I already pointed out to you, this James was likewise one of the Apostles. But it does NOT appear that he was one of the original Apostles. He seems to have entered some time later, after the Lord had chosen the Twelve Apostles, but seemingly by the time that Jesus had been crucified.

Concerning James the son of Alphaeus -- who was also known as James the Less -- it is possible that he and Matthew -- who was likewise known as Levi, and who was also an Apostle -- may have actually been brothers. In both cases, we are told that their father's name was Alphaeus. As you read the following verses, please note that a publican is in fact a

tax collector who sat "at the receipt of custom". It is due to this reason that it is commonly believed that the names Matthew and Levi are referring to the very same individual:

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."

Matthew 9:9, KJV

"And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."

Mark 2:14, KJV

"And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them."

Luke 5:27-29, KJV

"Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;"

Matthew 10:3, KJV

While we may not know for certain whether or not Matthew and James were actually biological brothers who were born to the same father -- that is, Alphaeus -- the Scriptures do make it very clear that Peter and Andrew were brothers, as were James and John. Considering this pattern, it seems reasonable to me to speculate that Matthew and James may have been brothers as well. Perhaps Jesus liked to do things in pairs. Why would He do this? We find a clear answer to this question in the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes. Consider these four verses:

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, KJV

In other words, by choosing brothers to be His Apostles --

possibly as many as three pairs of brothers -- perhaps the Lord was ensuring that His followers could offer each other mutual encouragement and spiritual support during times of trial and temptation. Concerning Peter and Andrew, following are some verses which demonstrate that they were brothers:

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

Matthew 4:18-20, KJV

"Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;"

Matthew 10:2, KJV

"Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,"

Luke 6:14, KJV

"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother . . . Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter."

John 1:40, 44, KJV

"One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,"

John 6:8, KJV

Returning to our main discussion, the fact that Jesus Christ had biological brothers and sisters in no way diminishes His divinity. Neither does it negatively affect the mission which He came to fulfill on the Earth for the sake of humanity. He still remains the only-begotten Son of God -- that is to say, born of a human woman -- who died for the sins of the whole world. Whether Jesus was an only child, or had siblings, His precious Blood still cleanses us from all unrighteousness, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin . . . If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:7, 9, KJV

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as
snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as
wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it,
and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take,
eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks,
and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is
my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for
the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and
brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my
body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he
gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto
them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed
for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve
apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have
desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I
say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be
fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and
gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among
yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the
fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And
he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto
them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this
do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper,
saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is
shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are
made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the
holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way,
which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is
to say, his flesh;"

Hebrews 10:19-20, KJV

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate . . . Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:12, 20-21, KJV

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:2, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

Neither does the fact that the Lord had biological siblings detract in any way from the unique and special status which pertains to Joseph and Mary. They were righteous people who were specifically chosen by God to bring into the world, and to raise, the Savior of humanity. To reiterate, it is my view that for them to engage in sexual relations, and father more children following the birth of Christ, has no bearing on the issue of our Salvation whatsoever. Don't you agree? As such, to resist this Scriptural doctrine -- as the Roman Catholic Church insistently does -- is pointless, and quite frankly, totally unnecessary. Whether or not you agree with my views and reasoning as stated in this article, is entirely up to you.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with

any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Cardinal Ratzinger's Rebellion

Catholic Purgatory: Another False Doctrine Exposed!

Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?

Controversy: Matthew 28:19 and the Trinitarian Phrase

Have You Read The New Scriptures Yet?

History Of The Authorized KJV Bible

Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church

Lying Wonders of Our Age

Mary Worship, Christianity and Roman Catholicism

Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed

Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope

Rise of the False Church

Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity

Saints, Holiness and Perfectionism

Sol Invictus and the Birth of Christ

St. Malachy Prophecies and the Death of Pope Francis

Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?

To Pray or Not to Pray? That is the Question

Who is Babylon the Great?

Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent

Biblical Marriage Ceremonies

Birth of Jesus and the Star of Bethlehem

Future of Same-Sex Marriage

Murdering Millions by Mail: The Abortion Controversy

Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!

The Fruit of the Womb

The Gay and Lesbian Agenda - To the Point

Unrepentant Abortionist

When Sin is no Longer a Sin

Women in the Lives of Jesus and the Apostles

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<https://www.billkochman.com>