

Even Mary Had Stretch Marks

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Could it be true!

The Bible doesn't say so. Then again, Scripture raises more questions than it answers. Was that young Jewish woman's body "stretch" proof?

Understand: stretch marks are often the result of the stretching of the skin associated with growth or rapid weight changes. A female may gain about 30 pounds during the 9 months of pregnancy. That increase can leave a woman with stretch marks, especially on her belly, hips and breasts—areas that grow the most. Such marks usually form during the last trimester when the body grows faster than the skin can't keep up. This scarring happens when skin doesn't bounce back after stretching. These marks may also be caused by hormonal changes associated with puberty.

Mary? Our Mary...with...with...those!

You may ask, "Has this query ever been hotly debated?" Not that I know of. Perhaps the notes from such theological councils were lost—on purpose. Through the centuries, scholars (strictly men), probably skirted around (no pun intended) this question. If you Google "[scholarly pronouncement on Mary's pregnancy stretch marks](#)," there are creams to buy, and eradication treatments to attempt, and exercises to remedy the unsightly.

I did find a Mary worship site which actually points to her "stretch marks, imprinted upon her pregnant body—a permanent, bodily sign that still remains in heaven, after her supernatural bodily assumption." (Assumption means a mini-Rapture of one.)

This made me think of Mary on the streets of heaven during the last 2,000 years, day after day having to humbly and discreetly lift her shining white robe to show just enough of a hip to satisfy the politely curious. Admiration can become a strain. I can imagine after the first couple of centuries Mary losing her patience due to interruption after interruption while simply wanting to stroll around. In her wisdom, she'd see the need to set a day for viewing. "Come back on Thursday. I only bless *those* particular seekers on Thursdays."

"No problem." They'd reply. (Remember—nothing sexual or erotic goes on up there—not even necking is allowed. All that gets left behind here on terra firma.)

This reminds me, sort of, when after his Resurrection, Jesus freely showed his nail scarred hands—as seen and reported by close followers.

Back to Mary. Mothers are not supposed to have a *favorite* amongst their children. Somewhere in the written records of Jesus' disciples, it points to Mary and Joseph having four other sons and at least two daughters. Out of the seven kids, I'd bet a freshly minted shekel on who was her favorite.

The Mary I know of undoubtedly ended life as a proud, wonderful, grandmother. From those six normal siblings we can speculate them enlarging the extended family by two or more offspring each. Clearly, these two dozen grandchildren called her "Savtah Adina," Hebrew for a tender, delicate, gentle grandmother.

SIDE NOTE: Am I picking on Mary? Some Christians with extreme views think they empathize with an assumed stubbornness in Mary's duty to be born a Jew. They imagine stress in her otherwise tranquil voice, "Do I have to be Jewish? I don't want to!" But, God forced her under protest—same with her son.

He grumbled, "Come on! Can't I be something else to do this job? Hmm!"

Such paths dabbling in anti-Semitism are indeed misleading.

These Things Make Me Grumpy

Another commentary from REAL LIFE. This parody is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or divine beings is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.