

Class 8b

HOLY HYMEN: VOWING VIRGINITY *WITHIN* MARRIAGE

Outline

- Defining asceticism
- Jesus' mother Mary's virginity
 - Scriptural roots & developing tradition
 - Infancy Gospel of James
 - ITP: Artemis and the Virgin Mary in Ephesus
- Spiritual marriages in 4th-century Antioch
 - ITP on topic
 - Problems with spiritual marriage (Chrysostom) and second marriage (Tertullian)

DEFINING ASCETICISM

Defining Asceticism

- ασκησις = exercise
- Applied to spiritual practice, this will come to mean "spiritual exercise"
 - But it will still involve the body
 - Disciplining the body for the sake of the spirit
 - fasting
 - celibacy
 - separation from society
 - poverty
 - simple clothes (or no clothes at all)
 - physical constraints

JESUS' MOTHER MARY'S VIRGINITY

Jesus' Mother Mary's Virginity Scriptural Roots and Developing Tradition

	Growing Interest in Celibacy in General	Growing Interest in Mary's virginity in particular
"Canonical" Roots	1 Corinthians 7	Matthew 1-2
Apocryphal Additions	<i>The Acts of Paul & Thecla</i>	<i>Protogospel (= Protoevangelion or Infancy Gospel) of James</i>

Jesus' Mother Mary's Virginity

The Infancy Gospel of James: Manuscript Evidence

This gospel was very popular and was collated in several liturgical collections

Because the text was not regarded as canonical, it was amended more often, so the versions are quite different from one another.

There are over 140 Greek mss (the oldest is Papyrus Bodmer 5 from the 300s), and multiple translations:



- ❖ 4 Syriac
- ❖ 2 Georgian
- ❖ 1 Latin (+ extracts)
- ❖ 1 Irish
- ❖ 3 Armenian
- ❖ 1 Arabic
- ❖ 2 fragments in Coptic
- ❖ 1 Ethiopic paraphrase
- ❖ 169 Church Slavonic mss

Jesus' Mother Mary's Virginity

The Infancy Gospel of James

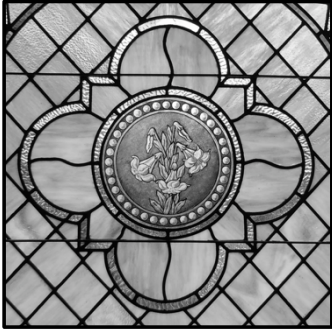


- **Date** 150–200 CE + later additions, place
- **Genre** A narrative like the NT gospels, but confined to stories of parents and Jesus' birth
- **Gospel comparison** Presupposes and conflates the canonical infancy stories, adding legendary elements (1 Sam 1:1-2:11; 2 Chr 24:20-22)
- **Content** Mary's conception, birth, upbringing, betrothal to older Joseph (with sons from a prior marriage), birth of Jesus, virginity *in partu* and *post partum*

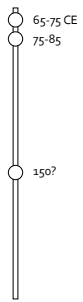
Iconography of Joseph based on Infancy Gospel of James



Iconography of Joseph
based on Infancy Gospel of James



Jesus' Mother Mary's Virginit
The Developing Tradition



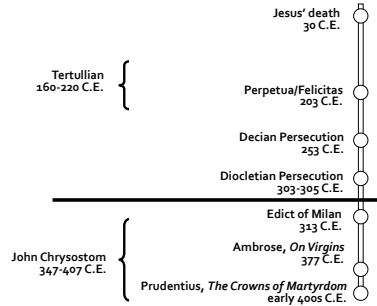
1. In the earliest stage, she is not referenced positively (Mark 3:21, 31-35)
2. In the next stage, she is a virgin at Jesus' conception (Matt 1:18-25)
3. In the next stage, she remains a virgin through Jesus' birth and throughout her marriage to Joseph (Infancy Gospel of James)
 - Joseph is old when he meets her and thus uninterested in sex
 - The brothers of Jesus" in the canonical gospel become Joseph's children from a prior marriage

SPIRITUAL MARRIAGES
IN 4TH-CENTURY ANTIOCH



Jesus' Mother Mary's Virginit

The Developing Tradition



Marriage Problems

Spiritual Marriage & Second Marriage

- What doesn't John Chrysostom like "spiritual marriage"? (Chrysostom, "On the Necessity of Guarding Virginit")
- Why would Tertullian argue against a second marriage when your spouse has died?
