

**Shayla:** Why do you not believe in the immaculate conception of Mary?

**Meforshim:**

After the birth of the Messiah, His mother and adoptive father went to the Temple to dedicate Him to the Adonai. Interestingly, not only did they dedicate their Son, but while there they also presented a sacrifice. Luke records the sacrifice, referencing the halakhic law's requirement of either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

- [Luke 2:22-24 HCSB](#) And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (23) (just as it is written in the law of the Lord: **Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord**) (24) and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord: **a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons**).

However, what was that sin for according to the Law? Some would like to say that it was merely to remove the ceremonial uncleanness that came from the bloody process of birth. However, even in the passage they cite it is called a "sin offering."

- [Leviticus 12:6-8 HCSB](#) "When her days of purification are complete, whether for a son or daughter, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting a year-old male lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. (7) He will present them before the LORD and make atonement on her behalf; she will be clean from her discharge of blood. This is the law for a woman giving birth, whether to a male or female. (8) But if she doesn't have sufficient means for a sheep, she may take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement on her behalf, and she will be clean."

In each case it is described, this particular sacrifice entailed the confession of one's sin and an obedient act of contrition for that sin.

- [Leviticus 5:5-7 HCSB](#) If someone incurs guilt in one of these cases, he is to confess he has committed that sin. (6) He must bring his restitution for the sin he has committed to the LORD: a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin. (7) "But if he cannot afford an animal from the flock, then he may bring to the LORD two turtledoves or two young pigeons as restitution for his sin--one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.

My question to my Catholic friends is then "If Mary was conceived without sin, why did she feel it necessary to make this sacrifice?"

At one point she even tried to declare Him insane! His family declared their belief that He had lost His senses.<sup>1</sup> The Greek *existemi* sometimes translated "beside himself" is normally used to mean "insane" or "witless". The Greek word *ho para*, translated "his people" also means "*family*." They went on to try to get him to leave the ministry.<sup>2</sup> Mary knew she was not born sinless. She knew her need for salvation. She referred to Adonai as her "Savior."<sup>3</sup>

When I combine these elements in my mind, I find it difficult to believe she was without sin.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 3:21

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 12:46; Mark 3:31; Luke 8:19

<sup>3</sup> Luke 1:47