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MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#1 - THE BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARY

Mary in the Bible:

We will be exhaustive. No stone unturned. No spin. No embellishments.

- In the **birth** narratives
- When Jesus was **twelve**
- At the Wedding of **Cana**
- During Jesus **Ministry**
- When Jesus hung on the **cross**
- On the Day of **Pentecost**
- Nothing in the rest of the New Testament

The Nativity Narratives

Joseph was of the lineage of David

Luke 2:4: “Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.”

Mary was of the lineage of David

Romans 1:3: “. . . concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.”

“As in old time Cyrus was called to the throne of the world's empire that he might set free the captives of the Lord, so Caesar Augustus is made the agent for the fulfillment of God's purpose in bringing the mother of Jesus to Bethlehem. She is of the lineage of David, and the Son of David must be born in David's city.” The Desire of Ages, p. 44

The **conception of Mary** is not mentioned in the Bible. There is no information as to **when, where, how or to whom** Mary was born.

Joseph and Mary had no sexual relations before the birth of Jesus. Mary was a virgin when she conceived.

Luke 1:26, 27: “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a **virgin** betrothed [engaged] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The **virgin's** name was Mary.”

Luke 1:34, 35: “Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Matthew 1:18: “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

Did Mary have Children after Jesus was born?

- **Luke 2:7:** Jesus was the first-born of Mary “And she brought forth her **firstborn Son**, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”
- **Matthew 1:18:** “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, **before they came together**, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”
- **Matthew 1:24-25:** “Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and **did not know her till** she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”
- **Psalm 69: 8, 9, 21:** Jesus only one of Mary’s children. 9 “Zeal for your house has eaten me up”, 21 “gall for food and vinegar to drink” 8 “I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children.”

Who were the Brothers and Sisters of Jesus?

Matthew 13:55, 56: “Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, “Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”

- They are not called the sons and daughters of Mary but the brothers and sisters of Jesus.
- They wanted to Lord it over Jesus all the time, they were older.
- Colossians 4:10: They were not cousins. There is a word for cousins and it is *anepsios*. Mark was the cousin of Barnabbas
- “She [Mary] looked upon the associations of the home, and the mother's tender watch care over her children, as of vital importance in the formation of character. The **sons and daughters of Joseph** knew this, and by appealing to her anxiety, they tried to correct the practices of Jesus according to their standard.” The Desire of Ages, p. 90

Was Mary the Mother of God?

Mary was not the Mother of God in the **strictest sense** of the word because Jesus **pre-existed Mary**. But she did not bring **a mere man** into the world, she brought the **God/man** into the world.

- **John 17:5:** “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
- **John 8:58; John 1:1-3**

- “Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus.” Lift Him Up, p. 76

Mary was Humble and Obedient

Luke 1:38 “Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”

Mary was Poor

Luke 2:22-24 (Leviticus 12:6-8) They brought the poorest offering at the dedication: “Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Mary was Blessed

Luke 1:48, 49: “For He has regarded the **lowly state** of His **maidservant**; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me **blessed** [not blesser]. For He who is mighty has done great things **for me**, and holy is His name.”

Luke 1:42: “Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women [**not blessed above women**], and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

Genesis 30:13: Notice the identical expression with relation to **Leah and Asher** “Then Leah said, “I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed.”

Mary was a Sinner who Needed a Redeemer

Romans 3:23: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God
“... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

The Bible presents Jesus as the lone exception (**Hebrews 4:15:** “in all things tempted as we are, yet without sin.”)

Luke 1:46, 47: “And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**.” Her song of praise in verses 47-50 is in honor of God

“Mary could find salvation only through the Lamb of God. In herself she possessed no merit. Her connection with Jesus placed her in no different spiritual relation to Him from that of any other human soul. This is indicated in the Savior's words. He makes clear the distinction between His relation to her as the Son of man and as the Son of God. The tie of kinship between them in no way placed her on an equality with Him. The Desire of Ages, p. 147

Mary was Highly Favored

Luke 1:28: “And having come in, he angel said to her, “Rejoice, **highly favored one**, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

She was highly favored. The **Latin Vulgate** says: “*gratia plena*” or **full of grace**. No serious Biblical scholar translates it this way.

Luke 1:30: “Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you **have found favor [she is not full of favors to give]** with God.”

John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace** and truth.”

Mary Knew her Bible

Matthew 13:54-56: “And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get **this wisdom** and these mighty works? 55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? **Where then did this Man get all these things?**"

- Mary **home schooled** Jesus. **Mothering is the greatest work** to which a woman can aspire to. She sat on the **knee of Mary as she read the Old Testament**.
- In the *Magnificat* in **Luke 1:46-55** she quotes Scriptures from **I Samuel**, several **Psalms** and **Job**

Jesus the Center of Attention

Matthew 1:11: The **wise men** came in, bowed and worshiped Jesus

Luke 2:17, 18: The **shepherds** marveled at the **child** and publicized far and wide about **Him**

Luke 2:33: **Joseph and Mary** marveled at what Simeon said **about Him**
A Sword to Pierce Mary's Heart

Luke 2:35: “(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also)”

Zachariah 13:7: "Awake, **O sword**, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

When Jesus was Twelve Years Old

Luke 2:41, 42: Jesus' **Bar-mitzvah**. Why the **Passover** was significant. He saw the **temple and its sacrifices**. He observed the celebration of the **Passover, unleavened bread, first-fruits**. All seemed to be intertwined with His own **origin and destiny**

Luke 2:43-50 “When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And **Joseph and His mother [Joseph still alive; Joseph not his father]** did not know it; 44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 46 Now so it was that after three days [**mark this**] they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both **listening** to them and **asking** them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His **understanding** and **answers**. [**Mary had been a good instructor on the prophecies**] 48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this **to us?** Look, **Your father** and I have sought You anxiously." 49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's [**he disowned Joseph as his father**] business?" 50 But **they did not understand** the statement which He spoke to them. 51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.” [**she reflected upon these things as if trying to solve a puzzle**]

“Mary was to witness His last agony, and Jesus desired her to understand His mission, that she might be strengthened to endure, when the sword should pierce through her soul. As Jesus had been separated from her, and she had sought Him sorrowing three days, so when He should be offered up for the sins of the world, He would again be lost to her for three days. And as He should come forth from the tomb, her sorrow would again be turned to joy. But how much better she could have borne the anguish of His death **if she had understood the Scriptures** to which He was now trying to turn her thoughts! The Desire of Ages, pp. 82, 83

The Wedding of Cana

Joseph **was dead** when Jesus began His ministry. We know this for **three reasons**:

- **John 2:12 [Joseph not mentioned]**: “After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.”
- He was not present in **Mark 3:21, 31-35**
- **At the cross** Jesus commended his **mother to John**. He would not have done this if Joseph was still alive.
- “Death had separated her from Joseph, who had shared her knowledge of the mystery of the birth of Jesus. Now there was no one to whom she could confide her hopes and fears.” The Desire of Ages, p. 145

John 2:3: “They have no wine”

John 2:4: Jesus referred to her as “woman” rather than “mother”. He was respectful yet firm. Jesus **never called Mary His mother**

“In saying to Mary that His hour had not yet come, Jesus was replying to her unspoken thought, -to the expectation she cherished in common with her people. She hoped that He would reveal Himself as the Messiah, and take the throne of Israel. But the time had not come. Not as a King, but as "a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief," had Jesus accepted the lot of humanity.” The Desire of Ages, p. 147

“His manner was respectful, yet firm; he designed to teach Mary that the time for her to control him as a mother, was ended. His mighty work now lay before him, and no one must direct concerning the exercise of his divine power. There was **danger** that Mary would presume upon her relationship to Christ, and feel that she had **special claims upon him and special rights.**” The Spirit of Prophecy, volume 2, p. 101

During His Ministry

Mark 3:21 (krateo means to seize), **31-35**: 21 “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." . . . 31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. 32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." 33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Luke 11:27, 28: “And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" 28 But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

At the Cross

John 19:25-27: “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”

John took Mary into his house. He became Mary's protector, not vice-versa.

After His Resurrection

Acts 1:13, 14: “And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

- On the day of Pentecost she was in the Upper Room.
- She was now a believer along with the brothers of Jesus. They now fully understood His mission. They did not ask Mary to intercede.
- They all prayed to God.
- She played no significant role. Peter was the central figure.

After Pentecost Never Mentioned in the New Testament

- **After Pentecost**, the Bible keeps silence about Mary.
- The Bible does **not mention her death** but neither does it mention the death of most of the apostles.
- The **last group to resurrect** was in Matthew 27:51-53. The next group is mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:15-17

“Mary, the mother of our Lord, has not been raised. She is waiting the sound of the trump of God that shall call the dead from their prison house. All the prayers offered to Mary fall to the ground. Mary's ears have not yet been pierced by the sound of the trump of God.” Manuscript Releases, volume 5, pp. 101, 102

So who is appearing all over the world in the name of Mary? Our last study will be “The Ecumenical Mary.”

In the Book of Revelation

In Roman Catholic iconography she is constantly depicted as standing on the moon, clothed with the sun and a crown of twelve stars on her head, trampling upon the serpent.

“It was she who was seen by St. John in the Apocalypse, clothed with the sun: *And a great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun.*” Liguori, p 61

- She stands on the moon and has the crown of twelve stars **before Jesus is born.**
- The woman is symbolic of the church in the Bible
- Revelation 12:1: After the ascension, the woman flees to the wilderness for 1260 years. Cannot be Mary because she did not live for 1260 years.

- Furthermore, the woman is clearly identified as the saints or God's people (12:6, 14; 13:5)

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#2 - THE CULT OF THE VIRGIN MOTHER

Genesis 3:15: Without the intervention of a **man**. God now warns Satan that man will be restored to his original condition by the coming of a **seed born of a woman**

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Genesis 5: In all the **genealogies** men are the ones who beget

Genesis 3:21: God is going to do it by the death of the seed: “Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”

Matthew 1:16: “And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.” Jesus was born from a woman without the intervention of a man

Galatians 4:4: Jesus born of a woman “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”

PRELIMINARY SEEDS

Genesis 4:25: “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed **another seed** for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”

Revelation 12:4: “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.”

“When Satan heard that enmity should exist between himself and the woman, and between his seed and her seed, he knew that his work of depraving human nature would be interrupted; that by some means man would be enabled to resist his power. Yet as the plan of salvation was more fully unfolded, Satan rejoiced with his angels that, having caused man's fall, he could bring down the Son of God from His exalted position. He declared that his plans had thus far been successful upon the earth, and that when Christ should take upon Himself human nature, He also might be overcome, and thus the redemption of the fallen race might be prevented.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 66

SATAN DEVELOPS A COUNTERFEIT

Genesis 10:8-10: “Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. . .”

Genesis 11:8, 9: All nations came from Babel “So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

All counterfeit religion comes from Babel. Nimrod died and became the **sun god**. He impregnated **Semiramis** his wife miraculously and the result was a **supernatural son** called **Tammuz**. He was born on **December 25**.

Many nations soon had their own **mother god** with her **supernatural son**:

The **Sumerians** called her **Nana**

In **Egypt** it was the mother **Isis** and her son **Horus**

In **Canaan** the father was known as **Baal** and the goddess as **Ashteroth**.

The **Greeks** called her **Aphrodite**

The **Etruscans** called her **Nutria**

In **Asia** the mother was known as **Cybele** and her child was **Deoious**

Rome called her **Venus or Fortuna** and her child was **Jupiter**

Chinese mother God called **Shingmoo** “**Holy Mother**” She has a **child in her arms** and **rays of glory** around her head

In **India** she was known as **Indrani** who is portrayed with a **child in her arms**

The **Germans** worshipped the virgin **Hertha** who had a **child in her arms**

The **Scandinavians** called her **Disa** who also was pictured with a **child**

The **Druids** called her **Virgo-Patitura** and worshipped her as the “**mother of God**”

In **Ephesus** the mother was known as **Diana**. **Paul did not say: Merge the two religions. He said get rid of it.**

Acts 19:24-27: “For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple

of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

GOD'S COUNSEL TO ISRAEL: REMAIN UNIQUE AND PECULIAR. Israel blends her religion with paganism.

Deuteronomy 7:1-6: "'When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. 3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. 6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Judges 10:6: "Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him."

Ezekiel 8:6, 14: "Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations." 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz."

Jeremiah 7:18, 19: "The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the **queen of heaven [gold and silver]**; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. 19 Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the LORD. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?"

Israel Cured of Idolatry

Ezra 1:2, 3: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem."

- Tell story of how **Cyrus met Daniel**. You are a man of destiny. Cyrus was a monotheist (Zoroastrianism)
- How **Darius I (520)** expelled the Babylonian priests and they went to **Pergamum**.
- How Xerxes did the same thing in **482**. They again found refuge in **Pergamum**.
- **Pergamum is thus the link** between ancient Babylon and Rome. The **religion and culture** of Pagan Rome come from **Asia Minor**, more specifically, **Pergamum**.

- This has been shown by the Roman Catholic scholar, **Franz Cumont** in his book, **The Mysteries of Mythra**.

Rome continues the legacy of Babylon

I Peter 5:13: “She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.”

Pagan Rome passes the torch

Lion, bear, leopard, lion, 10 horns, little horn

Revelation 13:2 “Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”

Pergamum is the Link

Talk about Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira

Revelation 2:13, 14: “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 'I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.’”

Numbers 22:12: “And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”

Numbers 23:20-23: “Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it”. 21 "He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a King is among them. 22 “God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox”. 23 "For there is no sorcery against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'Oh, what God has done!'”

Numbers 24:5: "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!

Numbers 31:16: “Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”

I Corinthians 10:7, 8: “And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell.”

Pure Woman

Revelation 12:1: “Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.”

Vile Woman Defiles the World

Jeremiah 51:7: “Babylon was a **golden cup** in the LORD's hand that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.

Revelation 17:1-6: “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”

“The use of temples, and those dedicated to the particular saints, and ornamented on occasion with branches of trees, incense, lamps and candles; votive offerings on recovery from illness, holy water, asylums, holy days and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessings on the fields, sacerdotal vestment, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the East, images at a later date, perhaps the ecclesiastical chant and the Kyrie Eleison are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by adoption into the church.” Cardinal John Henry Newman, *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, p. 373.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#3 - MARY THE RIVAL OF JESUS

- There is only one thing worse than no hope and that is having a false hope
- I was traveling and reading the book *The Thunder of Justice*
- Flight attendant: “Sounds kind of scary. What is the book about?”
- I told her I was a minister and was preparing a series on the Roman Catholic view of Mary the Mother of Jesus. The book describes many recent apparitions of Mary but it cannot be Mary because the dead know nothing.
- She said: “I have a very weak faith. I grew up Roman Catholic but I find that Jesus is aloof and hard to gain access to.”
- She then asked: “Do you think that Mother Teresa is in heaven now?”
- I answered: “Absolutely not”
- She said: “I didn’t think so either.”
- A gave her a little study on the state of the dead
- She said: “I try to speak to my friends about our need for God but they end up getting mad and we end up arguing. I wish I knew how to have more faith. I want to know God better.”
- She gave me her card and I sent her a copy of *Steps to Christ* and Bible Readings for the Home.
- A couple of years later she wrote me a card apologizing for not thanking me for the books I sent her. I have never heard from her since.

Review on Mary:

- She was a **great woman**
- There is **no record** of her **parents, when, where** or **how** she was born
- She was of **David’s line**
- She was a sinner who **needed a Savior**.
- There is no record of her being **conceived immaculately or living without sin**
- She was a **virgin before Jesus was born** but there is no evidence that she was **perpetually** a virgin after he was born

- In one sense she was the **mother of the God/Man** because she brought the God/Man into the world but she was not the mother of God in the **strictest sense** of the word because Jesus was her Creator
- She was **greatly favored**, not **full of grace**
- The last mention of Mary is in **Acts 1:14**. There is **no record** of her being in heaven now. All the **disciples** died but for most of them we have no record of their deaths.

According to the Bible, Who was Jesus?

- John 1:3: The **creator** of all things
- Luke 1:35: He was born the **holy one**
- Hebrews 4:15: Tempted in all thing like us but **never sinned**
- John 1:14: **Full of grace**
- John 1:14: He was **fully man**
- John 3:16; Romans 8:29: The **Father gave** us His Son
- He **healed** the sick, cast out **devils**, spoke words of **encouragement**, and **forgave** sinners
- Hebrews 7:23, 24: He is our only **Priest**
- I John 2:1: He is our **Advocate**
- I Timothy 2:5: He is our only **Intercessor**
- Hebrews 7:25: He is our only **Intercessor**
- Acts 4:12: We can only be saved by **His Name**
- Matthew 1:21: He the **Savior**
- Hebrews 9:26 beginning with the words: “. . . but now once in the end of the world” He came to do away with sin by the **sacrifice of Himself**
- John 1:51: He is the **ladder** (top and bottom)
- John 16:26, 27: We **pray to the Father** in the name of Jesus
- John 1:18: Jesus has made the **Father known**
- Hebrews 2:17, 18: He **helps us** when we are **tempted**
- John 14:6: He is the **only way to the Father**
- John 10:9: He is the **door**
- Isaiah 11:1: He is the branch from the **root of Jesse**
- Ephesians 1:7: He is the **Redeemer** by His blood
- Hebrews 6:18: We flee to him for **Refuge**
- Hebrews 4:15: He gives us **power to overcome** temptation
- Psalm 84:11: He is the **sun**
- Colossians 3:3, 4: He is **our life**
- II Corinthians 3:18: We are **changed by beholding** Him
- I John 2:2: He is our **propitiation** with the Father
- Psalm 23:4: He is my **comfort** when I walk through the valley of the **shadow of death**
- Philippians 4:13: He is **omnipotent**. I can do all through His power
- Revelation 22:16: He is the **Star**
- I Corinthians 15:45: He is the last **Adam**

- Genesis 3:15: He would **crush the head** of the serpent
- Exodus 13:21, 22: He was in the **pillar of cloud** and fire
- Luke 10:17: In his **name demons** are cast out
- John 4:13, 14: He is the **fountain of living water**
- Ephesians 2:14: He is **our peace**
- Psalm 144:2: He is our **fortress and refuge**
- John 12:32, 33: He **draws all men** to Himself
- Romans 6:23: He is the **giver of eternal life**
- I Timothy 1:1: He is **our hope**
- **Worthy** to be **praised** (Revelation 5:11-13)
- Romans 8:34: He **died, his body saw no corruption (Acts 2:25-27), he resurrected and then ascended body and soul to heaven to sit at the right hand of God as King**

Mary the Rival of Jesus

- “But God was pleased that Mary should in **all things resemble** Jesus; and as her Son died, it was becoming that the mother should also die.” Liguori, p. 407.
- This is the fundamental **leap of logic** that the Roman Catholic Church employs. They use expressions such as “**it was fitting**,” “**it was necessary**,” “**it was befitting**.” Where to we find that in all things Mary was to resemble Jesus? She is actually a **rival of Jesus** and **overshadows** Jesus in Roman Catholic theology.

St. Alphonsus di Liguori

- **St. Alphonsus di Liguori** lived in the **17th century**
- **22 volumes** of his work have been published.
- He was **canonized as a saint by Pope Gregory XIV in 1839** and was declared a **doctor of the church** by Pope **Pius IX**. He is one of the **32 doctors** of the church whose writings are especially trustworthy and of authority
- **The Glories of Mary** is one of these
- Lest you think that this volume contains **one man’s opinion**, I would mention that it is actually a **collection of the patristic wisdom** of the Roman Catholic Church from the Early Church Fathers till his day. Thus the book does **not present his view** or interpretation but what has been taught by Roman Catholic **theologians, doctors and saints** throughout the course of the centuries.
- Liguori himself expresses **the reason** for preparing his book:

“I endeavored to collect, from as many authors as I could lay my hands on, the choicest passages, extracted from Fathers and theologians, and those which seemed to me to be the most to the point, and have put them together in this book, in order that the devout may with little trouble and expense be able to inflame themselves with the love of Mary,

and more particularly to furnish the priests with matter for their sermons, wherewith to excite others to devotion towards this divine Mother.” The Glories of Mary, p. 30.

- The work consists of **several chapters**. In each, Liguori seeks **to prove a certain point** about Mary. At the end of each chapter, he gives an **illustration** of the point and ends with a **prayer** to Mary based on the content of the chapter.
- The edition I am using was published by the Redemptorist Fathers in **1931** and bears the imprimatur by **Patrick (Cardinal) Hayes on April 16, 1931**.
- The preponderance of Liguori’s quotations come from the **church fathers**, the **apocryphal books** of Ecclesiasticus and Wisdom of Solomon and the Old Testament books of Proverbs and Song of Solomon. Most of these quotations apply to **wisdom personified** (Jesus) or to **Solomon’s bride** (the church) and yet they are applied to Mary because the Church has said so.
- **Texts are persistently torn out of their contexts**. Texts from the Old Testament are used without any New Testament corroboration. They originally apply to Jesus and they are applied to Mary.
- Liguori, p. 101: If Mary is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
- “Mary was prefigured by the dove which returned to Noah in the Ark with an olive branch in its beak, as a pledge of the peace which God granted to men.” Liguori, p. 202
- “Glorious things are said of you, O city of God” St. Gregory but Mary is this city of God?” p. 244
- “Correctly, then, can we here say with St. Paul, *Having this seal, the Lord knoweth who are His*; that is to say, whoever carries with him the mark of devotion to Mary is recognized by God as his.” Liguori, pp. 244, 245
- After Liguori died his grave was opened in Nocera. Three fingers were cut off and sent to Rome by wish of Pope Pius VII who said: **“Let those three fingers that have written so well for the honor of God, of the Blessed Virgin and of religion, be carefully preserved and sent to Rome.”** Cited in, The Glories of Mary, p. 20
- **Creator**
St. Bonaventure: ‘The world which thou with God didst form from the beginning continues to exist at thy will, O most holy Virgin;’ the saint adhering in this to the words of Proverbs applied by the Church to Mary: *I was with Him forming all things*. St Bernardine adds, that it was for the love of Mary that God did not destroy man after Adam’s sin; ‘He preserved it on account of his most singular love for this Blessed Virgin.’ Liguori, p. 368
- **Born immaculate and Holy**
“Mary was conceived without sin, that the divine Son might be born of her without sin.” Liguori, p. 296

“By her Immaculate Conception, she shared in His victory over sin; by her bodily assumption into heaven, she shared in His victory over death.” Knights of Columbus, The Mother of Jesus, p. 25

- **Never sinned**

“... the Blessed Virgin never committed any actual sin, not even a venial one.” Liguori, p. 299

- **God in the flesh**

According to Dr. Mark Miravalle, Mary is the incarnation of the Holy Spirit:

“Still, their union is so inexpressible and so perfect that the Holy Spirit acts only by the Immaculata, his spouse. . . The third Person of the Blessed Trinity never took flesh; still, our human word ‘spouse’ is far too weak to express the reality of the relationship between the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit. We can affirm that she is, in a certain sense, the ‘incarnation’ of the Holy Spirit.” Miravalle, Mary: Coredemptrix, Mediatrix, Advocate p. 54.

- **Full of grace**

Father Contenson quotes Jesus as saying: “My wounds are ever-flowing fountains of grace; but their streams will reach no one but by the channel of Mary. In vain will he invoke me as a Father who has not venerated Mary as a Mother.” (Liguori, p. 155)

“As the moon, which stands between the sun and the earth, transmits to this latter whatever it receives from the former, so does Mary pour out upon us who are in this world the heavenly graces that she receives from the divine sun of justice.” (Liguori, p. 159, 160)

Words of St. Bernardine: “. . . from the moment that this Virgin Mother conceived the divine Word in her womb, she acquired a special jurisdiction, so to say, over all the gifts of the Holy Ghost, so that no creature has since received any grace from God otherwise than through the hands of Mary.” (Liguori, p. 161)

- **Took the humanity of Adam before the fall**

“For not only is it true that the flesh of Jesus is the same as that of Mary, but, the flesh of our Savior, even after his resurrection, remained the same that he had taken from his Mother.” Liguori, p. 297

- **Loving, kind, accessible, compassionate and very sympathetic**

- **Priest**

“Hence St. Epiphanius calls her a ‘priest.’” Liguori, p. 394.

Repeatedly we are told that she offered the life of her Son. She immolated him.

- **Our only Advocate or Mediator**

St. Bonaventure: “O Mary, our advocate, it is for thee to defend thy clients, and to undertake their cause before the tribunal of Jesus Christ.” Liguori, p. 270

Words of St. Bonaventure: “. . . before Mary there was no one who could thus dare to restrain the arm of God.’ But now, if God is angry with a sinner, and Mary takes him

under her protection, she withholds the avenging arm of her Son and saves him.” Liguori, p. 124

“Christ is a faithful and powerful mediator between God and men, but in him men fear the majesty of God. A mediator, then, was needed with the mediator himself, nor could a more fitting one be found than Mary.” Liguori, p. 196

The picture of Zechariah 3 with Satan contending with the angel over the sins of Joshua:

About a certain sinner who found himself before the dread tribunal: “. . . the devil accused him, and Mary defended him. The enemy produced the catalogue of his sins; it was thrown into the scales of divine justice, and weighed far more than all his good works. But then his great advocate, extending her sweet hand, placed it on the balance, and so caused it to turn in favor of her client; giving him thereby to understand that she would obtain his pardon if he changed his life; and this he did after the vision, and was entirely converted.” Liguori, p. 128.

“Frequently our petitions are heeded sooner when we address ourselves to Mary the Queen of Mercy and Compassion than when we go directly to Jesus who as King of Justice is our Judge.” Liguori, p. 246

“The Franciscan Chronicles relate that a certain Brother Leo saw in a vision two ladders the one red, the other white. On the upper end of the red ladder stood Jesus and on the other stood his holy Mother. The brother saw that some tried to climb the red ladder; but scarcely had they mounted some rungs when they fell back, they tried again but with no better success. Then they were advised to try the white ladder and to their surprise they succeeded for the Blessed Virgin stretched out her hand and with her aid they reached heaven.” Liguori, p. 246

St. Fulgentius: “O, how long since, would the world have been destroyed, had not Mary sustained it by her powerful intercession.” Liguori, p. 256

Prayer of St. Ephrem: “O immaculate Virgin, we are under thy protection, and therefore unitedly we have recourse to thee; and we beseech thee to prevent thy beloved Son, who is irritated by our sins, from abandoning us to the power of the devil.” Liguori, p. 273

Prayer of St. Bernard: “We fly to thy protection; appease the wrath of thy Son, and restore us to his grace.” Liguori, p. 274

- **Our only mediator or intercessor**

“O Mother of holy love, our life, our refuge, and our hope, thou well knowest that thy son Jesus Christ, not content with being himself our perpetual advocate with the eternal Father, has willed that thou shouldst interest thyself with him, in order to obtain the divine mercies for us.” Liguori, p. 117

“Jesus Christ says, that no one can find him unless the Eternal Father first draws him by the means of divine grace: No one comes to me unless my Father draws him. Thus also does Jesus address his Mother, says Richard of St. Laurence: ‘No one comes to me unless my Mother first of all draws him by her prayers.’” (Liguori, p. 167)

“*They found the child with Mary his Mother*, reminds us, that if we wish to find Jesus we must go to Mary. We may, then, conclude, that in vain shall we seek for Jesus, unless we endeavor to find him with Mary.” (Liguori, p. 164)

“Ernest, Archbishop of Prague, also remarks, ‘that the Eternal Father gave the office of judge and avenger to the Son, and that of showing mercy and relieving the necessitous to the Mother.’” Liguori, p. 38.

“... although Mary is under an infinite obligation to the Son for having chosen her to be his Mother, yet it cannot be denied that the Son is under great obligation to her for having given him his humanity; and therefore Jesus, to pay as it were what he owes to Mary, and glorying in her glory, honors her in a special manner by listening to and granting all her petitions.” Liguori, p. 43

Anselm: “. . . when we have recourse to this divine Mother, not only we may be sure of her protection, but that often we shall be heard more quickly, and be thus preserved, if we have recourse to Mary and call on her holy name, than we should be if we called on the name of Jesus our Savior.” And what is the reason Anselm gives for this? “. . . that to Jesus, as a judge, it belongs also to punish; but mercy alone belongs to the Blessed Virgin as a patroness.” Liguori, p. 136, 137

“Many things are asked from God, and are not granted: They are asked from Mary, and are obtained.” Words of Nicephorous in Liguori, p. 137.

On p. 209 Liguori calls Mary “a mediatrix between God and sinners.”

“As Mary used her intercessory power to entice Jesus at Cana to work his first miracle ‘before his time’ (John 2:4), that same intercessory power is now available to her in heaven. If she were deprived of such intercessory power in heaven, then heaven would be a place of deprivation, not fulfillment, contrary to the implications of Heb. 11:40 and 12:1.” John H. Hampsch, Mary in the Bible: Questions and Answers, p. 10

- **Our only Savior**

Chapter 8 of Liguori’s book is titled: “Mary, our Salvation.” In this chapter Liguori not only provides examples of people which Mary delivered from hell after their death but he also speaks of Mary mitigating the pains of the faithful in purgatory

Novarinus says that “. . . loving Mother no sooner hears them call upon her than she offers her prayers to God, and these prayers, as a heavenly dew immediately refresh them in their burning pains.” Liguori, p. 233

Gerson affirms “. . . that on the day of her assumption into heaven purgatory was entirely emptied.” Novarinus agrees: “. . . when Mary was going to heaven, she asked as a favor from her son to take all the souls then in purgatory with her.” Liguori, p. 235

“But since a culprit condemned to death can beg a royal favorite to save him by interceding with the king that his life may be spared, why cannot we ask the Mother of God to save us by obtaining us eternal life? St John Damascene scrupled not to address

her in these words: ‘Pure and immaculate Virgin, save me, and deliver me from eternal damnation.’ (Liguori, p. 168)

Prayer to Mary in the chapter titled “*Salve Regina*”: “O Mary, I hope most certainly to be saved by thy means. Pray to Jesus for me. Nothing else is needed; thou hast to save me; thou are my hope. I will therefore always sing O Mary, my hope, thou hast to save me.” Liguori, p. 247

“St Bernardine of Sienna thus addresses this Blessed Virgin: ‘O Lady, since thou art the dispenser of all graces, and since the grace of salvation can only come through thy hands, our salvation depends on thee.’ (Liguori, p. 170)

- **He offered His life as a sacrifice**

“St. William says, that ‘Mary, in order that she might save many souls, exposed her own to death;’ meaning, that to save us, she sacrificed the life of her Son.” Liguori, p. 49

- **God gave his Son**

“Thus as it is written of the Eternal Father, that God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son (John 3:16), so also we can say of Mary, that she so loved the world as to give her only-begotten Son.” Adapted edition of the Glories of Mary, p. 35

- **Our Ladder**

Words of St. Bernard: “. . . this divine Mother, O my children, is the ladder of sinners, by which they reascend to the height of divine grace; she is my greatest confidence, she is the whole ground of my hope.” Liguori, p. 20

“With reason does St. Bernard call her ‘the sinners’ ladder;’ since she, the most compassionate Queen, extending her hand to them, draws them from the abyss of sin, and enables them to ascend to God.” Liguori, p. 83

- **We pray to Him**

Words of Venerable Abbot of Celles: “Address yourselves to the Blessed Virgin, for by her and in her, and with her, and from her, the world receives, and is to receive, every good.” (Liguori, p. 162)

Liguori provides a series of Bible texts to prove that in the Bible **people prayed for people** and this is true. But they prayed for them **not to them**. Besides, they prayed while they **were alive**, not after they were dead!

“Thus praying ‘to’ any saint is exactly like asking a friend on earth to pray for us or to pray with us, as Paul ‘prayed’ that his fellow Christians would pray for him (I Thes. 5:25; Eph. 6:19, etc.) and as Epaphras did (Col. 4:12), and Paul himself prayed for others (Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:3). Saints in God’s presence have more prayer-power than we do, for they are not as faith-limited as we are; hence they’re excellent prayer-partners.” John H. Hampsch, *Mary in the Bible: Questions and Answers*, p. 9

- **We know the Father only through Jesus**

“There is no one, O most holy Mary who can know God but through thee; no one can be saved or redeemed but through thee, O Mother of God; no one who can delivered from

dangers but through thee, O Virgin Mother; no one who obtains mercy but through thee, O filled with all grace.” (Liguori, p. 171)

- **Helps us in temptation**

“When we are tempted, says St. Thomas of Villanova, all we need do is what little chicks do. As soon as they see a hawk, they run under the wings of the mother hen. And this is the way we should act when tempted—not linger to reason with the danger, but immediately fly and take cover under Mary’s mantle.” Adapted version of *The Glories of Mary*, Catholic Book Publishing, 1961, p. 58

- **Is the Way to come to the Father**

- **The door** (Liguori, p. 43)

“And St. Laurence Justinian asks, ‘How can she be otherwise than full of grace, who has been made the ladder to paradise, the gate of heaven, the most true mediatrix between God and man?’” (Liguori, p. 153)

“St. Bonaventure says that Mary is called ‘the gate of heaven, because no one can enter that blessed kingdom without passing through her.’” (Liguori, p. 160)

Words of St. Ambrose: “Open to us, O Mary, the gates of paradise, since thou hast its keys. ‘Nay more, the Church says, that ‘thou art its gate.’” Liguori, p. 239

Mary supposedly appeared to St. Bridget and said: “I am the Queen of heaven and the Mother of Mercy; I am the joy of the just, and the door through which sinners are brought to God.” Liguori, p. 43

- **The rod** out of the root of Jesse

“Cardinal Hugo, explaining these words [Ps. 23:4] of the royal prophet, says that the staff signifies the cross, and the rod is the intercession of Mary, for she is the rod foretold by the prophet Isaias: *And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root.*” (Isaiah 11:1) Liguori, p. 101

- The only **Redeemer**

“She shared in the Redemption by consenting with her ‘*fiat*’ to give the world a Redeemer.”

“She was present at the climactic event of the Redemption on Calvary, and suffered with him by her compassion what he suffered in his passion.”

“She participates even now in the redemption by making the redemptive merits of Christ more applicable to us earthlings by her intercessory prayers for us to ‘receive’ ever more perfectly, Jesus as our Savior.” Rev. John H. Hampsch, C. M. F., *Mary in the Bible: Questions and Answers*, p. 23

- **Our Refuge**

Speaking about the six cities of refuge: “Nowadays these cities are not so numerous: There is but one, and that is Mary, of whom the Psalmist says *Glorious things are said of thee, O city of God.*” Liguori, p. 119

- **The throne of grace**

St. Antoninus: “Mary is that throne of grace to which the apostle St. Paul, in his epistle to the Hebrews exhorts us to fly with confidence, that we may obtain the divine mercy, and all the help we need for our salvation.” Liguori, p. 257

- **The light or the sun**

“Take away the sun, and where will be the day? Take away Mary, and what will be left but the darkest night? When a soul loses devotion to Mary, it is immediately enveloped in darkness.” Liguori, p. 90

“If Mary ignores and condemns someone, that person is inevitably lost. Therefore, woe to those who turn their back on this Sun.” Adapted edition of the Glories of Mary, p. 55

- **Our life**

“St. Germanus called the most Blessed Virgin the breath of Christians; for as the body cannot live without breathing, so the soul cannot live without having recourse to and recommending itself to Mary, by whose means we certainly acquire and preserve the life of divine grace within our souls.” Liguori, p. 91

- **He changes and transforms lives**

“Thou art so pure, and I defiled with many sins; thou so humble, and I so proud; thou so holy and I so wicked. This, then, is what thou hast to do, O Mary; since thou lovest me, make me like thee. Thou hast all power to change hearts; take, then, mine and change it. Show the world what thou canst do for those who love thee. Make me a saint; make me thy worthy child. This is my hope.” Liguori, p. 70

- **He protects from Satan**

“As wax melts before the fire, so do the devils lose their power against those souls who often remember the name of Mary, and devoutly invoke it; and still more so, if they also endeavor to imitate her virtues.” (Liguori, p 148)

“Thomas a Kempis affirms ‘that the devils fear the Queen of heaven to such a degree, that only on hearing her great name pronounced, they fly from him who does so as from a burning fire.’” Liguori, p. 265

- **He is our propitiation**

“I do not even fear an angry God; for a single prayer of thine will appease him.” St. Alphonsus de Liguori prayer to Mary, p. 178.

- **His name is named above every name**

“Oh, how many victories have the clients of Mary gained by only making use of her most holy name!” (Liguori, p. 148)

“‘Thou, O Lady,’ says St. Germanus, ‘by the simple invocation of thy most powerful name, givest security to thy servants against all the assaults of the enemy.’” (Liguori, p. 149)

“The whole Trinity, O Mary, gave thee a name after that of thy Son above every other name, that in thy name every knee should bow, of things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.” Liguori, p. 260

- **If we die we have hope** and assurance in Jesus

“He asks, [Richard of St. Laurence] Who would dare accuse one who is patronized by the Mother of Him who is to judge? Mary not only assists her beloved servants at death and encourages them, but she herself accompanies them to the tribunal seat of God.” Liguori, p. 103

Prayer of Blessed Raymond Jordano: “Thou assistest the dying, protecting them against the snares of the devil; and thou helpest them also after death, receiving their souls and conducting them to the kingdom of the blessed.” Liguori, p. 276

- **He is all powerful**

“All power is given to thee in heaven and on earth, and nothing is impossible to thee who canst raise those who are in despair to the hope of salvation.” Liguori, p. 180.

Richard of St. Laurence: “Yes, Mary is omnipotent, for the queen by every law enjoys the same privileges of the king. And as the power of the son and that of the mother is the same, a mother is made omnipotent by an omnipotent son.” Liguori, p. 181.

Words of St. Antoninus: “. . . the prayers of the Blessed Virgin, being the prayers of a Mother, have in them something of a command; so that it is impossible that she should not obtain what she asks.” (Liguori, p. 187)

Prayer of St. Germanus of Constantinople: “O Mary, thou art omnipotent to save sinners, nor needest thou any other recommendation; for thou art the Mother of true life.” Liguori, p. 275

- He is the **morning star**

Quotes St. Bernard: “If thou wouldest not be lost in the tempest, cast thine eyes on the star, and invoke Mary.” Liguori, p. 122.

- **The mercy seat**

“In time of danger, Christians should fly to the most Blessed Virgin, who contained Christ as manna in the ark of her womb, and brought him forth to be the food and salvation of the world.” Liguori, p. 145

“In the book of Exodus we read that God commanded Moses to make a mercy-seat of the purest gold, because it was thence that he would speak to him. . . St Andrew of Crete says that ‘the whole world embraces Mary as being this propitiatory.’” Liguori, p. 111.

Prayer of St. Andrew of Crete: “O Mother of mercy, appease thy beloved Son. Whilst thou wast on earth thou didst occupy only a small part of it, but now that thou art raised above the highest heavens, the whole world considers thee as the propitiatory of all nations.” Liguori, p. 277

- **The Last Adam (the great antithesis in the Bible is between Adam and Christ, not Eve and Mary)**

If Mary is a **second Eve**, we run into some very serious consequences. Then Jesus as the second Adam would be the **husband of Mary** and also the son of Mary. This is would be spiritual incest!

“Hence St. Irenaeus remarks, that as Eve was seduced, by a fallen angel, to flee from God, so Mary was led to receive God into her womb, obeying a good angel; and thus by her obedience repaired Eve’s disobedience, and became her advocate, and that of the whole human race.” Liguori, p. 113

“St. Bernard says, ‘that as a man and a woman cooperated in our ruin, so it was proper that another man and another woman should cooperate in our redemption, and these two were Jesus and his Mother Mary.’” (Liguori, p. 165)

“St. Paul’s comparison of Christ with Adam, founded as it is on the account of man’s fall in Genesis, necessarily demands a comparison between the woman who predicted there as the antagonist of Satan, who would give birth to the promised Redeemer, and Eve, who was associated with Adam in the fall.” Knights of Columbus, The Mother of Jesus, p. 14

- **Crushes the serpent’s head**

“From the very beginning God foretold the victory and empire that our Queen would one day obtain over the serpent, when he nounced that a woman should come into the world to conquer him: *I will put enmities a between thee and the woman—she shall crush thy head.*” Liguori, p. 141

“Mary, then, was this great and valiant woman, who conquered the devil and crushed his head by bringing down his pride, and as it was foretold by God himself: *She shall crush thy head.* Some doubt as to whether these words refer to Mary, or whether they do not rather refer to Jesus Christ; for the Septuagint renders them, He shall crush thy head. But in the Vulgate, which alone was approved of by the sacred Council of Trent, we find She, and not He; and thus it was understood by St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Augustine, and a great many others.” Liguori, p. 142

- **Pillar of cloud and fire**

“It is said in the Old Testament, that God guided his people from Egypt to the land of promise, by day in a pillar of a cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. This stupendous pillar, at times as a cloud, at others of fire, says Richard of St. Laurence, was a figure of Mary fulfilling the double office she constantly exercises for our good: As a cloud she protects us from the ardor of divine justice; and as fire she protects us from the devils.” (Liguori, p. 147)

- **Cast out devils in His name**

“Bernardine de Bustis relates that a bird was taught to say ‘Hail Mary!’ A hawk was on the point of seizing it, when the bird cried out, ‘Hail Mary!’ In an instant the hawk fell dead. God intended to show thereby that if even an irrational creature was preserved by

calling on Mary, how much more would those who are prompt in calling on her when assaulted by devils, be delivered from them.” Liguori, p. 96

“Thomas a Kempis affirms ‘that the devils fear the Queen of heaven to such a degree, that only on hearing her great name pronounced, they fly from him who does so as from a burning fire.’” Liguori, p. 265.

- **The water of life**

Quoting St. Bernard: “Before the birth of the Blessed Virgin, a constant flow of graces was wanting, because this aqueduct did not exist.” Liguori, p. 159. What about I Corinthians 10:3-4?

- **The peacemaker**

Prayer of William of Paris: “Since, then, O Mary, thy office is to be the peacemaker between God and men, let thy tender compassion, which far exceeds all my sins, move thee to succor me.” Liguori, p. 197

St Andrew of Crete: “Hail, O peace of God with men!” Liguori, p. 207

- **Tower of refuge**

“I am the defender of those who have recourse to me, and my mercy to them is like a tower of refuge, and therefore I have been appointed by my Lord the peacemaker between sinners and God.” Liguori, p. 201

- **Draws all men to himself**

“O, how many obstinate sinners does not this loadstone of hearts draw each day to God! For thus did she call herself one day, saying to St. Bridget: ‘As the loadstone [magnet] attracts iron, so do I attract hearts.’” Liguori, p. 205

- **Gives eternal life**

St Bernard: “By thee, O Mary, was heaven opened, by thee was hell emptied; by thee was paradise restored; and through thee, in fine, is eternal life given to so many miserable creatures who deserved eternal death.” Liguori, p. 243

- **Worthy of being praised** (Revelation 5:11-13; Liguori, p. 29)

“. . . if all the tongues of men were put together, and even if each of their members was changed into a tongue, they would not suffice to praise her as much as she deserves.” Liguori, p. 29

“. . . in heaven there are many millions of angels and blessed spirits, who love and praise thee continually.” Liguori prayer, p. 236

- **Our hope**

“With reason does the ancient writer call her ‘the only hope of sinners;’ for by her help alone can we hope for the remission of sins.” Liguori, p. 83

- **Saved by Mary’s merits:**

“‘If he who prays,’ says St. Anselm, ‘does not merit to be heard, the merits of the mother, to whom he recommends himself, will intercede effectually.’” Liguori, p. 83

- **The rainbow**
“The rainbow round the throne is Mary, who softens the judgment and sentence of God against sinners; meaning that she is always before God’s tribunal, mitigating the chastisements due to sinners.” Liguori, p. 203
- **Died, her body saw no corruption, she resurrected the third day and then ascended body and soul** to heaven and sits at the right hand of Jesus as Queen
- Talk here about **latria, dulia and hyperdulia**. In actual practice, there is no distinction between worshiping God and Mary. The populace are not theologians and in actual practice they worship Mary.
- You may ask: How can people believe so much about Mary which is not contained in Scripture and which openly contradicts Scripture? This we will study in our next lecture: The Myth of Apostolic Succession.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#4 - THE IMMACULATE DECEPTION

Mary is immaculate in **two ways**: She did not **inherit Adam's sinful nature** and she **never actually committed venial or mortal sin**. The Bible is totally silent on these two things.

There are **two main reasons** why Mary must be immaculate according to Roman Catholic theology. First, only an **immaculate Mary** could bring into the world an **immaculate Jesus**

“But how could Jesus Christ be said to be separated from sinners if he had a Mother who was a sinner?” Liguori, p. 295

Words of St. Bridget: “Mary was conceived without sin, that the divine Son might be born of her without sin.” Liguori, p. 296

“Corruption is a disgrace of human nature; and as Jesus was not subject of it, Mary was also exempted; for the flesh of Jesus is the flesh of Mary.” Liguori, p. 297

“For not only is it true that the Flesh of Jesus is the same as that of Mary, but the flesh of our Savior, even after his resurrection, remained the same that he had taken from his Mother.” Liguori, p. 297

St. Peter Damian: “. . . the flesh of the Virgin, taken from Adam, did not admit of the stain of Adam.” Liguori, p. 311 In other words, she took Adam's pre-fall nature.

“. . . the Blessed Virgin never committed any actual sin, not even a venial one. Otherwise, she would not have been a mother worthy of Jesus Christ; for the ignominy of the Mother would also have been that of the Son, for he would have had a sinner for his mother.” Liguori, p. 299

“Mary would have inherited sin and the penalties of sin, if God had not preserved her from them. As a result, hers was a condition similar to our first parents before the fall.” Knights of Columbus, The Mother of Jesus, p. 25

Second, only one who did not sin could represent sinners as mediatrix before God.

According to Hebrews 7:26 Jesus could represent us before the Father because he was sinless. How could Mary be an Advocate with Jesus if she was not also sinless?

St. Anselm states: “God could preserve angels in heaven spotless, in the midst of the devastation that surrounded them; was he, then, unable to preserve the Mother of his Son and the Queen of angels from the common fall of men?” Liguori, p. 293

“St. Gregory says, ‘that an enemy cannot undertake to appease his judge, who is at the same time the injured party; for if he did, instead of appeasing him, he would provoke him to greater wrath.’ And therefore, as Mary was to be the mediatrix of peace between men and God, it was of the utmost importance that she should not herself appear as a sinner and as an enemy of God, but that she should appear in all things as a friend, and free from every stain.” Liguori, p. 289

We have studied the Antichrist in other passages, the little horn, the beast, the man of sin, the king of the north, the harlot Babylon. But here is a characteristic which is not found in the other passages.

I John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

I John 4:2: “By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

I John 4:3: “and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The question is often asked: Do you believe that Jesus came with the human nature of Adam before the fall or after the fall? My answer always is, neither one. I believe he came with the sinful nature of Adam after the fall but it was Adam’s nature after it had been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. In other words, Jesus never had to be born again. He was born, born again.

Romans 8:1-9: “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according **to the Spirit**. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Hebrews 4:15: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 2:11, 12: “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

Mark 3:35: “For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother." A brother is someone who has been converted to the Lord.

Hebrews 2:17, 18: “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

“We are too much in the habit of thinking that the Son of God was a being so entirely exalted above us that it is an impossibility for him to enter into our trials and temptations, and that he can have no sympathy with us in our weakness and frailties. This is because we do not take in the fact of his oneness with humanity. He took upon him the likeness of sinful flesh, and was made in all points like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God. He has engaged himself to save every son and daughter of Adam who will consent to be saved in God's appointed way. Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, May 16, 1895

“Adam was tempted by the enemy, and he fell. It was not indwelling sin which caused him to yield; for God made him pure and upright, in His own image. He was as faultless as the angels before the throne. There were in him no corrupt principles, no tendencies to evil. But when Christ came to meet the temptations of Satan, He bore "the likeness of sinful flesh." In the wilderness, weakened physically by a fast of forty days, He met His adversary. His dignity was questioned, His authority disputed, His allegiance to His Father assailed by the fallen foe.” Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, Oct. 17, 1900

“In order to carry out the great work of redemption, the Redeemer must take the place of fallen man. Burdened with the sins of the world, he must go over the ground where Adam stumbled. He must take up the work just where Adam failed, and endure a test of the same character, but infinitely more severe than that which had vanquished him. It is impossible for man fully to comprehend Satan's temptations to our Savior. Every enticement to evil which men find so difficult to resist, was brought to bear upon the Son of God in as much greater degree as his character was superior to that of fallen man. Ellen G. White, General Conference Bulletin, February 25, 1895

“The great work of redemption could be carried out only by the Redeemer taking the place of fallen Adam. With the sins of the world laid upon him, he would go over the ground where Adam stumbled. He would bear the test which Adam failed to endure, and which would be almost infinitely more severe than that brought to bear upon Adam.” Ellen G. White, The Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald, February 24, 1874

“Christ has made an infinite sacrifice. He gave his own life for us. He took upon his divine soul the result of the transgression of God's law. Laying aside his royal crown, he condescended to step down, step by step, to the level of fallen humanity.” Ellen G. White, General Conference Bulletin, April 23, 1901

“Think of Christ's humiliation. He took upon himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin. He took our sorrows, bearing our grief and shame. He endured all the temptations wherewith man is beset.” Ellen G. White, The Youth's Instructor, December 20, 1900

Matthew 1: Members of Jesus' family tree: Abraham, Jacob, David, Rahab, Ruth, Mannasseh, Ammon

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life. The Desire of Ages, p. 49

“But there must be no weakening or obscuring of the saving truth that the nature which God assumed in Christ is identical with our nature as we see it in the light of the fall. If it were otherwise, how could Christ be really like us? What concern would we have with Him? We stand before God characterized by the Fall, God's Son not only assumed our nature but He entered the concrete form of our nature under which we stand before God as men damned and lost.” Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics, volume 1, part 2, p. 153.

John 1:12, 13: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

When we are born of God, we begin where Jesus began. We now have a power which is able to keep us from falling.”

1 John 3:8-9

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”

People ask: Well, are you perfect? I am not, but not because I can't be but because I do not meet the conditions!!

2 Peter 1:4

“... by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

“Christ is the ladder that Jacob saw, the base resting on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the gate of heaven, to the very threshold of glory. If that ladder had failed by a single step of reaching the earth, we should have been lost. But Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3), He lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity He lays hold upon the

throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God. Therefore are we to be perfect, even as our "Father which is in heaven is perfect." The Desire of Ages, pp. 311, 312

“As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." He could not come in the form of an angel; for unless He met man as man, and testified by His connection with God that divine power was not given to Him in a different way to what it will be given to us, He could not be a perfect example for us.” Ellen G. White, The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 7, p. 925

“The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man. Man cannot overcome Satan's temptations without divine power to combine with his instrumentality. So with Jesus Christ; He could lay hold of divine power. He came not to our world to give the obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God's Holy Law, and in this way He is our example. The Lord Jesus came to our world, not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do, through faith in God's power to help in every emergency. Man is, through faith, to be a partaker in the divine nature, and to overcome every temptation wherewith he is beset. Ellen G. White, Our High Calling, p. 48

Philippians 4:13: “I can do all [most, some] things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“Christ is the ladder that Jacob saw, the base resting on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the gate of heaven, to the very threshold of glory. If that ladder had failed by a single step of reaching the earth, we should have been lost. But Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature might overcome. Made "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3), He lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God. Therefore are we to be perfect, even as our "Father which is in heaven is perfect." The Desire of Ages, pp. 311, 312

“Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble. The Great Controversy, p. 623

If we say this cannot be done, we are limiting the power of God and saying that the power of sin is greater than the power of God!!

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#5 - THE MYTH OF APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

1. **Deposit** of Truth: Moses (**written** and **unwritten** or oral)
2. **Transmitting** mechanism to **hand down in unbroken succession** from generation to generation.

Josephus tells us that “the Pharisees had **passed on** to the people certain regulations **handed down** by former generations and not recorded in the Law of Moses.” (Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, 13.10.6, bold is mine).

“**Moses** received the Law from Sinai and committed it to Joshua, and **Joshua** to the elders, and the **elders** to the Prophets; and the **Prophets** committed it to the men of the **Great Synagogue**.” Talmud, Aboth 1:1, 2

It is remarkable that **after these words from the Talmud** “comes the enumeration of several pairs of teachers (“Antigonus of Soko received the Law from Simeon the Just, etc.”) whose historical existence is more or less certain. The list finally ends with Hillel and Shammai, famous leaders of schools (Beth Hillel and Beth Shammai).” (Marcel Simon, Jewish Sects (Philadelphia: Fortress Press), p. 35.

“In their eyes, the tradition that they invoked in doing this, far from opposing the Torah [written Revelation], was the natural **prolongation** and **explication** of it. This tradition **went back to Moses himself**, just as did the Torah. An **oral law** was revealed to Moses along with the written law, and this oral law was **faithfully transmitted** from generation to generation.” (Marcel Simon, Jewish Sects, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1967), p. 34-35.

Moore underlines the fact that “to be of any use such a **chain of tradition** must possess **unbroken continuity**.” (George Foot Moore, Judaism, p. 35).

3. A **living interpreter** or teaching office authorized to bring forth from the deposit and **apply** to contemporary life. **Moses' Seat**

Matthew 23:1, 2: “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in **Moses' seat**.”

“The phrase [Moses’ Seat] is most probably a metaphor for the authority of the scribes to teach. In rabbinical tradition the interpretation of the Law was carried on in a scribal tradition that theoretically went back through an **unbroken chain** of scribes to Moses. This view is, of course, entirely unhistorical.” (The Jerome Bible Commentary, volume 2 (New York: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1968), p. 102).

According to Simon this idea of the transmission of oral tradition “made Pharisaism the **living element** of official Judaism. It was the **tradition** that allowed the Pharisees to justify all the **elaborations** that they introduced regarding the scriptural precepts, on the level of observances as well as on the level of doctrine.” (Simon, Jewish Sects, pp. 35-36).

The role of this teaching office, however, went **far beyond just explaining and applying** the written revelation. The rabbis frequently brought forth religious **practices and beliefs which were not implicitly**, much less explicitly, contained in the written revelation. When they did this, were they **claiming to bring forth new truth** not previously revealed by God? Not at all! They taught that these truths were **part of the deposit of unwritten traditions** which God had previously revealed to Moses.

Summary: There were thus **three things:** A **deposit** of the faith (written and unwritten revelation), a **transmitting agent**, and a **living interpreter** in each generation.

Unquestioning Obedience

When the Scribes and Pharisees spoke *ex-kathedra*, the people were to accept their teachings **without question as if God was speaking Himself.**

Only these **theological experts** could be **trusted** to say what the written and oral revelations meant. Their word was final.

“The Pharisees have delivered to the common people by tradition from a **continuous succession of fathers** certain legal regulations which are **not written** in the Law of Moses, on which account the Sadducean sort rejects them, affirming that what is written is to be regarded as law, but what comes from the tradition of the fathers is not to be observed. On this point the Pharisees **have the mass of the people on their side**, and they have **so much influence that anything they say, even against a king or a high priest finds ready credence.**” (Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, xvii.2.4., parr. 41).

The Authority of Jesus and the Authority of the Scribes

Jesus did not **study** in the **schools** of the Rabbi’s

Matthew 7:28, 29: “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine; 29 for He taught them as one having **authority**, and **not as the scribes.**”

Matthew 13:54: “And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, **Whence** hath this man this **wisdom**, and these mighty works?”

John 7:15: “And the Jews marvelled, saying, **How knoweth** this man **letters**, having never **learned?**”

John 7:46: When the **officers of the temple** returned to the Pharisees to render their report about Jesus, they exclaimed, “**Never man spake like this man**”

Mark 11:27, 28: The right or **authority of Jesus** to act and speak was constantly **questioned** by the Scribes and Pharisees:

“And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 29 and say unto him: By **what authority** doest thou these things? And **who gave thee** this authority to do these things?”

Jesus Always Answered with the Written Word

Matthew 4:4, 6, 7: On the Mount of Temptation (Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:13)

Luke 4:21: Beginning of His Ministry (Isaiah 61:1, 2)

Luke 10:26: Great Commandment. What is written in the law, how do you read?

Matthew 21:42: Vineyard workers: Did you never read the stone which the builders rejected

Matthew 22:29: You do err, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God”

Matthew 21:13: It is written you have made my house a den of thieves

Matthew 19:4-6: He who made them at the beginning

John 8:17, 18: It is written that the testimony of two men is true. I and my Father

Matthew 22:41ff: Psalm 110:1, 2 to vindicate His Messianism

John 5:39-46: If you believed Moses you would believe me

Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-46: Moses, all the prophets, all the Scripture, the Psalms

An example of how it worked: The Testimony of Mark 7

Mark 7:1: “Then the **Pharisees** and some of the **scribes [those who sit on Moses’ Seat]** came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem.”

Mark 7:2: “Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.

Mark 7:3: “For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, **holding [technical term] the tradition [technical term]** of the elders.”

Regarding the phrase “tradition of the elders: “A **rabbinical term** for the body of **unwritten laws** that the Pharisees considered as **equally binding** as the written Torah.” (The Jerome Bible Commentary, volume 1, “The Gospel According to Mark”, 42:42, p. 36.

Mark 7:4: “When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are **many other [tip of the iceberg]** things which they have **received [technical**

term] and **hold [technical term]**, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.”

Mark 7:5: “Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the **tradition [technical term]** of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

Mark 7:6, 7: “He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written [**Isaiah 29:13**]: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.⁷ And in **vain they worship Me**, teaching as **doctrines the commandments of men.**' [**when you teach the commandments of men your worship is worthless or vain**]

Mark 7:8: "For laying aside the **commandment of God**, you hold the **tradition of men--** the washing of pitchers and cups, and **many other [the tip of the iceberg]** such things you do." [**the issue** is the word or commandments of God and the tradition of men]

Mark 7:9: “And He said to them, "All too well you reject the **commandment of God**, that you may keep your **tradition [technical term]**.”

Mark 7:10 “For Moses said [**Exodus 20:17**], 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'” [**the commandment of God**]

Mark 7:11 “But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"--' (that is, a gift to God),” [**the tradition of men**]

Mark 7:12 “then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,”

Mark 7:13 “making the **word of God** of no effect through your **tradition [technical term]** which you have **handed down [technical term]**. And **many such things [the tip of the iceberg]** you do.”

Casuistry

“They [the Pharisees] presumed to make **nice distinctions** as to the **comparative guilt** of various sins, passing over some **lightly [venial?]**, and treating others of perhaps less consequence as **unpardonable [mortal?]**. For a **money consideration**, they excused persons from their vows. And for large sums of money they sometimes passed over aggravated crimes. At the same time these priests and rulers would in other cases pronounce severe judgment for trivial offenses.” (Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 616).

The Roman Catholic View is virtually identical

- Moses = **Peter**
- **Deposit** = Written word and unwritten tradition
- Transmitting agent = **Apostolic Succession** (bishops)
- **Living Voice** or interpreters The teaching office or Magisterium

From Documents of Vatican II (Dei Verbum)

But in order to keep the gospel forever whole and alive within the Church, the apostles left bishops as their **successors; handing over** their own **teaching office** to them. . . . And so the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved by a **continuous succession** of preachers until the end of time. Therefore, the apostles **handing on** what they themselves had **received**, warn the faithful to **hold fast** to the traditions which they have learned either by **word of mouth** or by letter (cf. 2 Th. 2:15), and to fight in defense of the faith **handed on** once and for all (cf. Jude 3). Now what was **handed on** by the apostles includes everything which contributes to the holiness of life and the increase in faith of the People of God; and so the Church, in her teaching, life, and worship, perpetuates and **hands on** to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes.

This task of **authentically interpreting** the word of God whether written or **handed on**, has been entrusted **exclusively** to the **living teaching office** of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This **teaching office** is not above the word of God, but serves it, teaching only what has been **handed down**, listening to it devoutly, guarding it scrupulously, and explaining it faithfully by divine commission and with the help of the Holy Spirit; it draws from this one **deposit of faith** everything which it presents for belief as divinely revealed.

“It is clear, therefore, that sacred **tradition**, sacred **Scripture**, and the **teaching authority** of the Church, in accord with God’s most wise design, are so linked and joined together that **one cannot stand without the others**, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.” (Walter M. Abbott., general editor, The Documents of Vatican II, “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation,” (The America Press, 1966), pp. 115-118.

“The task of giving an **authentic** interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church **alone**. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This means that the task of interpretation has been **entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.**”

The pope then teaches ex-kathedra.

Read also the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, article 2 and paragraphs 76-86

Pope Pius XII: “Together with these sacred sources of Scripture and tradition, God has given a living *magisterium* to His Church, to illumine and clarify what is contained in the deposits of faith **obscurely** and **implicitly.**” Quoted in, Jaroslav Pelikan, The Riddle of Roman Catholicism (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1959), p. 83.

“Some of the truths which God has revealed and which have always been taught by the Catholic Church are not contained in the Bible. These truths have **come down** to us by what is called **oral tradition**; that is, they have been **handed down** by word of mouth. By **Catholic Tradition**, therefore, we understand all those truths which the Church **received** from Jesus Christ and the Apostles, but which are not found in the Bible. These

truths we firmly believe, because they were revealed by God and are proposed to us by the Church.

“Some of the truths that have been **handed down** to us by **Tradition** and are not recorded in the Sacred Scripture, are the following: that there are just seven Sacraments; that there is a Purgatory; that, in the New Law, Sunday should be kept holy instead of the Sabbath; that infants should be baptized, and that there are precisely seventy-two books in the Bible.

“The truths of **Catholic Tradition** have been **handed down** in the Church by means of the writings of the Fathers of the Church," as well as by the decrees of Councils, by approved Creeds and by the prayers and ceremonies of the Church. These ancient writings and institutions show plainly what has been the faith of the Church from the earliest times.

“However, it is only the **infallible teaching office** of the Church that secures us against error as to the truth contained in Tradition as well as in the Holy Scripture. **The voice of the Church is the voice of God.**” Francis J. Butler, Holy Family Series of Catholic Catechisms (Boston: Thomas J. Flynn & Co., 1904), p. 63.

“From all of which it must be abundantly clear that the **Bible alone is not a safe and competent guide** because it is not now and has never been accessible to all, because it is not clear and intelligible to all, and because it does not contain all the truths of the Christian religion.

“The simple fact is that the Bible, like all **dead letters**, calls for a **living interpreter [what about the Holy Spirit?]**. . . . Just as the Supreme Court is the authorized **living interpreter** of the constitution, so the Catholic Church is the living **authoritative interpreter** of the Bible. She has been the preserver and custodian of the Bible through the centuries, and she interprets it **for us** in the name and with the authority of Jesus Christ.” John O’Brien, The Faith of Millions (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974), pp. 137, 138

“Since the truths contained in Scripture and those **handed down** by Tradition both come from God, Scripture and Tradition are of **equal value** as sources of faith. Both deserve the same reverence and respect. Each **alone** is sufficient to establish a truth of our holy faith. . .

“Scripture and Tradition are called the *remote rule of faith*, because the Catholic does not base his faith *directly* on these sources. The *proximate rule of faith* is for him the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, which **alone** has received from God the authority to interpret **infallibly** the doctrines He has revealed, whether these be contained in Scripture or in Tradition.” John Laux, A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies, part 1 (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1936), pp. 50, 51

Examples of Tradition Which Contradicts Scripture

Mary the Mother of God

The Immaculate Conception

The Perpetual Virginity The Assumption

Largest source of **conflict**: **Sabbath** observance

Healings in **chronic cases**

Jesus said it was **lawful** (Matthew 12:12) Pharisees said no.

The **Fence** around the law after the captivity (tradition)

613 rules to prevent the desecration of the Sabbath

Jesus broke **four rabbinical rules** when He allowed His disciples to satisfy their hunger.

- **Reaping,**
- **Threshing**
- **Winnowing**
- **Preparing a meal**

False sabbath made by man and not by God.

False worship because it glorified man who created it

Will the **final conflict** involve a **false sabbath** and a **true Sabbath**?

Sabbath of **human devising**, not the one God made at **Creation**

Wrong **way** and wrong **day**

They broke the Sabbath by intending to kill Jesus on it (Mark 3:6; Matthew 12:14; John 5:14). Certainly **their rules of sabbath observance** had made of **none effect the commandment which says: “Thou shalt not kill.”** In other words, it is as if they were saying: “You either **keep our sabbath or we will kill you.**”

The Bible, in terms too clear to be misunderstood, repeatedly tells us that the **SEVENTH** day is the Sabbath of the Lord! And yet the Roman Catholic Church informs us that **Sunday is the Sabbath**. On **what grounds** can it do this? Certainly not on Biblical grounds!

John Paul II, in his recent pastoral letter, *Dies Domini* has made a valiant effort to defend Sunday sacredness from a Biblical perspective. He appeals to **philosophical arguments based on human reason**. Yet none of his arguments are persuasive to those who take the Bible as their only reliable standard of truth. Nowhere in the Bible are we told that Sunday is **holy** or that we are to keep it in **honor of neither Christ’s resurrection** nor that we to **attend church** regularly on that day. It is a telling fact that John Paul II quotes **212 scholars, church councils, creeds and church fathers** to bolster his weak Biblical case! Once again, tradition has made of none effect the clear Word of God!

The great final battle on planet earth will not be over oil, or ethnicity. It will be the **same battle which Adam and Eve faced** in the Garden. Will man live by **every word** that proceeds from the mouth of God or will he listen to other voices? From the classic book on Bible prophecy:

“The **last great conflict** between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-lasting controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering a battle between the law of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the **Bible** and the religion of fable and **tradition.**” (Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 582).

As in the days of Christ, the religious leaders were **filled with wrath because Christ contradicted their traditions**, so in the last days, the **religious powers** of the world will be filled with wrath because God’s people will not “drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Revelation 14:8). As in Christ’s day, the issue will be **God’s Sabbath or man’s sabbath**. In Christ’s time the Pharisees kept the day in the **wrong way** and **hated Jesus** for keeping it the **right way**. In the end-time, the religious leaders will enforce the **wrong day** and will hate the Remnant **who keep the right day**.

Matthew 4:4

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#6 - PETER AND THE ROCK

When Christ went to **heaven**, he left Peter as his vicar or **replacement** on earth. When **Peter died**, his successor then became the rock and vicar. This **succession** has continued till the present day. As Christ's representatives on earth, the succession of popes have the **divine right to preserve, explain, and define the word of God**—both written and oral. They sit on the *kathedra* and lead **church councils, write encyclicals and pastoral letters**. What this means is that the pope is able to **define and bring forth** doctrines of the faith which are **not explicitly** found in the Bible, but which have supposedly passed on from one generation to another by a **process** which is known as apostolic succession. When the pope **speaks ex-kathedra** in matters of **faith and morals** his word must be **obeyed** by all Roman Catholics **without question** as if Christ were speaking himself. Thus the dogmas are an **infallible proclamation of Christ** and cannot be **revised, changed or abolished** because Christ Himself has spoken through His vicar. Thus, many doctrines which don't have a **single thread** of Biblical evidence must be accepted **without question** by the faithful. This is why doctrines such as **Mary the Mother of God, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Perpetual Virginity of Mary and the Assumption of Mary** are to be accepted as infallible truth.

Other Roman Catholic doctrines such as infant baptism, baptism by aspersion, purgatory, auricular confession, and the use of images, lent and the observance of Sunday as the day of worship are based on the same **flimsy foundation**.

Where does the Roman Catholic Church get this concept from?

Matthew 16:13-15 Talks about Caesarea Philippi

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:16: Jesus is at the **very center** of this passage, not Peter. Peter did not even know what he was saying.

"Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:17

“Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to you that **you** are Peter [**Masculine gender: *petros*, pebble. Stony ground in parable of the sower**], and on **this [the] rock [Feminine gender [*petra*] mass of rock such as tomb of Jesus carved in rock and the main who built his house in the bedrock]** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

John 1:42

And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called **Cephas**" (which is translated, a Stone)

Who is the Rock?

What was the Unanimous Consent of the Fathers?

Origin: The rock means every disciple of Christ

Tertullian: The entire church which is near to Peter is the rock

Ciprian: The entire body of the bishops in communion with Peter is the rock

Chrysostom: The rock is the faith confessed by Peter

Augustine: The rock is not Peter but rather Jesus Christ though I must admit that there are some who believe it was Peter.

Deuteronomy 32:3, 4: (also 13, 15, 18, 30, 31, 37) Jehovah is always the Rock. Never in the Bible is a man called the Rock. It is unthinkable that a Jew of Christ's time would even think of a man as the rock

“For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.”

I Corinthians 10:3, 4

. . . all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock [*petra*] that followed them, and that Rock [*petra*] was Christ.

Acts 4:11-12

“This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

I Peter 2:6-8

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and ⁸ "A stone of stumbling and a rock [*petra*] of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to **the word**, to which they also were appointed.

Why didn't Jesus say: "and upon me?" It was actually a figure of speech in that day and age

John 2:19-21

"Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

Matthew 21:42, 44

"Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

Ephesians 2:19-22: The church built upon the rock means that it is founded upon Jesus as found in the writings of the apostles and prophets

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

Matthew 7:24, 26: To build on the rock means to build upon what **Jesus says**. The church is built upon the Word of God. The **flood** and the **winds** are mentioned in the book of Revelation in the context of the tribulation (Revelation 12: **Flood**; Revelation 7: **Winds**; I Timothy 3:15: **House**: Church)

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. . . 26 Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

What is meant by *hades* and why is it spoken of as having gates?

I Corinthians 15:55

"O Death, where is your sting? O *Hades*, where is your victory?"

Hosea 13:14

I will ransom them from the power of the grave [*sheol*]; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.

Psalms 9:13, 14

Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, 14 that I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.

Isaiah 38:10, 11

"I said, "In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the remainder of my years." I said, "I shall not see YAH, the LORD in the land of the living;

I shall observe man no more among the inhabitants of the world.”

Why will the gates of death and the grave not prevail against the church? Because they **did not prevail against Jesus!** The grammar allows you to say that the gates of death would not prevail against **the rock** or against the **church**. The succeeding context shows that *hades* did not prevail against Jesus because **He resurrected** and they will not prevail against the church because the dead in Christ will resurrect!!

Acts 2:27-32

For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

Acts 2:25-27 NIV:

David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Revelation 1:17, 18: In the context of the **seven churches**, death will **not prevail against them** because Jesus has died and yet is alive!

“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

Matthew 16:21

“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

Matthew 16:22-23

“Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Matthew 16:28

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

In the next chapter you have a **miniature representation** of the kingdom. Jesus is at the center, not Peter!!

What are the keys of the kingdom?

Matthew 16:19

“And I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 23:1-2: Explain the **Kathedra** of Moses

“Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.”

Matthew 23:13: The kingdom of heaven is looked upon as a **house**. They **shut up** heaven the kingdom of heaven so that no one could enter. How did they do this?

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **shut up** the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither **go in** yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering **to go in**.”

Luke 11:52: They took away the **key of knowledge**. Why only one key?

“Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away **the key of knowledge**. You did not **enter** in yourselves, and those who were **entering** in you hindered.”

Luke 1:76, 77

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 to give **knowledge of salvation** to His people by the remission of their sins.”

The key **opens the door** to the kingdom. How is the door to the kingdom opened? By the **preaching** of Jesus.

John 5:39: They claimed to **preserve, interpret and define** the teachings of the Old Testament to enable people to enter the kingdom but they did not see Christ in the Old Testament (John 5:40, 45-46)

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 20:30, 31: Both the Old and New Testaments present Jesus and bring life and thus the gates of the grave cannot prevail against those who receive Jesus through them.

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing **you may have life** in His name.

Acts 2:37-39, 40-41: Peter opened the Word of God on the Day of Pentecost and three thousand souls were converted and baptized. Preaching the word of God opens or closes the kingdom to people.

Preached to Agrippa and Felix. The kingdom was closed to them.

Acts 14:27-28

Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Why are the keys plural?

Twosomes: Two keys, two witnesses, two olive trees, two candlesticks, two edged sword, apostles and prophets

Was only Peter given the keys?

Matthew 18:15-18

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

What does it mean to bind and to loose?

Perfect tense: A past action which carries over into the present. A better translation would be: "What you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven."

John 20:22-23: The forgiveness in heaven is not the result of the forgiving on earth. Christ's death made forgiveness of sins available through His blood. When people accept Jesus and His blood by the foolishness of preaching the Old and New Testaments, their sins have already been forgiven in heaven and you can tell them so. On the cross all sins were paid for and now the disciples can preach this and people can be saved by receiving Jesus. "Whose sins you forgive, they will have been forgiven in heaven."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

John 21:15-17

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

John 13:38

"Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."

I Peter 5:1-4

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

Luke 22:24: Why fighting for supremacy if Jesus had settled the question by saying that Peter was the rock?

Peter failed in the **garden**, failed in **Pilate’s court**.

Peter was **married** (Matthew 8:14)

Jesus did not **appear first** to Peter after the resurrection

Was Peter always **mentioned first**? No!

John 1:44: Andrew and then Peter

Galatians 2:7: Paul, then Peter

I Corinthians 1:12: Paul, Apollos and then Cephas

I Corinthians 9:5: Cephas is last

Pillars: James, Cephas and John (Galatians 2:9). These were of a high reputation (2:6) yet Paul then says: “What they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality.” (2:6)

The first **general church council** was presided by James, he gave the final speech with the final instructions.

Acts 8:14: Peter and John were sent.

II Corinthians 11:5: Paul is not lesser than any of the apostles

Acts 11:3: Peter apologizes for his bigotry

Galatians 2:11: Paul rebuked Peter to his face

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#7 - FOUR DOGMAS ABOUT MARY

“The Catholic Church holds four dogmas about Mary. Mary is believed to be the Mother of God, and her virginity is said to be perpetual. In the 19th century, the church declared the Immaculate Conception of Mary, meaning she was free from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception. And 47 years ago, the Assumption was declared. That dogma—celebrated with a fast day Friday—says that after her earthly life, Mary was assumed into heaven.” Fresno Bee, Saturday, August 30, 1997, Section D8: “Push for new Mary dogma spawns debate”

The Mother of God (451)

The Council of **Ephesus in 431** formally sanctioned the use of the title *Theotokos* (the God-bearer) for Mary. The use was later reaffirmed at the Council of **Chalcedon in 451**. The reason why this title was adopted was because a theologian called **Nestorius** was teaching that Mary was the mother only brought the **human element of Jesus into the world**. That is to say, he radically separated the human and divine natures of Jesus. The purpose of calling Mary *Theotokos* was to underline the fact that she brought **one person with two natures** into the world. In other word, she was the mother of the **divine/human** Jesus. Thus the name was given, **not to exalt Mary but to explain who Jesus was**.

Words of Chalcedon: *“Born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to his manhood.”*

“It should be evident that Mary’s motherhood did not, by any stretch of the imagination, have anything to do with the ‘production of God.’ The very idea is inherently absurd. The utter independence of the Supreme Being rules out any ‘production’ as far as He is concerned.” *Knights of Columbus, The Mother of Jesus, p. 9*

However, the **populace** does not make these neat theological distinctions. When they hear the name “Mother of God” they actually believe that Mary was God’s Mother.

The Bible **never calls Mary** the Mother of God. She is always called the **mother of Jesus**. It is obvious that Jesus **pre-existed Mary** as a divine person. Jesus actually **created her** (Colossians 1:16, 17).

Perpetual Virginity

Sexual relations in Roman Catholic theology have something of a **negative character**. They teach that **original sin** was **sexual sin** and therefore sex, **even within marriage** is defiling and only for the purpose of **procreation**. No birth control should be used because this would promote sex for pleasure. Much of this legacy can be traced to **St. Augustine** who had great trials with the flesh. This is the real reason for the Roman Catholic practice of celibacy.

- She was a virgin when Jesus was **conceived** in her womb.
- She did **not lose her virginity when Jesus was born**.
- She **remained a virgin the rest of her life**. She never had sexual relations with Joseph. How could that precious womb be defiled by something as vile as sex?

Trent: “If anyone should say that the married state is better than celibacy, let him be accursed.”

“**The womb that bore the God incarnate was appropriately reserved for him alone, and not to be used to bear any other creature. . . Jesus chose to ride on a colt that no one had ever ridden (Luke 19:30); he was laid in a tomb that no one had been laid in (John 19:41). Likewise, he chose the womb of a virgin who had never known man and would bear no child but himself.**” John H. Hampsch, **Mary in the Bible: Questions and Answers**, p. 26

“**The bottom line taken by most scholars is that the perpetuity of Mary’s virginity can’t be either proved or disproved by Scripture alone. In such situations, the Catholic Church relies on the other source of revelation—consistent with ancient tradition—to reach its doctrinal conclusion; this back-up reliance on tradition is itself advocated by the Bible, in the eight places cited earlier in this treatise.**” John H. Hampsch, **Mary in the Bible: Questions and Answers**, p. 26

According to the Bible **Jesus created marriage at the beginning** and he created the **sexual organs** and ordered child bearing before sin. Jesus honored marriage by attending a wedding. The Bible says that Joseph did not know her until Jesus was her first-born.

The Immaculate Conception (1854)

- **She did not suffer the results** of the fall of Adam. She was born with the **nature of Adam before** the fall. She did not inherit the **sinful spiritual nature** of Adam.
- She was also preserved by divine grace from committing acts of **venial or mortal sins** during her whole life. She did not have a **sinful nature** and never committed **acts of sin**. But the Bible says that **all have sinned** except for Jesus. The Bible also says that Mary needed a Savior.
- Only in this way could Mary bring a **sinless Jesus** into the world and only this way could she be our **Advocate in heaven**. A sinner could never be an Advocate before a holy God.

“**We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.**” Pius IX in the encyclical, *Ineffabilis Deus in 1854*

“Even tradition, the usual refuge of the Roman Catholics, contradicts this papal dogma. Augustine, Ambrose, Chrysostom, Eusebius, Anselm, Cardinal Cajetan, St. Antoninus, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Gregory the Great, Pope Innocent III and many other Fathers,

doctors, saints and Popes of the Roman Church clearly deny that Mary was conceived without original sin.”

But the Bible says that **all have sinned** except for Jesus. The Bible also says that Mary needed a Savior. The Bible says that Jesus was absolutely sinless (Hebrews 4:15; Heb. 7:25, 26)

Assumption to Heaven (1950)

Pius XII (November 1, 1950) Encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus*

“Accordingly. . . by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles, Peter and Paul, and by Our own authority We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

Order of the Assumption of Mary:

- She stayed on earth after the ascension of Jesus **assisting the apostles**. She *“solved their doubts, comforted them in their persecutions, and encouraged them to labor for the divine glory and the salvation of redeemed souls.”*
- She **consoled her loving heart** during the separation from her Son by **visiting the holy places of Palestine**.
- A **few days before her death** the Lord sent to her the **archangel Gabriel** who said: *“Come, then, to take possession of thy kingdom; for I and all its holy inhabitants await and desire thee.”*
- She imparted this **information to John**.
- She then visited for the **last time the holy places in Jerusalem**.
- During this period the **angels constantly visited Mary**.
- Shortly before her death **all the apostles were miraculously assembled** in Mary’s room. She told them that **she must leave** and that she was **going to Paradise to pray for them**. They complained by saying: *“We have already lost on earth Jesus, our Master and Father, who has ascended into heaven; until now we have found consolation in thee, our Mother; and now how canst thou also leave us orphans [this totally denies the promise Jesus gave that they would not be left orphans because He was going to send them the Holy Spirit] without father or mother?”* Liguori, p. 417 She responded: *“I do not leave you to abandon you, but to help you still more in heaven by my intercession with God.”* Liguori, p. 417.
- She then asked the disciples to **bury her body** and to **give two of her gowns** to two **virgins** who had helped her throughout her life.
- Then she **called Peter and recommended to him** in a particular manner as **head** of the church the **propagation** of the faith.

- Then she **called John and thanked him** for his care for her.
- Then the angels came and finally **Jesus who gave Mary her last communion** with the following words: *“Receive, O my Mother, from my hands that same body that thou gavest to Me.”*
- After receiving communion as she **breathed her last** she said: *“My Son, into Thy hands do I commend my spirit.”* Liguori, p. 419.
- Then Jesus and the **angels bore Mary to heaven** and as they approached the Holy City “the angels who accompany her cry out to those within: *‘Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lifted up, O eternal gates; and the Queen of glory shall enter in.’*”

She is then **praised in their proper order** by the **angels, the saints, the confessors, the martyrs, St. James, the prophets, the patriarchs, Adam and Eve, St. Simeon, St.**

- **Zachary and St. Elizabeth, St. John the Baptist, St. Joachim and St. Anne and finally St. Joseph.**
- Finally *“The Father crowned her by imparting his power to her; the Son, his wisdom; the Holy Ghost, his love. And the three divine Persons, placing her throne at the right hand of that of Jesus, declared her Sovereign of heaven and earth; and commanded the angels and all creatures to acknowledge her as their Queen, and as such to serve and obey her.”* Liguori, p. 427-431

Unanimous Consent of the Fathers: The interesting fact is that **Pope Gelasius I** condemned the idea of the Assumption of Mary at the end of the **fifth century**. But in **1950** another Pope, **Pius XII** proclaimed it church dogma to be believed by all the faithful.

“Still, Fundamentalists ask, where is the proof from Scripture? Strictly, there is none. It was the Catholic Church that was commissioned by Christ to teach all nations and to teach them infallibly. The mere fact that the Church teaches the doctrine of the Assumption as something definitely true is a guarantee that it is true.” Karl Keating, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism: The Attack on ‘Romanism’ by ‘Bible Christians’*, p. 275.

The Bible does **not even hint** at this. The last reference to Mary is in **Acts 1:14** where she was in the Upper Room after the Day of Pentecost. What arguments are provided as support? If **Enoch and Elijah were taken to heaven** then why not Mary who was much more eminent than they? Expressions such as: “it was **eminently fitting**,” “it would have been **most appropriate**,” “**there is a long tradition**” are used constantly to defend this dogma.

What about **Revelation 12:1**? According to the Catholics the woman is Mary after her assumption. But she is described as this way **before Jesus was even born**. Why was she in the **wilderness for 1260 years** if she was in heaven? The woman is clearly identified as the **saints** (Daniel 7:25; Rev. 12:6).

The Final Dogma

Liguori says that when Mary took Jesus **to the temple** to be dedicated when he was **eight days** old:

“She fully understood from the prophets that he was to be betrayed by one of his disciples.” He goes no to say that Mary knew that the disciples would forsake Jesus, that he would be treated with contempt and that he would be spit upon and derided by the people. She knew that at the end of his life his flesh would be torn and mangled by scourges. She knew that he was to be pierced by nails and yet knowing all this “she pronounced the sentence that her Son should die, and die by so ignominious and painful death, saying, ‘Eternal Father, since Thou willest that it should be so, not my will, but Thine be done. I unite my will to Thy most holy will, and I sacrifice this my Son to Thee.’” Liguori p. 397

When Jesus was taken to the temple to be dedicated we are told that *“Mary really offered her Son to death, and knew for certain that the sacrifice of the life of Jesus which she then made was one day to be actually consummated on the altar of the cross. . .”* Liguori, pp. 392, 393.

“Arnold of Chartres tells us that ‘at the death of Jesus Christ, she desired with immense ardor to die with her Son, for the love of us;’ so much so, adds St. Ambrose, that whilst ‘her Son was hanging on the cross, Mary offered herself to the executioners,’ to give her life for us.” Liguori, p. 57.

“‘So also,’ says St. Bonaventure, ‘we can say of Mary that she has so loved us as to give her only-begotten Son for us.’” Liguori, p. 59

“St Anselm and St. Antoninus say that if executioners had been wanting, she herself would have crucified him, in order to obey the Eternal Father who willed his death for our salvation.” Liguori, p. 60

“Hence the divine Mother, on account of the great merit that she acquired by this great sacrifice which she made to God for the salvation of the world, was justly called by St. Augustine ‘the repairer of the human race,’ by St. Epiphanius, ‘the redeemer of the captives,’ by St. Anselm, ‘the repairer of a lost world,’ by St. Germanus, ‘our liberator from our calamities,’ by St. Ambrose, ‘the mother of all the faithful,’ by St. Augustine ‘the mother of the living,’ and by St. Andrew of Crete, ‘the Mother of life.’” Liguori, p. 401

Words of Andrew of Crete: *“The wills of Christ and of Mary were then united, so that both offered the same holocaust; she thereby producing with him the one effect, the salvation of the world.” At the death of Jesus Mary united her will to that of her Son; so much so, that both offered once and the same sacrifice; and therefore the holy abbot says that both the Son and the mother effected human redemption, and obtained salvation for men—Jesus by satisfying for our sins, Mary by obtaining the application of this satisfaction to us. Hence Dennis the Carthusian also asserts ‘that the divine Mother can be called the savior of the world, since by the pain that she endured in commiserating her Son (willingly sacrificed by her to divine justice) she merited that through her prayers the merits of the Passion of the Redeemer should be communicated to men.” Liguori, p. 40*

John Paul II and Mary

- John Paul II greatly **admired** the Virgin Mary
- On his **coat of arms** he had the inscription *Totus Tuus sum Maria* (I’m all yours, Mary)
- **Inside his Pontifical** robes he had embroidered *Totus Tuus*

- He **consecrated Russia** to Mary and Communism fell
- He believed that Mary had **saved his life** from assassination
- He visited almost **every important Marian shrine** in the world
- On **March 25, 1987** he published an important encyclical, *Redemptoris Mater* where he described **his understanding of the Marian dogmas** of the Catholic Church. What is unique is that he **splashed his encyclical** with Scriptures which in their context had absolutely **nothing to do with Mary**, just like he did in his pastoral letter *Dies Domini*. To the uninstructed this gives the impression that his views are based on Scripture
- **Six times** in his writings he referred to Mary as Co-redemptrix, more than any other pope in history
- He quotes **Philippians 2:5-8** where the remarkable self-emptying of Jesus is described and then makes this remark: *“Mary shares through faith in the shocking mystery of this self-emptying. This is perhaps the deepest ‘kenosis’ of faith in human history. Through faith the Mother shares in the death of her Son, in his redeeming death. . .”* Quoted in *James R. White, Mary—another Redeemer? P. 102.*

John Paul also says: *“In this way Mary’s motherhood continues unceasingly in the Church as the mediation which intercedes, and the Church expresses her faith in this truth by invoking Mary ‘under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix and Mediatrix.”* *White, Mary—another Redeemer? p. 108.*

- *“There is no better way to approach her Son than through her”* (John Paul II address in Nagasaki, February 26, 1981)
- *“In the evangelizing history of the Church, the Virgin Mary has occupied and continues to occupy a singularly unique place. It has rightly been said: ‘to Christ through Mary.’”* (John Paul II Address in Mendoza, Argentina, October 12, 1980)
- *“Her ascent of Calvary and her standing at the foot of the cross together with the beloved disciple were a special sort of sharing in the redeeming death of her son.”* John Paul II in *Salvifici Doloris*, p. 25.
- *“Declaring Mary as ‘co-redemptrix’ with Christ, supporters say, would highlight her unique role in the salvation of humanity. Without Mary’s ‘yes’ to God’s command that she bear a son, Jesus—the one unique redeemer—would not have come into the world.”* Fresno Bee article

Mark Miravalle who gathered **millions of signatures** to try and influence John Paul to proclaim the fifth dogma, states: *“By giving flesh to the ‘Word made flesh’ for our salvation, this act alone rightfully and exclusively merits for the Handmaid of the Lord the title and honor of Coredemptrix.”* *Mary: Coredemptrix, Mediatrix, Advocate, p. 8*

- **Advocate for the people of God:** All people must go through Mary to Jesus:

Lumen Gentium 62: *“Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. . . Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix.”*

- **Mediatrice of all graces:** All sanctifying grace and help from heaven must come from Christ, through Mary to us.

On Mary's role as Mediatrice of all graces says Pope Leo XIII: "Every grace granted to man has three degrees of order: for by God it is communicated to Christ, from Christ it passes to the Virgin, and from the Virgin it descends to us." Encyclical *Jacunda Semper*, (1894)

"If the drive succeeds, Catholics would be obliged as a matter of faith to accept three extraordinary doctrines: that Mary participates in the redemption achieved by her son, that all graces that flow from the suffering and death of Jesus Christ are granted only through Mary's intercession with her son, and that all prayers and petitions from the faithful on earth must likewise flow through Mary, who then brings them to the attention of Jesus." Kenneth L. Woodward, Newsweek, "Hail Mary", August 25, 1997, p. 49.

"In place of the Holy Trinity, it would appear, there would be a kind of Holy Quartet, with Mary playing the multiple roles of daughter of the Father, mother of the Son and spouse of the Holy Spirit." Kenneth L. Woodward, Newsweek, "Hail Mary", August 25, 1997, p. 49.

She also takes the place of the Holy Spirit as Mediatrice:

"The union between the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit is so inexpressible, yet so perfect, that the Holy Spirit acts only by the Most Blessed Virgin, his Spouse. This is why she is the mediatrice of all graces given by the Holy Spirit." Mark Miravalle, p. 54.

"Still, their union is so inexpressible and so perfect that the Holy Spirit acts only by the Immaculata, his spouse. . . The third Person of the Blessed Trinity never took flesh; still, our human word 'spouse' is far too weak to express the reality of the relationship between the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit. We can affirm that she is, in a certain sense, the 'incarnation' of the Holy Spirit." Miravalle, p. 54.

In **June of 1997** a group of **23 Roman Catholic** Mariologist scholars were given the responsibility of studying the proposal of a new dogma. The vote was **23 to 0** against such a proposal. What was the main reason? **Ecumenical considerations**

Mel Gibson's movie portrays Mary as the Co-redemptrix. This is the passion of Jesus through the eyes of Mary. Mary is described as a partner in Christ's sufferings. She comforts Him, encourages Him when He falls on the Via Dolorosa, wipes up his blood after He is flogged, takes His body down from the cross and holds His dead body in her arms. Because she shared in His sufferings she has the right to be our Advocate with her Son and a Mediatrice of all graces.

Gibson: "I have been actually amazed at the way I would say the evangelical audience has—hands down—responded to this film more than any other Christian group. What makes it so amazing is that the film is so Marian." Christianity Today, March, 2004, p. 25

Rick Warren: "The film is brilliant, biblical, a masterpiece."

Billy Graham: "Every time I preach or speak about the Cross, the things I saw on the screen will be on my heart and mind."

Ted Haggard (President of the National Association of Evangelicals): “This film is probably the most accurate film historically than anything that has ever been made in English. . . So we have no hesitations. We were watching it for biblical accuracy and we thought it was as close as you can get.”

Biblical Response

There are more than **one billion Roman Catholics** all praying to Mary. How can **she hear simultaneously** the millions of prayers from different **countries** in different **languages**? How about **mental or silent** prayers? Can Mary **read minds**? She would have to be **omniscient** to be able to hear and answer all prayers. But she would also have to be **omnipresent**. How can she appear **all over the world** in Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France; Guadalupe, Mexico; Coromoto, Venezuela; Akita, Japan; Medjugorge, Yugoslavia. She must be **omnipotent**, omniscient and omnipresent!!

The Bible says that Jesus is **full of grace**

Biblical response: Jesus **alone is the Redeemer**, Jesus alone is the **Advocate**, and Jesus through the Holy Spirit **mediates all blessings** which come to us. There is no mention of Mary at all!!

Mary **did not even understand** the mission of Jesus as shown by His words at the wedding of **Canna** and also by her going to arrest him with **His brothers** during His ministry.

I John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Romans 8:34

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Hebrews 7:25, 26

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

I Timothy 2:5, 6

For there is one (*jeis*) God and one (*jeis*) Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all.”

The Roman Catholic Church has fallen into the sin of idolatry. Says James R. White:

“Quite simply, Rome has attempted to create a mirror image of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ. Oh, yes, it’s an image that is supposed to be on a ‘smaller scale,’ but it is as close to an exact replica as can be made.” P. 141. Besides, the Bible forbids us to make any likeness to the original lest we focus on the likeness and forget the original.

What I do when I go to **Medellin, Colombia?**

Mary is usually the **vibrant mother**. She is frequently **surrounded by children**

She is frequently depicted as clothed with the **sun** and trampling on the **serpent**

She is depicted even **after her glorification with the baby Jesus** in her arms or she is depicted as having Jesus **dead in her arms** (the pieta). Jesus is thus the **defenseless baby** or the **dead son**. Mary is almost always the **power figure**. She **protects** the child. She is **alive** while Christ is the crucified one. She is pictured as **benevolent, loving, beautiful and accessible**. Jesus is the **mangled and disfigured** one with an expression of **anguish and pain**. The **statues** of Mary outnumber those of Jesus **5 to 1**. Mary always has the **scepter in her right hand**. In the Rosary, there are **five decades**, that is, **one** large bead followed by **ten** small beads five times over. On each large bead the person pray the Lord’s Prayer. On each small bead the believer prays a Hail Mary: *“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”*

A woman **grasped the feet** of an image of Mary, with tears asking her for some favor. Sorry to say, the prayer fell on **deaf ears**. Mary cannot help because **she is dead**. Jesus is alive and you can come **to him** for help

Why is Mary so attractive in Latin American cultures? Simply because the mother is the center of the home life. The father is the authoritarian figure, the one who meets out justice. He is aloof and many times he is absentee. He frequently carries on extra-marital affairs. On the other hand the mother protects the children from the austere father figure. The mother is accessible and loving. The mother spends time with the children. *“Hence the ‘myth’ (or the reality) of the more distant father and the interceding mother becomes the cultural framework in which the concept of an exacting God and benevolent Mary can have meaning.” Eugene Nida, Understanding Latin Americans, p. 128.* To reject the Virgin Mary is to reject mother, home and family love. So Mary is not only the case of changing theological thinking but to tear out the very fiber of cultural mores.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS
By Pastor Stephen Bohr

#8 - THE ECUMENICAL MARY

Matthew 24:23, 24: “Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect?”

Contemporary Marian Phenomena

LaSalette (France)

Fatima (Portugal)

Garabandal (Spain)

Akita (Japan)

Naju (Korea)

Medjugorge (Bosnia/Herzegovina)

Sacramento (California)

Some Examples

- **Julia Kim** (Korea)
- Since **June 30, 1985**
- **Statue** has wept tears of water and of **bright red blood**
- It also oozes **fragrant oil**
- She receives the **stigmata**
- **Host** placed on her tongue has real flesh and blood
- **Mirna of Damascus**
- Stigmata appear on **Good Friday**
- **Icons** pour forth **100% olive oil**
- Her **body** also oozes pure **olive oil**
- People have been miraculously **healed** by the **oil** and her **prayers**
- **Marian Movement of Priests**
- **300** bishops and cardinals belong to it
- **55,000** priests participate

- The leader is Italian **Don Stefano Gobbi**
- Since **May 8, 1972** when he visited the **Marian shrine at Fatima**, he had **interior locutions** (voices) which assured him that the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** would provide a **remedy** for the problems in the **church** and its **clergy**
- **Books:** Our Lady Speaks to Her Beloved Priests; To the Priests: Our Lady's Beloved Sons
- Father **James Bruse** (Lake Ridge, Virginia). **Statues** around him have been **weeping, bleeding and changing colors**

“Something that would normally have taken place over a lifetime is taking place, for many people, over a short period of time. Along with the conversions, many healings also have been taking place. There have been reports of healings of cancer and other diseases. The most important changes, however, have been the changed lives, the inner conversions.” *The Thunder of Justice, p. 108* (US News and World Report for March 25, 1993)

- She has appeared in a **grilled cheese sandwich**
- On a **freezer door**
- On the wall of a **freeway underpass**

Talk about the book: **The Thunder of Justice**. James and Maureen Flynn gathered a compendium of Marian messages. Exactly what is “**Mary**” saying?

Social Ills (this is the same **religious right** agenda. Can they **agree with Mary** on this?)

To Father Gobbi on May 13, 1990: *“Satan has been the uncontested dominator of the events of this century of yours, bringing all humanity to the rejection of God and of His law of love, spreading far and wide division and hatred, immorality and wickedness and legitimizing everywhere divorce, abortion, obscenity, homosexuality and recourse to any and all means of obstructing life.”* The Thunder of Justice, pp. 152, 153

To Father Gobbi on September 18, 1992: *“. . . Some governments will begin to protect homosexuality and all sorts of abominations of the devil. Congresses and parliaments will make laws against truth, and some have already done so. Those who speak the truth will be considered criminals. It is then that the general persecution of Christians will begin. The law will prohibit the truth and the law of God.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 289

Great Emphasis on Prayer

July 25, 1990: *“Mary has said that every kind of prayer is pleasing to God—conversational prayer, formal prayer, prayer with use of the Bible, and simply being quiet in God’s presence. One only learns to pray through doing it, she taught. ‘You wish to live all that I tell you, but you are not successful in it because you do not pray enough.’ ‘Therefore, from today decide seriously to dedicate time to God!’*

She repeated on October 25, 1989. *‘Pray, pray, pray.’*” The Thunder of Justice, p. 201

Encourages to Keep the Ten Commandments (Ten Commandments Weekend in May) except the Sabbath has been changed to Sunday

Words to Kelly Noonan on February 22, 1987 *“Sons and daughters of the world: I beg you to recite and keep the Ten Commandments.”*

Emphasis on Peace and Love

Words of “Mary” to Mary Joan Wallace on July 25, 1990: *“You should do everything out of love! Accept all annoyances, all difficulties, everything with love! Forgive! Reconcile! I desire to bring all of you to the peace which only God gives, and which enriches every heart. I invite you to become carriers and witnesses of my peace to this unpeaceful world. Let peace rule in the whole world, which is without peace and longs for peace!”*

1 Thessalonians 5:3 *“For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”*

Family Values

To some mystics in Lubbock, Texas on September 26, 1988: *“My dear children, Satan is prowling this earth, seeking the destruction of marriages and the family. My dear children, you must pray as families. You must teach your children, you must teach your families”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 379

Spirit of the Dead to Deceive

Spoken by Mary to Melanie on September 19, 1846 at Lasallette: *“On occasions, the dead and the righteous will be brought back to life. That is to say that these dead will take on the form of righteous souls which lived on earth, in order to lead men further astray; these so-called resurrected dead, who will be nothing but the devil in this form, will preach another gospel contrary to that of the true Christ Jesus. . .”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 113

What if spirits of the dead appear teaching that the Sabbath is the day of rest?

Apostasy in the Church

To Father Gobbi on May 13, 1990: *“The church will know the hour of its greatest apostasy. The man of iniquity will penetrate into its interior and will sit in the very Temple of God, while the little remnant which will remain faithful will be subjected to the greatest trials and persecutions.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 217

Ecumenical Pleas

“I am Mother to all of you. Come closer to me, overcoming differences in nationality.” (December 14, 1992) Tabloid, Mary’s Touch, p. 2

“If all my children in this world transcend national boundaries, racial barriers and factional differences, form a unity and harmony with each other, and display the power of love, the Church will be revitalized, a shining new Pentecost will be realized, and this world will be saved by the Lord, Who is present in the Eucharist.” Tabloid, Mary’s Touch, p. 2 (September 24, 1994)

Words on February 22, 1987: *“You will know by the sign in the heavens which is I myself that the time is at hand for the instantaneous conversion of the multitude. . . The miracle is for the conversion of the whole world.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 326

Mary Defeated Communism (John Paul II had a great role and He consecrated Russia to her and the Soviet Union fell)

To Father Gobbi on September 3, 1991: *“Not because of political movements or persons, but through my personal intervention, has your liberation [from Marxism] finally come about. It will again be in the name of Mary that I will bring to completion my Work with the defeat of Masonry, of every diabolical force, of materialism, and of practical atheism, so that all humanity will be able to attain its encounter with the Lord and be thus purified and completely renewed, with the triumph of my Immaculate Heart in the world.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 153

The Death and Resurrection of the Papacy

“As Good Friday comes before Easter Sunday, we will see the death of the Catholic Church before its resurrection in a new form in the glorious era of peace.” The Thunder of Justice, p. 232.

Remarkably, the Roman Catholic church did receive a deadly wound and prophecy foretells her resurrection!!

John Paul II and Mary

- Dedicated his pontificate to Mary
- Called the twentieth century “the century of Marian times”
- **May 13, 1981**
- **75,000** at St. Peter’s Square
- **11 million** viewers on television
- Was attracted by a **little girl** who was wearing a small **picture** of the Virgin of Fatima
- Mehmet Ali Agca shot John Paul II when he **bent down to kiss** the little girl. If not he would have been **shot in the head**
- On **May 13, 1917** three young children in an **obscure hamlet in Fatima** started having visions of the Virgin Mary and **receiving messages** from her which ended in a spectacular sign on **October 17, 1917**
- On **July 13, 1917** Fatima appeared to **Lucia** and told her: *“In October I will perform a miracle so that everyone may see and believe.”* (Thunder, p. 136). This is a severe **theological problem** for Jesus condemned this philosophy. Thomas, John 6, Rich man and Lazarus
- Read the miracle of the sun in **Malachi Martin**, pp. 628, 629
- On his pontifical robes he had **“Totus Tuus.”** He believed Mary was **guiding him** on his **geopolitical agenda** in the defeat of communism, materialism and secularism. He

believes he was **protected by Mary** because he had a role, under her guidance to place the **Roman Catholic Church on the throne of the world.**

The Teachings of this “Mary”

Obey the Church and forgive sins: *“I want the lay people to obey the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops and all the priests. They are my most beloved sons and have received the power to forgive sins of countless people who have become contaminated with sins. For this reason, even my Son Jesus comes down from Heaven to earth in obedience to them.”* Tabloid Mary’s Touch, p. 3

Convert out of Fear: *“The Lord prefers that we convert for love, but if it is necessary, for the fear of punishment. Nonetheless, He will accept conversion all ways and will receive us because He loves us and wants our salvation. For love or for fear, the only thing that matters is that we give ourselves to Him.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 349

Interpreter of the book of Revelation: *“I will bring you to the full understanding of Sacred Scripture. Above all, I will read to you the pages of its last book, which you are living. In it, everything is already predicted, even that which must still come to pass. The battle to which I am calling you is clearly described, and my great victory is foretold.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 90

Pray the Rosary, Confidence in Mary: *“Pray very much the prayers of the rosary, I alone am able still to save you from calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 148

Saved from wrath by works: *“We should avoid the wrath of God on us by our good efforts.”*

Appeases the wrath of the Father: *“In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 186

Participate in the Mass: *“I am calling you to more attentive prayer, and to greater participation in the Mass! I want you to experience God within yourselves at Mass! Come in love and accept the Holy Mass! Let everyone coming to Mass be joyful! The Mass is the greatest prayer from God, and you will never understand the greatness of it. Let Holy Mass be your life.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 202

Use of Amulets for protection: *“Today I invite you to put more blessed objects in your homes, and may every person carry blessed objects. Because you are armored against Satan, he will tempt you less.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 204

Pray for those in purgatory: *“Today I invite you to pray every day for the souls in purgatory.”*

The Church must use the state: *“Satan’s ultimate target is the destruction of the papacy and the Holy Roman Catholic Church. The primary assault is aimed at banishing religion from the realm of the state, causing factions and divisions and bringing about ungodly laws.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 220

Mary will appear in various forms for the new age: *“I saw that when the glorious peace arrives and love reigns, there will be only ‘one fold and one shepherd.’ Mary, the mother of all believers will guide the life of souls, appearing under various forms. She will be the Queen of the Coming Age.”* Words of “Mary” to Theresa Lopez, The Thunder of Justice, pp. 363, 365

Steps on head of the serpent, Queen, new world order: *“My Immaculate Mother will be victorious over sin with her power as Queen. . . This will be a new world and a new age. This will be the age when mankind will get back what it lost in Paradise. When My Immaculate Mother will step on the neck of the serpent, the gates of hell will be closed.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 364, 365

Places the mark on the forehead: *“If my Adversary is signing, with his mark, all his followers, the time has come when I also, your heavenly leader, am signing, with my heavenly seal, all those who have consecrated themselves to my Immaculate Heart and have formed part of my army. I am imprinting my seal on your foreheads with the most holy sign of the Cross of my Son Jesus.”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 330

Talk to the dead: *“A few days after Father Luis’ [Andreu] death, the Blessed Virgin told us that we were going to talk to him. . . At eight o’clock in the evening, the Blessed Virgin appeared to us smiling, very, very, much, as usual. She said to the four of us: ‘Father Luis will come now and speak with you.’ A moment later, he came and called us one by one. We didn’t see him at all but only heard his voice. It was exactly like the one he had on earth. . . Father Ramon. . . Father Ramon was told precise details of his brother’s funeral and details of his personal life that were unknown to anyone but himself. On another occasion, Father Luis gave a message for his mother: ‘Be happy and content for I am in Heaven and I see you every day.’”* The Thunder of Justice, p. 167

Flynn’s Sunday quotation

“The commandment forbidding false idols has so many shapes and forms in our daily lives. If anything is taking a dominant position over honoring God, then this is a false idol. This is a place where we see many of the root causes of our problems. It is the commandment of ‘Keeping the Sabbath Holy.’ In the Old Testament, not honoring this day was only one of several sins punishable by death. Although we are not living under the law of the Old Testament, there is widespread abuse all throughout Christian culture concerning the Sabbath. In the West, we have lost God through our affluence, and in the East, God has been lost through communism and suffering. Both have lost sight of a Sabbath, and thus our problems have become so large we no longer even know where to start to find the solutions to our ills.

God’s intention for the Sabbath was a day of rest honoring God through worship, conversation, teaching and praise. Today if someone even bothers to go to church at all, Sunday will be an endless litany of recreation, television, athletic events, shopping, and errands all crammed together. Family time has become something of the preceding generations. The idols pile up before the altar displacing the supremacy of God in our lives. The abdication of spiritual responsibility has led us to a place where peace has eluded us. When the Scriptures were adhered to as a beacon and guideline for living, the world was a better place. Doors were not locked, there was prayer in the classroom, and there was a sense

of civil obedience. The more the standard of God has been stripped from our lives, the more people have lost a sense of goodness. Our elected leaders merely reflect the will of the people.”
The Thunder of Justice, p. 389

Mary and Public Calamities

“If we refuse to define [the Marian dogmas], I think trial and persecution, and tragedy will follow” says Mother Angelica, 74, the fiercely old-fashioned nun whose Eternal Word Television Network reaches 55 million homes in 38 countries from her convent studios in Birmingham, Alabama. *“If the Holy Father would define this dogma, it would save the world from great catastrophes and loosen God’s mercy even more upon this world.”* In Kenneth Woodward, Newsweek, “Hail Mary,” August 25, 1997, p. 53.

“And that we may understand the confidence that the holy Church has in Mary, we need only remember that in all public calamities she invariably invites all to have recourse to the protection of this divine Mother, by novenas, prayers, processions, by visiting the churches dedicated in her honor, and her images. And this is what Mary desires.” Liguori, The Glories of Mary, p. 131

EGW Portrayal of end-time events (the other woman)

Emphasis on love: *“He appeals to the reason by the presentation of elevating themes, he delights the fancy with enrapturing scenes, and he enlists the affections by his eloquent portrayals of love and charity.”* GC 554

Spirits lament wickedness, Church and state, Sunday must be kept: *“Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.”* GC 590

Calamities due to Sunday desecration: *“The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.”* GC 590

World Unity: *“Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.”* The Great Controversy, pp. 588, 589

Spiritualism: *“He has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness.”* GC 552

Spiritualism: “*Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions.*” The Great Controversy, p. 560

Concluding Remarks

- Catholics say that Mary **died, resurrected and ascended** to heaven and that she is speaking today
- But is this **really Mary**? Why would she be teaching doctrines **contrary to Scripture** if she is heaven and has **direct access to the fountain of truth**? Would **Mary contradict** the truths contained in the Bible? Of course not!
- Then the one speaking must **not be Mary**. If she is not Mary, **then who**?
- Isaiah 8:19, 20

In a world where people fight for women’s rights and where we want to ordain women because they are equal to men, what is to keep Protestants and perhaps Adventists to perceive Mary as an **equal partner** with Jesus in redemption?

Other religions such as the **Muslims** have respect for Mary. **Protestants** more and more a **coming around** to the Roman Catholic view of Mary

Protestants have **cast aside** the shield of faith and they **don’t really care** what the Catholic Church believes about Mary. They join together on **points of doctrine** which they have in common.

The acid test will be: **Is Mary dead or is she alive**. Your answer to this question will determine whether you are **deceived or remain firm**. Protestants have already opened the door to the **ecumenical “Mary”**

When **global disasters** overtake civilization, people will be **willing to listen** to “Mary’s” explanation as to the reason for what is happening.

Why **she appeals** today: **Absentee fathers** make the mother all the more necessary. The father is the one who meets out **justice and punishment**. The mother must **intercede** with the Father to spare the children.

The leading journal of the apparition’s movement is called Signs of the Times. It is edited by Ted and Maureen Flynn, the authors of the book The Thunder of Justice.

Satan makes people **charismatic** or **liberal** and then he can trap them because the **absolute authority of the Bible is not accepted** by either group. Without any **objective, trustworthy source of truth**, both groups will be swept into the ranks of **ecumenism**. This is why Satan is working on **two fronts**. He is trying to make **Adventists** either **liberal** or charismatic.

Mary will be the **uniting force** of Protestants and Catholics because conservative Protestants have cast away the shield of truth and depend on **miracles, signs and wonders** and mainline Protestants do not believe in the **authority of the Bible**.



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