

Living in the Kingdom

Lesson 6: Miriam (Mary), Our Jewish Mother Daughter of Israel, Mother of the Church



1. God always intended to ask this young Jewish virgin to cooperate in his saving plan. Through her faithful assent, she becomes the Mother of God. All Christians are her children, and we are to love and honor her.
2. The "mountain peaks" of salvation history:
 - a. **Creation**: Adam and Eve
 - b. The **Exodus**: Moses and the Ark of the Covenant
 - c. The **Davidic Kingdom**: King Solomon and the Queen Mother
3. Jesus fulfills salvation history:
 - a. The **New Creation**: Jesus the New Adam and Mary the New Eve
 - b. The **New Exodus**: Jesus the New Moses and Mary the Ark of the New Covenant;
 - c. The **New Davidic Kingdom**: Jesus, the New Son of David and Mary, the new Queen Mother.
4. Adam was the father of all mankind, and Eve the "mother of all living."
5. The serpent led Adam and Eve to disobey God's command, bringing suffering and death into the world. After God promised that a redeemer would come through the seed of the woman to defeat the serpent, He cast them out of Eden.
6. Christ inaugurates a **new creation** as the New Adam: He is the perfect image of the Father, tested in a garden, led to a "tree," where He was stripped naked, fell into a deep sleep (of death), and from His side came forth the New Eve, His bride, the Church.
7. At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus called Mary "woman," hinting at Gen 3:15. Jesus, "born of a woman," is the seed who will crush the serpent.
8. The Annunciation inaugurates the fulfillment of God's promises and preparations. By saying "yes" to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus and initiates the redemption of the world.
9. Mary is the "New Eve": Through her faith and obedience she undoes Eve's disobedience. "Eve had believed the serpent; Mary believed Gabriel; the fault which the one committed by believing, the other by believing has blotted out" (Tertullian). "Death through Eve, life through Mary" (Ephiphanius).
10. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, without human seed. Mary remained a virgin throughout her entire life. Her virginity is the sign of her perfect faith and total consecration to God's will.
11. Jesus' "brothers and sisters" in the gospels are actually his cousins. James and Joses are the sons of Mary, wife of Clopas.
12. Joseph "did not know her **till** she had brought forth her firstborn Son." This does not mean that Joseph had relations with Mary after the birth of Jesus: "Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children **till** the day of her death." She did not have children after her death!

Gen 1:26-27,
2:20-23, 3:20

Gen 3:1-7
Gen 3:14-24

Jn 1:1, Jn 14:9
Mt 26:36-46,
27:31
Jn 19:26-35
1 Cor 15:45-47

Jn 2:1-5, Isa 7:14
Gal 4:4

CCC 484
Luke 1:26-38

CCC 494

CCC 496
CCC 499, 506

Mk 6:3, Jn 19:25
Mt 27:55-56

Mt 1:24-25
2 Sam 6:23

CCC 495

- 13. Mary is called "mother of God" because her son Jesus is divine.
- 14. The **New Exodus**: Jesus is the New Moses; Jesus' life mirrors the life of Moses and of Israel in the desert.
- 15. Mary is the **Ark of the New Covenant**. The **Ark** was a holy vessel that contained the 10 commandments (the word of God), the manna (the bread of life), Aaron's rod (the priesthood). **Mary** is a holy vessel who bore Jesus: Word of God, Bread of Life, and eternal High Priest.
- 16. The Visitation: Mary's visit to Elizabeth recalls David and the Ark:

David and the Ark	Elizabeth and Mary
David "arose and went" to the country of Judah. (2 Sam 6:2)	Mary "arose and went" to the hill country of Judah. (Lk 1:39)
"How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" (2 Sam 6:9)	Elizabeth: "Why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)
David danced for joy in the presence of the ark. (2 Sam 6:14,16)	John leaped/danced in Elizabeth's womb as Mary approached. (Lk 1:44)
The ark remained in the hill country for three months. (2 Sam 6:11)	Mary remained with Elizabeth for 3 months. (Lk 1:56)

CCC 490-491
Luke 1:28

17. "Hail, **full** of grace" = a fullness of grace in quality and quantity over time. The Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, preserved immune from original sin and remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

Rom 3:23
CCC 492-493

18. When Christ saved us, He pulled us out of the pit of sin. He saved Mary more fully than anyone else by preventing her from falling into the pit in the first place. She is God's masterpiece.

Rev 11:19-12:2

19. When John sees the Ark of the Covenant in the book of Revelation, he sees a woman crowned with the sun who gives birth to the Messiah.

2 Sam 7:12-14
Luke 1:26-33
1 Ki 2:13-20

20. Jesus and the **New Davidic Kingdom**: Like Solomon, Jesus is king and Son of David. Alongside Solomon reigned his mother Bath Sheba. Alongside Jesus reigns his mother Mary.

Jn 19:26-27
CCC 964
CCC 968-969

21. When Jesus gave Mary to John as his mother, He made her mother of the Church. Since she perfectly cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and love in the Savior's work, she is a mother to us in the order of grace - our helper and advocate who prays for us from heaven.

CCC 966

22. Mary's Assumption: At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory. As David brought the Ark to the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus brings the Ark of the New Covenant into the Temple of the Heavenly Jerusalem and crowns her queen.

Rev 12:3-17

23. The dragon (Satan) continues to make war with Mary and her offspring - the followers of Christ.

CCC 972

24. In her heavenly glory Mary is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come, and she shines forth on earth as a sign of certain hope and comfort to God's People.

CCC 971

25. The Church honors the Blessed Virgin with special love and devotion - different, however, from the adoration given to God alone.