

# RCIA: Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mary – 2020



# Hail Mary, Full of Grace



- The Hail Mary is usually the most cited “Catholic prayer” by non-Catholics
- What many non-Catholics hear:
  - Hailing Mary (Worship)
  - Full of Grace (Sinless)
  - Blessed (Worship)
  - Holy (Divine/Worship)
  - Mother of God (Divinity)
  - Pray for Us (Why not pray to Jesus)
- The prayer reeks of the Catholic Doctrine (Dogma)
- They see the prayer as unbiblical

# Hail Mary or Ave Maria

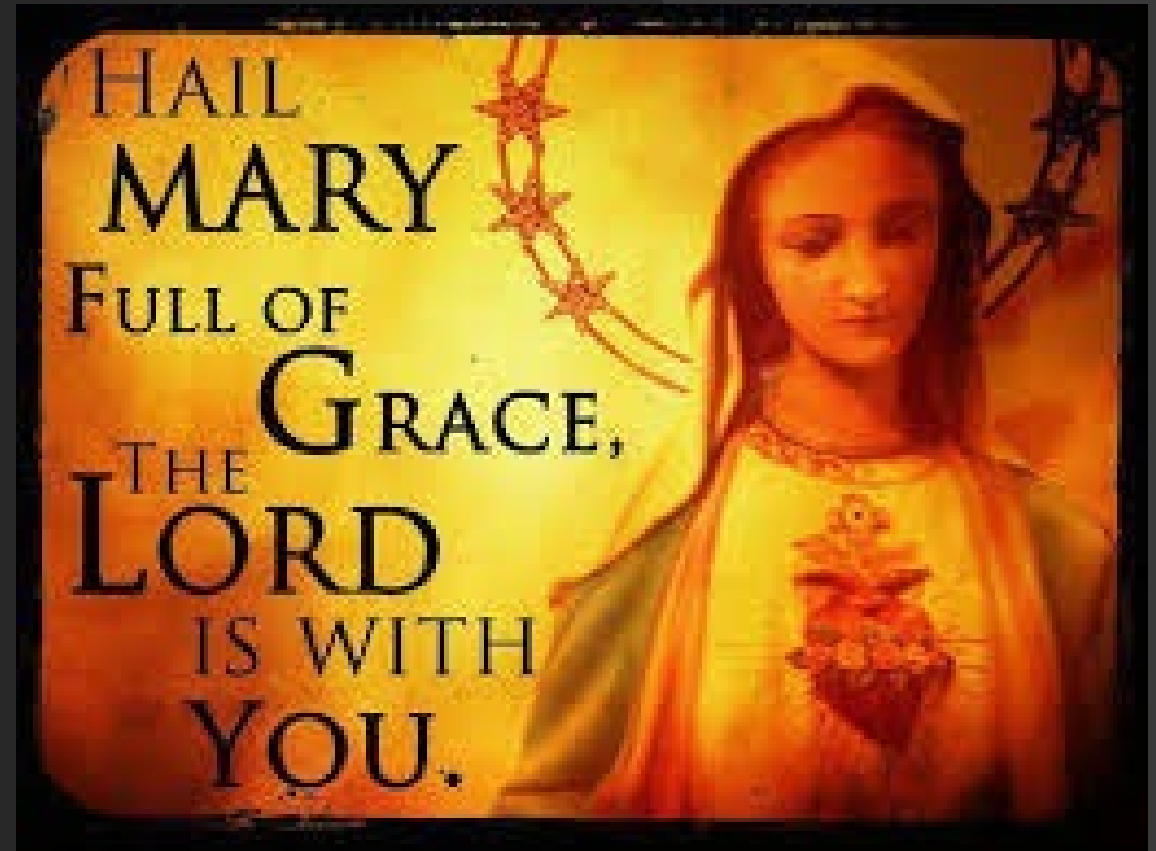
- Ave is a Latin word, used by the Romans as a salutation and greeting, meaning "hail". It is the singular imperative form of the verb *avēre*, which meant "to be well"; thus one could translate it literally as "be well" or "farewell"
- Greek word was *Chaire* (a royal greeting)
- Parts of Ave Maria found in Syriac ritual attributed to Patriarch of Antioch (c. 513 AD)
- Documented as a Catholic devotional prayer as far back as 1030 (Two Anglo-Saxon manuscripts from that time contain the Ave Maria prayer). Use was probably much earlier.

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.

Ave Maria,  
gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus  
ventris tui, Iesus.  
Sancta Maria,  
Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc,  
et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

# Luke 1:28 (The Annunciation)

- “Hail Full of Grace, the Lord is with you”
- We already talked about Hail (Ave)
- Full of Grace
  - In modern languages certain words and phrases often do not easily translate from one language and culture to another
  - Greek: pleres charitos (John 1:14 to describe Jesus, Acts 6:8 to describe Stephen). Any recently baptized. (No Sin)
  - In Luke 1:28, Gabriel uses *kecharitomene*, whose root word is *charitoo* (to give grace) in the Past Perfect Tense, meaning that the action of giving grace has already occurred, BEFORE now and most definitely before conception of Christ.
  - Translated as “full of grace”, “graced one”, “one who has been made graced”, “highly graced”, and “highly favored”.



# Luke 1:42 (The Visitation)

- “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”
- Elizabeth’s words to Mary
- Blessed be
  - Deuteronomy 28:4 – “Blessed be the fruit of your womb (a reward promised for diligently obeying the word of God)
  - Judges 5:24 – “Blessed among tent-dwelling women” (Song of Deborah)
  - Judith 13:18 – “Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth” (In astonishment after killing Holofernes).



# Holy Mary, Mother of God

- Few Christians object that Mary was Holy. The objection lies around the term “Mother of God”.
- Term debated at Council of Ephesus in 431 AD
  - Nestorius (Bishop of Constantinople) was teaching that Mary was Christ bearer (Christotokos)
  - St. Cyril (Bishop of Alexandria) found this to be heresy. Believed correct term was Theotokos, or God Bearer.
  - Question was debated at Council of Ephesus.



# Ephesus – Really about Jesus, Not Mary

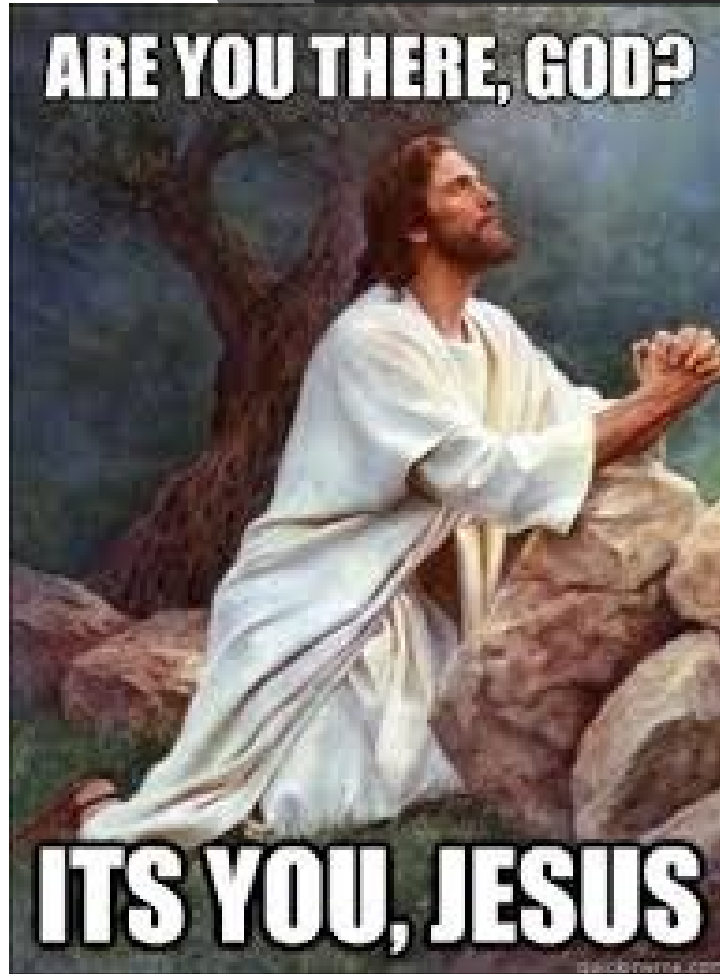
- Nestorius

- Mary was Christ Bearer
- Christ (the human) and Christ (the divine) were two different/separate persons
- Mary gave birth to the Human portion of Jesus
- Jesus is two persons (one God, one man)
- Argued Mary gave birth to Human Jesus, whose humanity is separate and distinct from his divinity
- Impossible for a Human to give birth to God

- St. Cyril

- Mary was God Bearer
- Christ is one person, fully human and fully divine.
- Mary gave birth to one of the three persons of the Trinity
- Jesus is God the Son, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
- Argued that Nestorius' Jesus was schizophrenic (two persons having no relation at all).
- Mary did give birth to God (the son), but is not the source of his divinity

# Ephesus Result: Christ is ONE Person



- Mary is THEOTOKOS or God Bearer.
- God Bearer → Mother of God
- Each time we say Mary is the Mother of God we are saying Jesus is God! (Consubstantial with the Father)
  - Oldest know prayer to Mary from 250 AD is Sub tuum praesidium (Under they protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God)
- It is about Jesus, not Mary

# Scripture Support: Mother of God

- John 1:14 – The Word Became Flesh
- Galatians 4:4 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law
- Luke 1:43 (Visitation) - And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
  - Elizabeth was a devout Jew of the tribe of Levi. Would not refer to an earthly King as her Lord
  - Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit when she said this (Luke 1:42)



# Lord: King or God?

- The word Lord in the old testament was used for God
  - Deuteronomy 6:4 – Here O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.
- Three verses just before Luke 1:43 reference Lord as God (Annunciation)
  - Luke 1:28, Luke 1:32, and Luke 1:38
- Three verses just after Luke 1:43 reference Lord as God
  - Luke 1:46, Luke 1:58, and Luke 1:68



# Side Note: Etymology of the word Lord

- Exodus 3:14 – EHYEH ASHER EHYEH (I am who I am)
  - EHYEH (I am) – First Person
  - YHWH (He is) – Third Person
- Literal Translation of “To Be” would start Philosophy path.
- Translated in New and Old Testament Greek as Kyrios (Head of the House): House is Kyriakos
- Latin
  - House: DOMUS
  - Head of House: Dominus
  - Lady of the House: Madonna
- Anglo-Saxon: hlafwaerd
  - Hlaf (Loaf) + waerd (guard) = Keeper of the Loaf, or Bread Winner
- Scottish Contraction of hlafwaerd -> LAIRD
- English: LORD
- Jesus is Lord means Jesus is YHWH





# Mary, Queen of Heaven

- The Old Testament
  - In the monarchy of King David, as well as in other ancient kingdoms of the Near East, the mother of the ruling king held an important office in the royal court and played a key part in the process of dynastic succession. In fact, the king's *mother* ruled as queen, not his wife.
- This was common in Near Eastern Monarchies, not just Jewish
  - Most Kings practiced polygamy
  - Solomon had 700 wives (1 Kings 11:3)
  - Imagine the royal court if there were 700 Queens
- In 1 and 2 Kings, each time a new monarch it mentioned, it almost always mentions his MOTHER as well.
- Who is the King of Heaven? So what title was given to his Mother?
- The title is about CHRIST. Recognizing her as Queen recognizes him as King

# The Church Teaching

- Perpetual Virginity
  - Baptismal Symbols since 3<sup>rd</sup> Century
- Mother of God
  - Council of Ephesus (431 AD)
- Immaculate Conception
  - Pope Pius XII (1854)
- Assumption into Heaven
  - Pope Pius IX (1950)

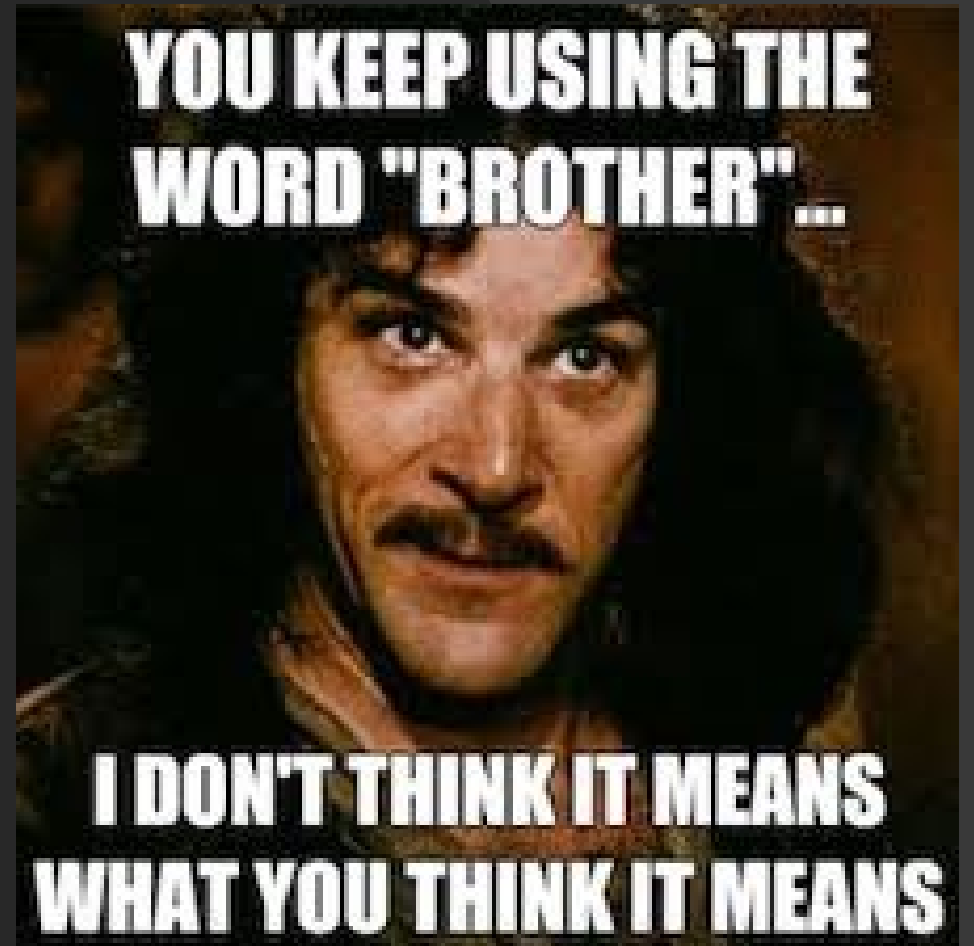


# Perpetual Virginity of Mary

- *Mary was a virgin before, during and after giving birth*
- *All Christians AGREE in Virginity of Mary before Birth of Christ*
- *Full Belief is oldest Marian Doctrine (300's)*
- *Full Belief shared by Lutheran and Orthodox Churches today*
- *Defended by*
  - *Martin Luther – “She remained a virgin after that” (Sermons on John)*
  - *John Calvin – Those who reject Mary’s Perpetual Virginity based on Scriptural Passages that mention Jesus’ brothers and sisters show excessive ignorance.*
  - *Huldrych Zwingli - “Forever remained a pure, intact Virgin” (Corpus Reformatorum)*
  - *Thomas Cramer – Maintained on the basis of ancient Christian authority.*
  - *John Wesley – “continued a pure and unspotted virgin” (Letter to a Roman Catholic)*
- *Early Founders of Lutheran, Calvinist, Anglican, and Methodist Churches believed in this doctrine*

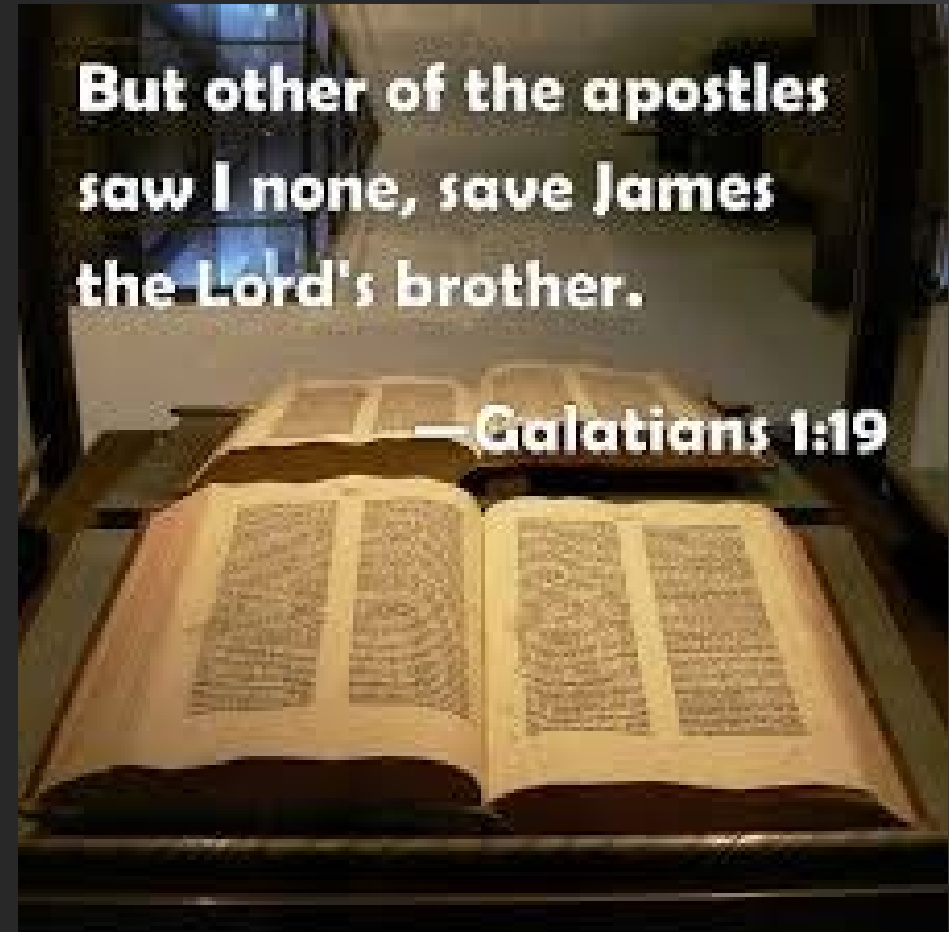
# Brothers of the Lord!

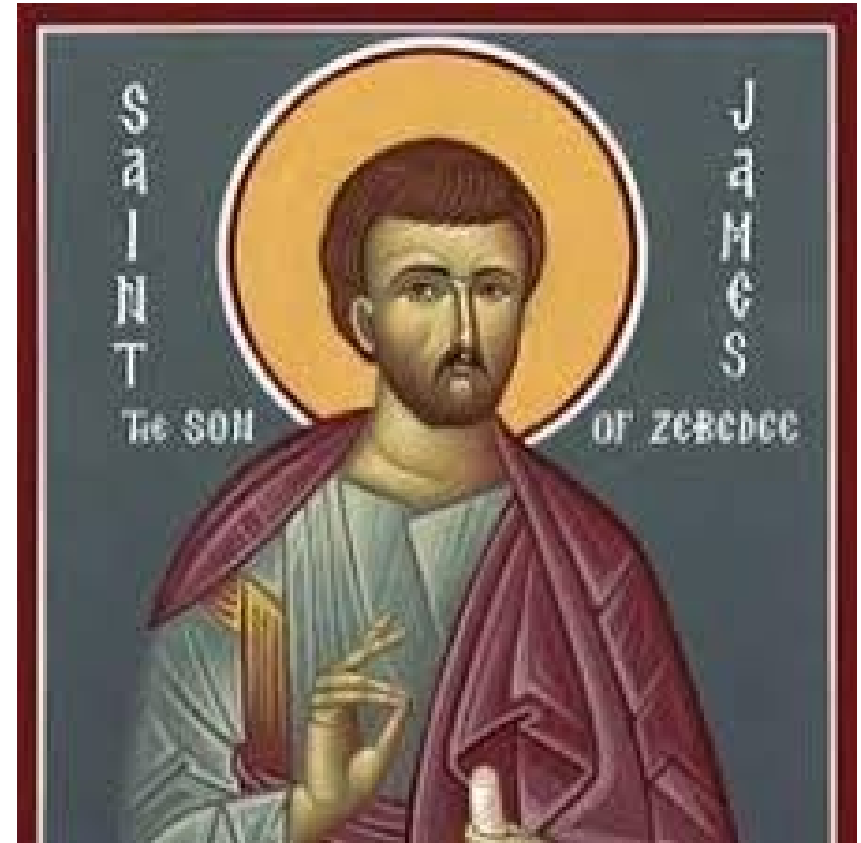
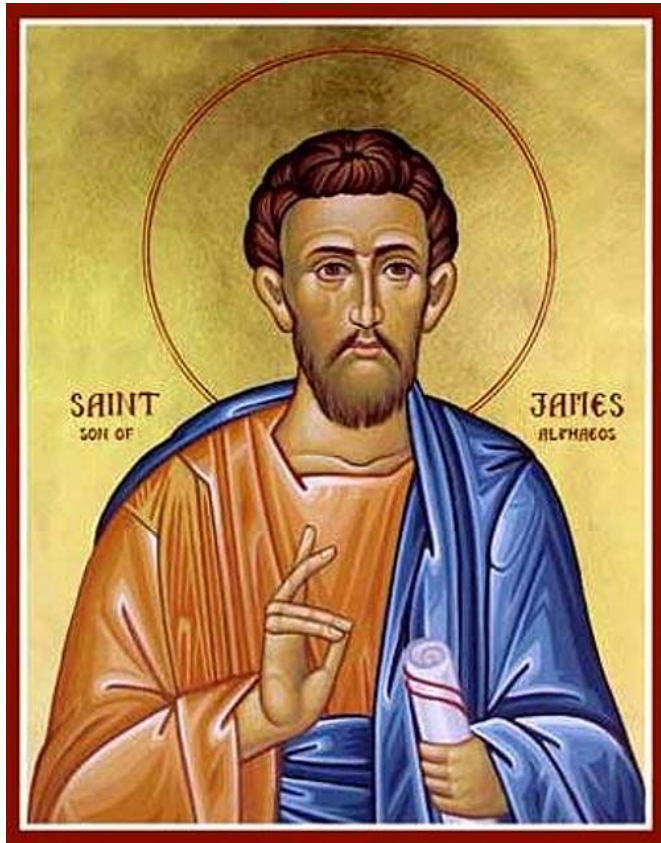
- Mark 6:3
  - Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joseph and Jude and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?
- Matthew 12:46
  - While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him



# James – Brother of the Lord

- Galatians 1:18-19
  - Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.
  - Reasonable to infer that this is the same James mentioned in Mark as Brother.
  - The James was a Brother of the Lord AND an Apostle (Chosen by Christ). Not a disciple.
- If he is an Apostle, he should be in the list of apostles! Surely we can find this James as one of the 12.



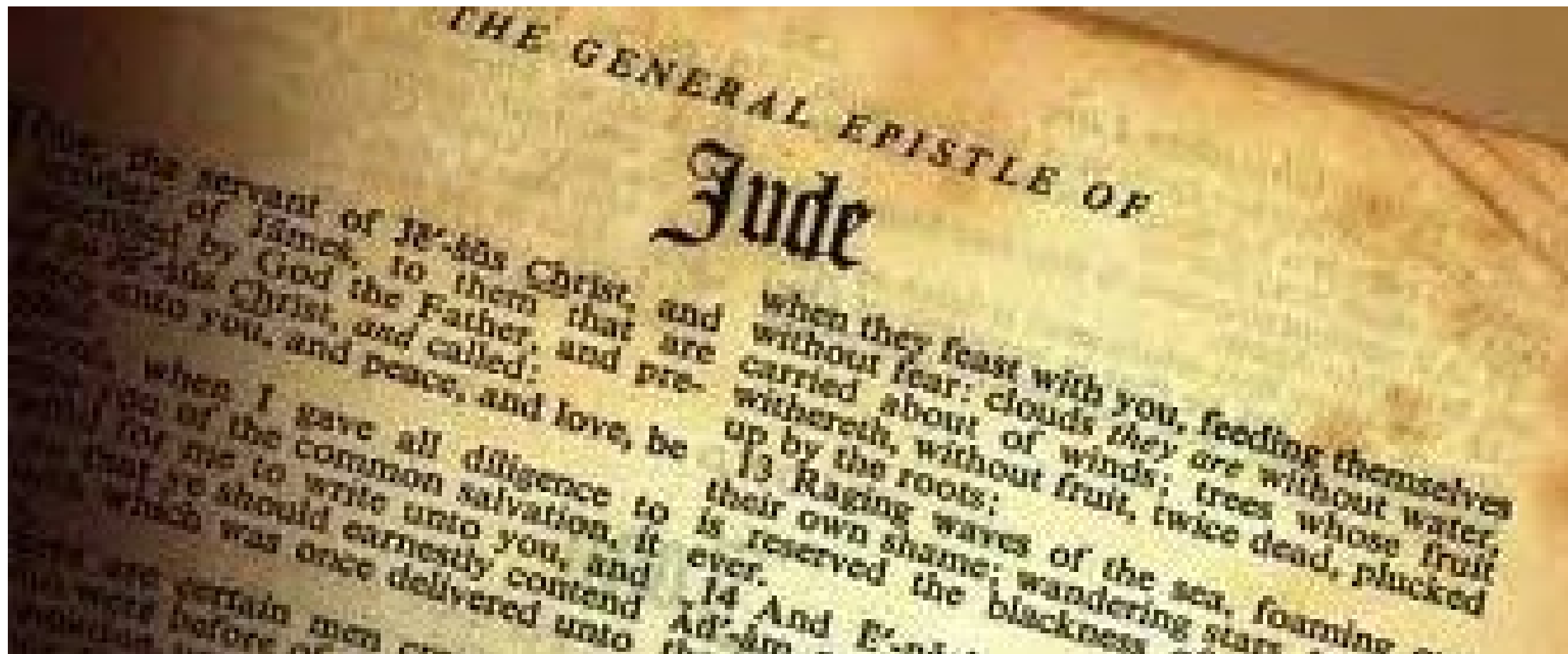


James – Son of Alphaeus

James – Son of Zebedee

Matthew 10:2-4

# Further Evidence in St. Jude's Letter



# But it says Brothers and Sisters!

- The Greek word for Uterine Brothers is adelphoi (Ἀδελφοί)
- This is the word used in Mark 6:3
- This word is also used to refer to Brothers in Christ (not Uterine)
  - Acts 9:17 (Ananias referring to Paul, who was not his brother)
- Used in Greek translation of Old Testament to refer to KINSHIP
  - Genesis 14:12-14 (Lot and Abram – Nephew, not Brother)
  - Genesis 29:10-15 (Jacob and Laban – Nephew, not Brother)
- Jewish Tradition was to use the word for Kinship
- There was a Greek word for Uterine Brother, but NOT a Hebrew Word

# Then why not use the right Greek word?

- Throughout these Gospels, authors chose to maintain Hebrew tradition and phrases, even though written in Greek
- Recall, the Gospel Authors and the first readers were Jewish
- First Century Jew would understand a Jewish reading of the Gospel. We can't take 21<sup>st</sup> Century definitions of words and apply them to 1<sup>st</sup> Century works.



# An Example of Hebrew Expressions

## **Luke 14:26**

- If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple

## **Matthew 10:37**

- Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

But the Bible says they had relations...

- Matthew 1:25
  - He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.
- Some imply this means that Matthew is stating that After Jesus' birth, he did know her.
- Two meanings of the word UNTIL
  - Change in the Future when a select period of time is Complete
    - Example: Don't start UNTIL you hear the bell.
  - No Reference to the Future
    - Example: Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
- Biblical References: Deuteronomy 34:6, 2 Samuel 6:23, 1 Timothy 4:13, and 1 Corinthians 15:25



# So, St. Joseph married her and remained celibate?

- In our culture today, this seems counterintuitive
- In Jewish Culture, celibacy and vows were common and are documented in Scripture
  - Numbers 30:1-9
    - Details rules regarding vows made to God
    - If a woman makes a pledge (say of virginity) before marriage the father or husband could accept it (which made it binding for life) or reject it (which broke the vow without the woman sinning)
  - 1 Samuel 1:20-28
    - Hannah vows to dedicate her child (Samuel) to the lord and leave him at the temple once weaned
    - Her Husband Elkanah agrees, which makes the vow binding



# Back to the Annunciation

- Luke 1:27 - To a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary
  - No such thing as Engagement for First Century Jew
  - Betrothed meant they were already married
  - Luke 2:5 - to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child
- Matthew 1:18-19 - Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to **divorce** her quietly.
- Matthew 1:20 – “...Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your **wife** into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her”.
- Matthew 1:24 - When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his **wife** into his home



# Mary's Question

- Mary was Married to Joseph.
- Luke 1:34 – But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”
  - Luke 1:35 – She was not already pregnant (the Holy Spirit WILL come upon you)
  - Why ask this question? Why would she not ASSUME that she would conceive and bear the son of Joseph?
  - Luke 1:31-33 - Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end
- In Aramaic: ki enneni yodaat ish
  - Yodaat tense is active participle indicating a permanent condition
  - I have not and will never know man



# Discussion Questions

- Why do you think it is important that Mary be a Virgin before the birth of Christ? And After?
- Why did Mary's "yes" take so much faith? What have you been called to say "yes" to when it wasn't easy?

# The Immaculate Conception

- *The most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin – Ineffabilis Deus (December 8, 1854 under Pope Pius IX)*
- *Feast of the Immaculate Conception had been around for at least 1000 years and is on historical calendars from the 900's. Other scrolls show similar feast in the 600's. By 900's, it was a Holiday!*
- *Martin Luther believed in the Immaculate Conception*
  - *The infusion of Mary's soul was effected without original sin...From the first moment she began to live she was free from all sin (Luther - sermon on the day of the conception of the Mother of God)*
- *Formally defined in church dogma in the 1800's, but believed and celebrated for Centuries*
- *2005 Report by Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians agree on Immaculate Conception*

- Question: Could God Create a Woman free of original sin?
- Answer: Of Course, He's God.
  
- Another Question: Had God ever created a Woman without Original Sin?
- Answer: Yes, Eve!



# Romans 3:23 – ALL have Sinned

- Romans 3:23 – “all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God”
- The interpretation of “all” here is far too literal. It does not mean all without exception.
- Other Examples of ALL in New Testament
  - Matthew 3:5-6 - At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins
  - 1 Corinthians 15:22 - For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life
  - Romans 3:10-12 - There is no one just, not one, there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. All have gone astray; all alike are worthless; there is not one who does good, there is not even one.
  - Romans 11:26 – “and thus all Israel will be saved”

# So Why All?

- St. Paul is talking about the Universality of Sin.
  - If I am evangelizing to you, I don't say "With the following exceptions, All must accept Jesus Christ died for our sins!" I just say we must all accept it. Everyone listening to me. Everyone hearing me
- Stands to Reason that ALL does not mean infants
  - Has an infant sinned?
    - Romans 9:11 (Referring to Jacob and Esau) – "before they had yet been born or had done anything, good or bad, in order that God's elective plan might continue"
- Paul was writing against Judaizers who wanted to exclude Gentiles. Teaching them that the law is not enough. We Need Faith! We need a Savior.



chaire kecharitomene

Hail who has been  
perfectly and completely  
graced by God.



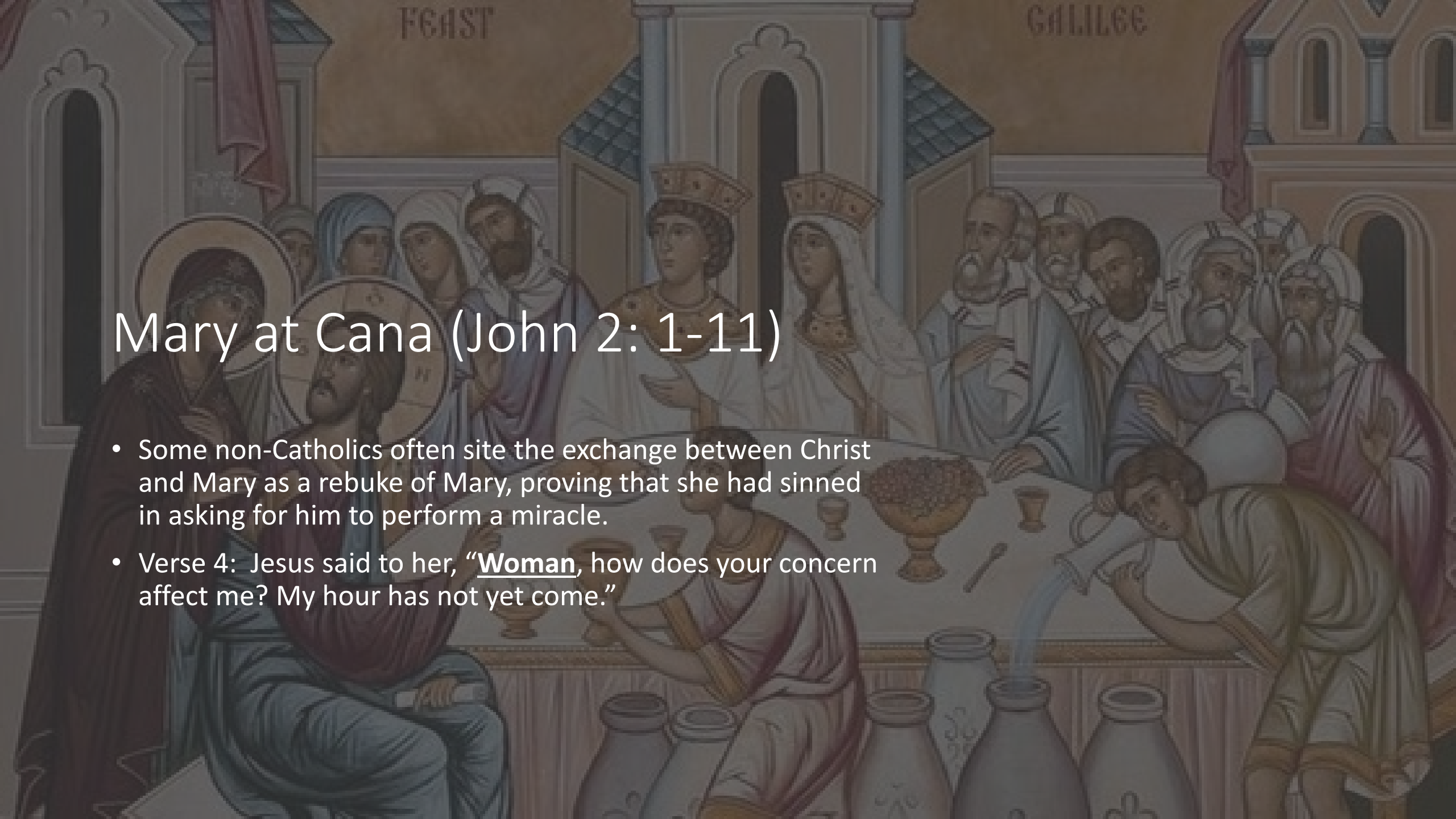
*"Hail,*

FULL OF GRACE,

THE LORD IS WITH YOU!"

—  
LUKE 1:28

THE ANNUNCIATION  
OF MARY



## Mary at Cana (John 2: 1-11)

- Some non-Catholics often cite the exchange between Christ and Mary as a rebuke of Mary, proving that she had sinned in asking for him to perform a miracle.
- Verse 4: Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

# Mary at the Foot of the Cross

- John 19
  - 25: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
  - 26: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."
  - 27: Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.



## Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to understand that Mary, too, had to be redeemed
- Mary had to witness Jesus' suffering at the cross. What do you think it must have been like for her? Do you think she suffered? What gave Mary strength?
- Who was Christ speaking to when he said, "Behold your Mother"? What do our own mothers want for us? What does Mary want for the church?

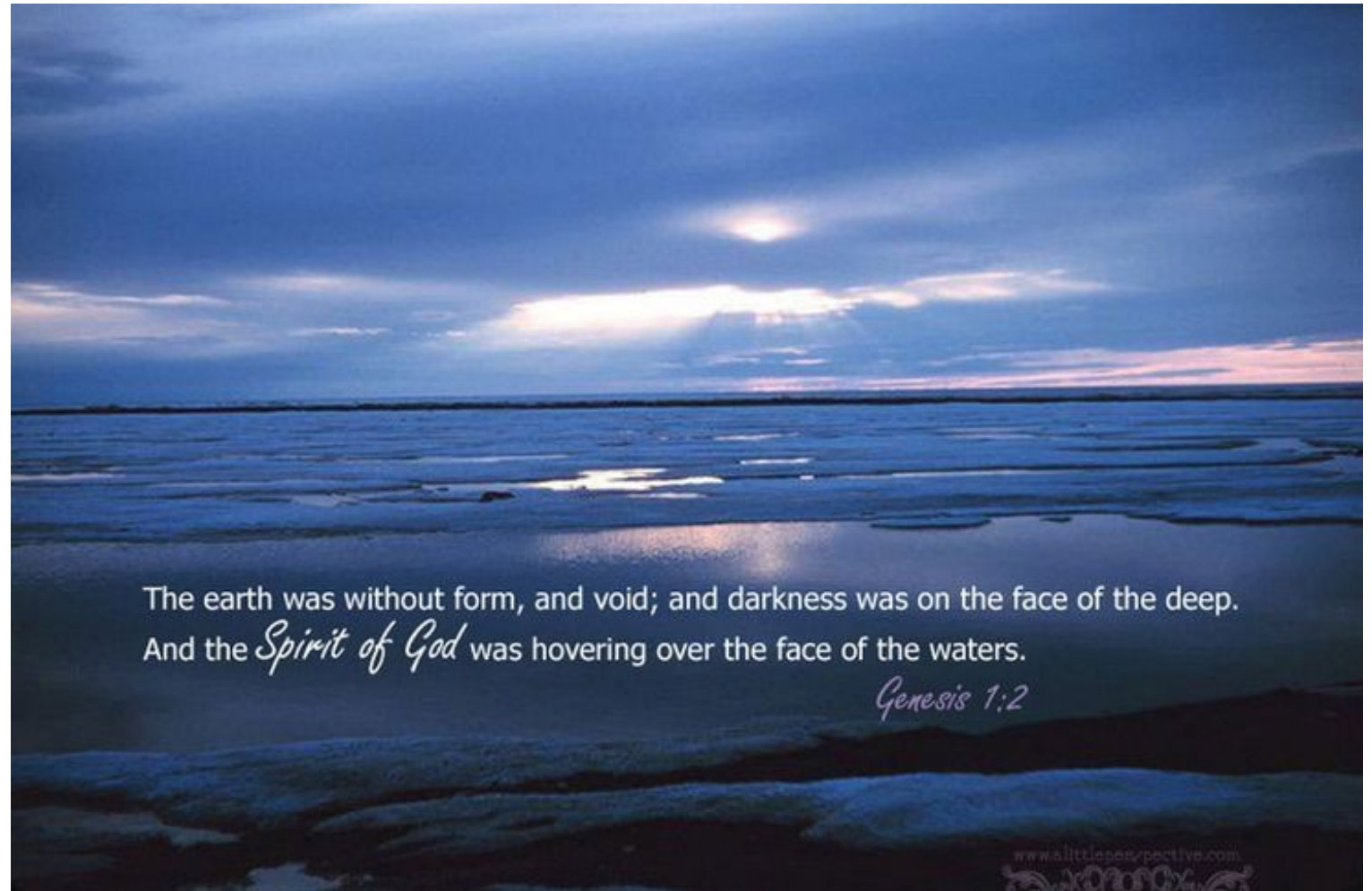


DAY 1  
Genesis 1:3  
John 1:5



And God Said,  
*"Let there be light"*

DAY 2  
Genesis 1:6-  
8  
John 1:29-34



The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.  
And the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the face of the waters.

*Genesis 1:2*

# Counting the Days...

- Genesis Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13)
  - Dry Land, Plants, Fruits
- John Day 3 (John 1:35-42)
  - The next day John was there again with two of his disciples
  - Calling of the first apostles (Peter) (first fruits)
- Genesis Day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19)
  - Stars/Heavens, Day and Night
- John Day 4 (John 1:43-51)
  - The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

## Back to Cana....

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- Genesis had 7 days of Creation.
- John 2:1
  - On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there
  - Third Day is not “the third day of the week”. It is the third day from the last day referenced in John. So, Day 4 was the “Follow Me” to Phillip.
  - $4 + 3 = 7$

# God created *Woman*

- Recall, Jesus refers to his Mother as “woman” when he talks to her many times throughout the new testament
- From Genesis
  - We were created in God’s Image (Genesis 1:26)
  - God created woman from man (Genesis 2:22-23)
- The woman does not get the name Eve until AFTER the fall
  - Genesis 3:20 - The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living.
  - Up until after the Fall, the Bible calls her...WOMAN



# The Assumption of Mary

- *Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory. – Munificentissimus Deus (November 1, 1950 under Pope Pius XII)*
- *Referenced as celebrated BEFORE the year 500 in the Life of St. Theodosius (d. 529)*
- *Martin Luther believed in the Assumption*
  - *“There can be no doubt that the Virgin Mary is in heaven. How it happened we do not know. And since the Holy Spirit has told us nothing about it, we can make of it no article of faith . . . It is enough to know that she lives in Christ” (Luther - Sermon of August 15, 1522 (Preaching at the Feast of the Assumption))*
- *Formally defined in church dogma in the 1950’s, but believed and celebrated for Centuries*
- *Orthodox Church (Dogma) and Anglican Church (Tradition) profess the Assumption as well*

# Practical Evidence of the Assumption

- It was taught and documented by Church Fathers very early on.
- No one claims to have relics of Mary



# Revelation: Woman Again

- John wrote Revelation. Same author as the Gospel of John who wrote about the wedding feast of Cana.
- Revelation 12:1-2 -
  - A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.
- John uses WOMAN again here.
- Scripture is polyvalent in nature (multiple levels of meanings)
  - In Literal sense here, woman is obviously Mary.
    - Gives birth to a child who will rule
    - Fled to Desert to a place prepared by God/Holy Family fled to Egypt
    - Four main characters in this chapter: Jesus, the Woman, the Archangel Gabriel, and Satan. No one argues that the other three are not real.



# How does that prove her Body is in Heaven

- “The woman” is depicted as having “the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown” (vs. 1).
- Elsewhere in Rev. and in other parts of Scripture, saints in heaven are referred to as the
  - “souls of those who had been slain” (Rev. 6:9)
  - “the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23).
- Why? Because they do not have bodies! They are disembodied “souls” or “spirits.” But the “woman” of Rev. 12 is portrayed as having a body with a head and feet



# Ark of the Covenant

- In the Old Testament, Ark was a sacred item, built to perfection
  - God wanted a PERFECT container for he himself to dwell
- Inside the Ark
  - Ten Commandments
  - Manna (Bread)
  - Aaron's Rod
- David was Joyous and Danced before the Ark
- Hidden by Prophet Jeremiah in 587 BC and became lost. God no longer had a place to dwell.



# Ark of the New Covenant

- God needed a perfect dwelling place
  - Immaculate Conception
- Inside the Ark was
  - Ten Commandments (the Word) → Word Made Flesh
  - The Bread from Heaven → Jesus, the Bread of Life
  - Rod of Erin → Christ the King
- King David and the Visitation
  - 2 Samuel 6:9 → Luke 1:43
  - 2 Samuel 6:16 → Luke 1:41



# Pray for us Sinners

- Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen
- If James says the righteous prayers are powerful, then the perfected members of the body of Christ (being more righteous in heaven than any man/woman on Earth) have very powerful prayers.
- One of those saints, Mary, was conceived without sin. Like the saints, her prayers too will be heard.
- Christ made her our Mother and she can pray for us.
- All Generations will call her blessed.



# Discussion Questions

- How can the life of Mary be an inspiration to us as Catholics?
- Who do you ask to pray for you? What would be the value of asking those in heaven to pray for us?

# Questions???

