

## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (2025)

Since the time of the early Church Fathers, the image of [a] “woman clothed with the sun” given to us from the Book of Revelation, has had a threefold symbolism: the ancient people of Israel, the Church, and the Blessed Mother.

Regarding the ancient people of Israel, Isaiah described the Chosen People in this way from the Book of Psalms: “As a woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pains, so were we in your presence, O Lord”.

Of course, one must remember that it is from the people of Israel that both Mary and the Messiah have as their lineage.

The “woman clothed with the sun” represents the Church. In verses omitted from today’s reading: “Enraged at her escape, the dragon went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep God’s commandments and give witness to Jesus.” The “offspring” being the baptized children of God, who are members of the Church.

Thirdly, the “woman clothed with the sun” is Mary, the Mother of our Savior. St. Bernard of Clairvaux observed, “The sun contains permanent color and splendor; whereas the moon’s brightness is unpredictable and changeable, for it never stays the same.

It is quite right, then, for Mary to be depicted as clothed with the sun, for she entered the fullness of divine wisdom in ways we cannot possibly conceive”.

Likewise, Mary, “the woman clothed with the sun,” rightfully represents the Church, for Mary is the Mother of the Church.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians asserted, “...When the designated time had come, God sent forth His Son born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subject to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted sons”.

Finally, on November 21, 1964, when the Council Fathers had completed the Pastoral Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, we listen to these most profound words: “We proclaim the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the whole people of God, faithful and pastors, and we call her most loving Mother.”

It is beautiful to recall the Assumption of Mary, as we celebrate the crowning moment of her life. Every human story, even that of the Mother of God, is brief on this earth and comes to an end. Yet nothing is lost. When a life ends, its uniqueness shines even more brightly.