

What does the Bible say about Mary (the mother of Jesus)?

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This year, during our Sunday Evening services, we have devoted our time to apologetics. Apologetics is a word used to describe being able to give a defense for what you believe. Calvary Church is not only devoted to teaching the truth of the Bible, concerning God, Jesus Christ, and all the essential doctrines for salvation, but also to disciple the Saints to be able to give a defense for that hope that is in them.

This past week, a video called "Messages from Heaven" was shown. It was a documentary discussing the "apparitions" of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Catholic religion teaches that Mary is more spiritually significant than just being the earthly mother of Jesus. Embraced doctrines within the Catholic Church even go so far as to say that she is a co-savior or redeemer, that without her help, Jesus' death on cross for our sins is not enough. Below you will find a Biblical response to this and many other false teachings taught by the Catholic religion concerning Mary.

The following verses are the first places in scripture that mention Mary. These verses clearly show that Mary was no more than a maidservant of God who was chosen to give birth to Jesus.

Luke 1:26-35

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 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. (NKJV)

Notice comparatively what the Angel Gabriel tells Mary as opposed to what he says about Jesus. Mary was a vessel of God used to bring forth great tidings of joy to all people. It was Jesus (not Mary) that would be great and ultimately save people from their sins.

Luke 1:39-55

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. (NKJV)

Notice in verse 47 that even Mary refers to God as her Savior. Catholics teach that Mary has an "immaculate" heart, which means that Mary had/has a perfect sinless heart. However, the Bible teaches that the heart of man is sinful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9) and that all (including Mary) have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). If the Catholic teaching about Mary were true (that Mary was the one exception to Jeremiah 17:9 and Romans 3:23), then the logical conclusion would be that Mary would not need a savior since she was not lost in sin. But Mary herself teaches otherwise when she referred to God as her Savior.

The following verses teach that Mary was not a perpetual virgin. The Catholics teach that she was.

Matthew 13:54-58

54 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?" 57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." 58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (NKJV)

These verses make it very clear that Jesus had half brothers and sisters, thus it is not possible for Mary to have remained a virgin.

Matthew 1:24-25

24 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 [biblical term for consummation] till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. (NKJV)

It would have been natural, following the birth of Jesus and Mary's purification according to the law of Moses for Joseph and her to consummate the marriage. The scripture above clearly reveals that their consummation did take place after the Birth of Jesus.

What did Jesus say to or about Mary?

John 2:1-5

2:1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." (NKJV)

The Catholics teach that Mary has authority with or over Jesus. This text out of the gospel of John teaches otherwise. In v. 5 Mary tells the disciples to obey Jesus by saying "Whatever He says to you, do it." We all would do well to heed these words.

Matthew 12:46-50

46 While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. 47 Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." 48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples

and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother ." (NKJV)

Here, Jesus places no greater emphasis on His mother than anyone else. Those who are closest to Jesus, even closer than a relative, are those who do the will of the Father. What is the will of the Father? Jesus answers this question in John 6:28-29:

John 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." (NKJ)

*These verses teach that the will of the Father is to believe in **HIM [not her]** whom He [the Father] has sent. It is the will of the Father that we believe in Jesus, not in Mary.*

Luke 11:27-28

27 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!" (NKJV)

Again, Jesus emphasizes the importance of obedience. Those who hear the word of God and do it are more blessed than even Mary.

If the Lord Jesus had wanted to be sure his earthly mother received the adoration, worship and inordinate respect that the Catholic Church teaches she deserves, and for the many centuries after our Lord's ascension to heaven, then this would have been the perfect place for Him to do so. But instead, Jesus downplays the role of his biological mother. Either Jesus blundered in His response to this woman, or the Catholic Church is blundering and leading people astray by giving Mary more prominence than Jesus himself.

How prominent is Mary in other New Testament scriptures? Did the Apostles write in a way to ensure she would be venerated in the decades to come? The following verse is the only place Mary is mentioned in the New Testament outside of the four gospels.

Acts 1:13-14

13 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. (NKJV)

It is clear from this passage that Luke (the writer of Acts) does not consider Mary as being more important than other believers in the upper room. He only notes that she was there, waiting in Jerusalem with the other disciples, including Jesus' half brothers, in obedience to Jesus' command.

Does the Bible teach that Mary is a co-redeemer or co-mediator as the Catholics say?

1 Peter 1:18-21

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (NKJV)

It is Jesus, not Mary that shed His precious blood to redeem (buy back) us from the power and penalty of sin. The Law of Moses required a lamb, without blemish and spot to be sacrificed (slaughtered) in order to cover sin. Jesus is a perfect fulfillment of this law. It is impossible, in light of the law and prophets, that Mary could have any part in the redeeming plan of God. God does not change; He is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who

gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
(NKJV)

Jesus is the only mediator between God and men.

1 John 2:1-2

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. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (NKJV)

In these verses, Jesus is described as our Advocate or, in another term, lawyer. As in a court of law, the prosecutor (Satan) stands before the judge and lists the accusations against the defendant along with the punishment that the prosecutor thinks the defendant deserves. Then the defense attorney (Jesus) stands up and gives a defense of why the accused is innocent and not deserving of judgment. It is only Jesus who justifies us before the Father. Jesus is the defense we have with the Father so that judgment will pass over us.

In summary, if these teachings of the Catholic Church are not from God, then where do they come from? The answer from scripture clearly points to Satan and his demons.

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain (NKJ)

God wants us to worship Him through His Son, Jesus. Satan wants to deceive people away from this true worship in any way he can. The Bible teaches that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, sitting at the right hand of the Father waiting for the day of His second coming (Acts 2:33, 7:55-56, Romans 8:34, Eph 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:13, 1 Peter 3:22, Revelation 19).

Since Satan is a liar and has been from the beginning (John 8), then it is his desire to make a lie that removes Jesus from the position of King of Kings and instead lead people astray to worship “The Queen of Heaven” as Catholics describe Mary.

This is not a new lie. Satan used it to deceive the Jews when he

caused them to worship idols of a female deity that they also referred to as the "Queen of Heaven." God sent Jeremiah to rebuke these foolish Jewish idolaters, but they refused to listen and the nation of Israel was judged by Babylon because of it (Jeremiah chapters 7 and 44).

Therefore, it is clear that Catholic Church's teachings about Mary are not based on the clear teachings of scripture and are therefore false doctrines that true Christians should be aware of and avoid.

In John 14:6, Jesus says:

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