

THE VIRGIN MARY

LITTLE IS KNOWN OF MARY EXCEPT HER GENEALOGY, WHICH PROVES THE TRUTH OF THE PREDICTIONS WHICH HAD FORETOLD THE DESCENT OF THE MESSIAH THROUGH ABRAHAM AND DAVID, SHOWING THAT CHRIST WAS OF THAT ROYAL HOUSE AND LINEAGE.

I. WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE RECORD OF MARY?

1. THE ANNUNCIATION, LK. 1:26.
 2. VISIT TO ELIZABETH, WHERE SHE UTTERED THE MAGNIFICAT
 3. SHE HAD BEEN BETROTHED TO JOSEPH EARLY IN LIFE.
 4. JEWISH LAW HELD HER EXPOSED TO THE SAME PENALTIES WHICH AWAITED THE MARRIED WIFE WHO SHOULD BE FOUND UNFAITHFUL.
 5. THE ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH, EXPLAINS THAT SHE HAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TELLS HIM NOT TO BE AFRAID TO GO AHEAD AND TAKE HER FOR HIS WIFE.
 6. THE CENSUS OF THE PEOPLE; EDICT OF AUGUSTUS; BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR IN BETHLEHEM.
 7. AT THE TEMPLE, LK. 1:22
 8. RETURN TO NAZARETH, LK. 2:39
 9. ANNUAL VISIT TO JERUSALEM AT THE FEAST OF PASSOVER, V. 41
 10. APPEARANCE OF MAGI, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED AT ONE OF THESE VISITS, MT. 2:1-12.
 11. FLIGHT TO EGYPT AND RETURN, AFTER THE DEATH OF HEROD TO NAZARETH, VS. 13-23.
 12. JESUS LOST IN THE TEMPLE IN J'LEM, LK. 2:42-52
 13. APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT AT CANA, JNO. 2:1
 14. HER ATTEMPT IN THE SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM TO INDUCE JESUS TO CEASE TEACHING, MT. 12:46, FF.
 15. AT CALVARY, JNO. 19:25
 16. IN THE UPPER ROOM AT J'LEM, ACTS 1:14.
- IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT MARY EVER SAW CHRIST AFTER THE RES.

II. FROM THESE SCRIPTURES WHAT DO WE LEARN OF MARY'S CHARACTER?

1. FAITH AND HUMILITY

A. IMMEDIATE SURRENDER TO THE DIVINE WILL, THOUGH IGNORANT OF HOW IT WAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, LK. 1:38

2. ENERGY AND EARNESTNESS

JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO AIN KEREM, V. 39

3. HAPPY THANKFULNESS IN HER SONG OF JOY, V. 38

4. SILENT, Musing THOUGHTFULNESS IN HER PONDERING OVER THE SHEPHERD'S VISIT (2:19) AND IN HER KEEPING HER SON'S WORDS IN HER HEART (V. 51) THOUGH SHE COULD NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR MEANING

5. IN A WORD, SO FAR AS MARY IS PORTRAYED TO US IN SCRIPTURE, SHE IS, AS WE SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED, THE MOST TENDER, FAITHFUL, HUMBLE, PATIENT, AND LOVING OF WOMEN? ^{2 blessed among} BUT A WOMAN STILL. ^{women not} ^{above women}

LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT PROTESTANTS AND BAPTISTS DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN MARY. WE MOST CERTAINLY DO BELIEVE IN HER. WE BELIEVE MOST FIRMLY IN ALL THAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HER. WE REJECT, HOWEVER, THE FALSE AND UNSCRIPTURAL TRADITIONS THAT ROMANISTS HAVE SUPERSTITIOUSLY WOUND AROUND HER UNASSUMING NAME.

11.1. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FALSE TRADITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTACHED TO THE VIRGIN MARY?

1. THE SO CALLED DOCTRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

A. THIS IS REGARDING THE CONCEPTION NOT OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT OF MARY, THAT "IN THE FIRST INSTANT OF HER CONCEPTION FROM HER MOTHER SHE (MARY) WAS PRESERVED FREE FROM ALL STAIN OF ORIGINAL SIN."

B. THERE IS NOT ONE VERSE IN THE BIBLE WHICH TEACHES THIS.

C. IT WAS CHALLENGED AND BEBATED FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THE R.C. CH PROCLAIMED IT AN OFFICIAL DOGMA IN 1854. IF IT WAS TRUE FOR THOSE 18 CENTURIES WHY WAS IT NOT PROCLAIMED BEFORE THEN? "God my Savior"

D. THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING MARY, HAVE SINNED AND FALLED SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. ROM. 3:23

2. THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY, PROCLAIMED ONLY LAST YEAR (1953)

A. A LEGEND DATING FROM ABOUT THE 5TH CENTURY THAT MARY DIED IN J'LEM AND WAS BURIED IN GETHSEMANE; THAT 3 DAYS AFTER HER BURIAL WHEN HER GRAVE WAS OPENED, HER BODY WAS NOT TO BE FOUND BUT "ONLY AN EXCEEDING FRAGRANCE"; WHEREUPON IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT IT HAD BEEN TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN.

THIS SO CALLED ASCENSION IS CALLED THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY.

B. IT IS SAID THAT MARY DIED IN A.D. 63. THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE CLOSED IN A.D. 96, 33 YEARS AFTER HER DEATH. THIS STRANGE TALE OF HER MIRACULOUS ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN IS NEVER ALLUDED TO BY ANY OF THE APOSTLES IN THEIR WRITINGS, NOR BY JOHN, TO WHOSE CARE SHE WAS ENTRUSTED.

C. THE TRANSLATIONS OF ENOCH AND ELIJAH, AND THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, TOOK PLACE WHILE THEY WERE ALIVE, AND THE FACTS ARE RECORDED BY INSPIRATION OF GOD; BUT WHEN THE DEAD BODY OF MARY WAS REMOVED THERE WERE NO WITNESSES, AND NO REVELATION WAS EVER MADE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY AND NOVEL INCIDENT, WHICH CERTAINLY HAS NO PARALLEL IN SCRIPTURE.

D. THIS EVENT IS APPROPRIATELY CALLED THE "ASSUMPTION."

3. THE DOCTRINE OF THE PERPETUAL VIRGINITY OF MARY

A. THAT MARY ALWAYS REMAINED A VIRGIN.

B. SEE THE COMMAND OF THE ANGEL TO JOSEPH, "FEAR NOT TO TAKE UNTO THEE MARY THY WIFE."

C. JESUS HAD OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS, OBVIOUSLY CHILDREN THAT MARY BARE BY JOSEPH AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

4. PRAYER TO MARY AS AN INTERCESSOR, AND EXCESSIVE VENERATION WHICH IS NOT DISTINGUISHED FROM DIVINE WORSHIP BY LOYAL CATHOLICS.

A. AD IN ST. PETERSBURG, INDEPENDENT.

B. IN THE 6TH CENTURY THE R.C. CH. BEGAN TO CELEBRATE FESTIVALS IN HONOR OF MARY.

C. THEY CALL HER REPEATEDLY, "MOTHER OF GOD", GR. "THEOTOKOS," A WORD OR EXPRESSION WHICH IS NOT FOUND IN THE N.T.

D. CATHOLICS OBJECT TO THE STATEMENT THAT THEY WORSHIP OR ADORE MARY, PREFERRING TO USE RATHER SUCH WORDS AS VENERATION, REVERENCE, AND DEVOTION. BUT EVEN THESE WORDS, AS UNDERSTOOD BY MOST PEOPLE, AND EVEN AS DEFINED IN THE DICTIONARY, MEAN PRACTICALLY THE SAME THING AS WORSHIP, OR ARE SYNONYMS OF WORSHIP.

E. THOSE WHO DENY THAT SHE IS ON AN EQUALITY WITH GOD MAINTAIN THAT SHE IS THE HIGHEST OF ALL CREATURES, WHO HAS BEEN SPECIALLY HONORED BY GOD HIMSELF IN SELECTING HER ABOVE ALL OTHERS TO BE HIS MOTHER. THEY FEEL THAT TO HER IS DUE A SPECIAL VENERATION IN KEEPING WITH HER HIGH PREROGATIVE.

(WHAT ABOUT VERSE, "OF ALL THOSE BORN OF WOMEN, THERE HAS ARISEN NONE GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST."???)

THE VIRGIN MARY, CONT.

V. OUR ANSWER TO THIS UNSCRIPTURAL, SUPERSTITIOUS MARIOLATRY.

1. FROM THE MOMENT IN THE UPPER ROOM, WHERE SHE STANDS AMONG, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ABOVE, THE 120 DISCIPLES, THE VIRGIN MARY PRACTICALLY DISAPPEARS FROM CHRISTIAN HISTORY.

EVEN APOCRYPHAL TRADITION SCARCELY SO MUCH AS MENTIONS HER.

IT IS NOT NOT KNOWN HOW LONG SHE LIVED OR WHERE SHE DIED.

SHE IS NOT REFERRED TO AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION, THOUGH SHE COULD HAVE TOLD MORE THAN ANY LIVING BEING ABOUT THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR, AND THE 30 LONG YEARS OF HIS HUMBLE OBSCURITY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO SEE IN THESE FACTS THE STRONGEST CONDEMNATION OF WORSHIP OF THE VIRGIN WHICH CENTURIES LATER BEGAN TO POLLUTE THE SWELLING STREAM OF XTY.

2. THE NAME MARY IS SCARCELY NOTICED IN THE WHOLE N.T. AFTER THE EARLY LIFE OF CHRIST. IN THREE OF THE INSTANCES IN WHICH IT IS INTRODUCED, OUR LORD SAYS:

A. "WOMAN, WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THEE?" THE GENERAL IMPRESSION HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY, IS THAT HE BREAKS OFF FROM HER IN A SENSE, REPRIMANDING HER FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE HER FORWARDNESS IN HINTING THAT HE OUGHT TO PERFORM A MIRACLE.

B. "WHOSOEVER SHALL DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN, THE SAME IS MY BROTHER, AND SISTER, AND MOTHER."

C. "YEA RATHER BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HEAR THE WORD OF GOD & KEEP IT"

3. IT SEEMS, THEREFORE, AS IF SPECIAL CARE HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DISCOURAGE THE CORRUPTED FORMS OF CHRISTIANITY WHICH HAVE THRUST THE VIRGIN MARY INTO THE PLACE OF HER ETERNAL SON, AND HAVE MADE HER MORE THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP, THAN HIM TO WHOM ALONE WORSHIP IS DUE.

4. A FURTHER ANSWER IS AN EMPHASIS ON THE PERSONALITY AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.

IN SOME R.C. PICTURES THE VIRGIN MARY IS BLASPHEMOUSLY PLACED UPON THE SAME THRONE WITH THE FATHER, AND THE SON, THUS REPLACING GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HOVERS AS A DOVE OVER HER HEAD. IT WAS AFTER THE ATHANASIAN CREED WAS MADE THAT THE PERSONAL LOVE AND TENDERNESS OF THE H.S. WAS LOST SIGHT OF THAT HIS THRONE AND WORSHIP WAS PROFANELY GIVEN TO MARY.

5. AS FURTHER ANSWER WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: WHICH SHOW THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WORTHY OF YOUR ENTIRE TRUST AND DEVOTION:

A. REV. 22:8,9

B. MT. 4:10

C. ACTS 3:12-16; 4:12; 16:31

D. JOHN 1:29

E. HEB. 4:14-16

F. I TIM. 2:5

G. I JNO. 2:1-2.

LET US SUPPOSE THAT ONE IS SERIOUSLY ILL WITH A DISEASE FOR WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE KNOWN EFFICIENT DOCTOR, ONE WHO IS FULLY ABLE TO EFFECT A CURE FOR ALL CASES COMPLETELY COMMITTED INTO HIS HANDS. NOW SHOULD A PERSON WITH THAT DISEASE GO TO SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN HEALED BY THE GREAT SPECIALIST, OR TO THE DOCTOR'S MOTHER, OR TO THE GREAT DOCTOR HIMSELF?