



What The Bible Says About Mary, Jesus' Mother By Karen Sue Nyquist



The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible, who recorded the truth so we can follow what the Bible says. Teachings that are contrary to God's Word are called the doctrines and traditions of men. Let's see what the Bible does say and does not say about the blessed and highly favored Mary.

1. Let's first see what Jesus said about God's Word vs. doctrines and traditions of men. - The Bible says that: First, Jesus quoted scripture, "And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Then "He said to them (*the religious leaders*), 'All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition ... making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do'" (Mark 7:9,13).

2. What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary? The Bible states, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women" (Luke 1:28). He also said she would give birth to, "the Son of the Highest, the Son of God," (Luke 1:32,35). Another angel said, the baby "is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). **Does the Bible call Mary the "Mother of God?" No, the Bible never calls her that.** In 431 AD, the Council of Ephesus gave her that title. Mary was the mother of the human nature of Jesus, but not of His divinity, so she's not the "Mother of God." That title is a tradition of men.

3. Was Mary really a virgin? Yes! The Bible says: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son" (Isaiah 7:14). **Was Mary a "perpetual virgin?" No, the Bible says** she was a virgin only until after Jesus was born. "... and (*Joseph*) did not know her till (*have physical, marital relations until*) she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus" (Matthew 1:25). In 553 AD, the 2nd Council of Constantinople gave her the title "Aeiparthenos," meaning Perpetual Virgin. **But, according to the Bible,** after her firstborn son, she had 4 other sons, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas, and daughters (Matthew 13:55). So the perpetual virginity of Mary is a tradition of men. * (**Go to our website, naciontakers.com, click on "Resources," then on "What Does The Bible Tell Us About Jesus' Family?"**)

4. What did Jesus call Mary? The Bible shows us that once Jesus was ready to start His ministry, He lovingly called Mary "woman." He called her that at the wedding of Cana (John 2:4) and again when He was being crucified. As the oldest son, it was His responsibility to take care of her, which He could no longer do, since He was dying. "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple (*John the Beloved*) took her to his own home" (John 19:26-27). Jesus showed His love and concern for her, but even then did not call her "mother." Why? The Bible doesn't say, but if He had, it would have given a Biblical precedent that could lead some to call her the "Mother of God." * (**naciontakers.com, click on "Resources," then, "Jesus' Relationship with Mary, His Mother."**)

5. But isn't Mary the "Mother of Us All?" Didn't Jesus give Mary to all of us to be our mother? The Bible never indicates that that was Jesus' intention. Jesus gave her to John because He could not give Mary to His brothers. Why? Because, "For even His brothers did not believe in Him" (John 5:7). They couldn't adequately console her after His death. Later, after Jesus' resurrection, they believed in Him (Acts 1:14). So Mary being the "Mother of Us All" is a tradition of men.

6. What did Mary say about herself? The Bible says: she said humbly, "For He (*God*) has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). The saints refused to let people venerate them. Mary (John 2:5), John the Baptist (John 3:27-30), and Peter (Acts 10:25-26,36), always pointed others to Jesus, not to themselves. **Mary knew she needed a Savior for she said,** "And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47).

7. But, did Mary even need a Savior? Wasn't she born by "Immaculate Conception" and lived a sinless life? Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 that "from the first moment of her conception ... she was preserved immune from all stain of original sin." But that contradicts **God's Word, the Bible, which says,** "... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God is not a man, that He should lie" (Numbers 23:19). The Bible never gives any indication that she was born without sin, nor lived without sinning. Only Jesus was without sin, "And you know that He (*Jesus*) was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin" (1 John 3:5). But for all the rest of mankind, "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive

ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Mary needed salvation just as the rest of us do. The angel said, "He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), so Jesus came to save His mother, too! Therefore, the "immaculate conception" is a tradition of men.

8. But, isn't Mary to be venerated above others? Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother, did say, "**Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** But why is this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43). As much as Jesus loved and respected His mother, Mary, He said three things that show us that **Jesus knew Mary was not to be exalted higher than other believers.** **1)** "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!' **But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"** (Luke 11:27-28). **2)** On another occasion, "Then one said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.' But He answered and said to the one who told Him, 'Who is My mother and who are My brothers?' And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, '**Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother**'" (Matthew 12:47-50). Mary is blessed and highly favored, but is not to be exalted higher than other believers. **3)** Jesus even said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist**" (Matthew 11:11), indicating that John the Baptist was greater than Mary. **Neither the Bible nor Jesus gave us any directive that we should venerate Mary.** This is a tradition of men.

9. What about the "Assumption of Mary"? Wasn't her body assumed up to heaven to be rejoined with her soul? This is an oral tradition that has been passed down. It was made an official dogma in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. **Yet, the Bible does not record this anywhere.** None of the writers, not even John the Beloved, who was living with and taking care of Mary, mentioned her assumption into heaven. If that had happened, surely, one of them would have written about it in one of their epistles (letters) to share it with the other churches, who would have rejoiced and included it as doctrine. So the "Assumption of Mary" is a tradition of men.

10. Well, what about Mary being coronated as the "Queen of Heaven"? Oral tradition and Christian artwork has portrayed her as queen since the 13th century. Then in 1954, Pope Pius XII declared, "The Queenship of Mary in Heaven." This took place almost 2,000 years after her death! Jesus showed John many visions of heaven, they fill 22 chapters in the book of the Apocalypse also known as Revelation. Those visions included the throne room of heaven (Revelation 4-5). **Yet in all those chapters, Mary was never shown as the Queen of Heaven, not in the throne room or anywhere in heaven. In fact, there is no queen of heaven mentioned.** One vision (Revelation 12:1-17), does show a woman giving birth to a Son (Jesus) and crying out. The woman is Israel/Mary?, the 12 stars that appear to be a crown refer to the 12 tribes of Israel/12 patriarchs/12 apostles. The dragon (Satan) makes war with the rest of Israel's/Mary's? offspring, who keep the commandments of God, (the Jewish people) and with those who have the testimony of Jesus (Christians). Since Jesus' death, Jews and Christians have been persecuted around the world. Nevertheless, because Mary was willing to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ and to be His loving mother, even to His death on the cross, God has blessed and highly favored her. But God did not crown her as Queen of Heaven. In fact, after the day of Pentecost, when Mary and Jesus' brothers waited for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,14), **the Bible purposely does not mention Mary again.** The queenship of Mary is also a tradition of men.

11. So, how do we know what to believe? We can believe those apostles and disciples who were eye-witnesses and were chosen by God to write His Word. They all point to God and His Son Jesus, not on Mary. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, they've documented what they knew to be true. Teachings not based on the Bible are doctrines and traditions of men. Jesus said, "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down" (Mark 7:13). * (nationtakers.com, "Resources", then "Jesus Wants A Deeper Relationship with You.")

12. If this is all new to you, you can pray: "Our Father, please, show me, I want to know what is true. I trust that You will lead me. Thank You, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!" - Please come visit us!

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We sign for the Deaf at church.

Before he died on the cross, Jesus entrusted the care of his own mother to his close friend and apostle, John.

