MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN
A Biblical Examination of the Queen of Heaven's Messages in the End Times

JIM TETLOW

ETERNAL PRODUCTIONS
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One
Apparitions and Statistics
  Supernatural Invasion .......................... 1
  Ecstasy! ........................................ 2
  The Statistics .................................. 3
  The Numbers are Staggering ..................... 5
  History Repeats ................................. 7

Chapter Two
Mary's Miraculous Global Appeal
  Worldwide Popularity .......................... 11
  Mary is for Everyone ........................... 14
  Help from Heaven ............................... 15
  Ecumenical Appeal .............................. 16
  Global Network ................................. 17
  Signs and Wonders .............................. 20
  Beautiful Visions .............................. 22
  Healings ....................................... 24
  Miracle of the Sun ............................. 27
  Logical Questions .............................. 29

Chapter Three
When Mary Speaks, Rome Listens
  Victory through Mary .......................... 31
  Consecration to the Apparition ................. 34
  Marian Movement of Catholic Priests ............ 35
  Mary's Influence in the Church ................ 39
  The Queen's Sway Continues to Rise .......... 41
  Skeptics within the Church .................... 44
  Caution from the Catechism .................... 45

Chapter Four
More Reasons to Believe
  Biblical Content ................................ 47
  Moral Truth .................................... 49
  Apparitions are Biblical ....................... 51
  Testing the Spirits ............................ 53

Chapter Five
Why the Bible is our Filter
  The Marian Movement .......................... 55
Chapter Nine
MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN?
The Evidence Confirms –
The Bible is God’s Infallible Word ............... 109
The Word of God Testifies of Jesus ............... 110
The Comparison .................................... 111
1 — Savior: ....................................... 112
2 — Suffering Servant: ............................ 115
3 — Atoning Work: ................................ 118
4 — Mediator: .................................... 122
5 — Intercessor: ................................... 124
6 — Advocate: ................................... 127
7 — Redeemer: .................................... 129
8 — Sinless: ...................................... 133
9 — Omnipresent: ................................ 136
10 — Divine ...................................... 138
11 — Worthy of Worship: ......................... 140
12 — Prince of Peace: ........................... 144
Mary: Our Queen of Peace? ....................... 145
13 — King of Kings: ............................. 147
Mary: Queen of Queens ......................... 148

Chapter Ten
EQUALITY WITH CHRIST?
Comparison Table ................................ 151
Inspired Prayers to Mary ......................... 153
True Honor to Mary ............................. 156

Chapter Eleven
OUR LADY’S GOSPEL
One More Test .................................... 157
The Gospel According to the Apparition of Mary .... 158
Pious Acts ........................................ 160
Our Lady of Medjugorje’s Gospel ................ 162
The Bible’s Gospel .............................. 164

Chapter Twelve
BE YE PERFECT
Be Perfect or Perish ............................. 167
God’s Perfect Mirror ............................ 170
Christ — The Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets .... 171
Jesus is the Door ............................... 172
Chapter One

APPARITIONS AND STATISTICS

SUPERNATURAL INVASION

During the past century, extraordinary phenomena have increasingly been reported around the globe. These events are seldom covered by the media, and there are few movies or TV shows dealing with these occurrences. Yet, these paranormal wonders have garnered the attention of tens of millions of faithful followers. Furthermore, they have been reported in nearly every habitable country at hundreds or even thousands of locations.

These growing phenomena are the appearances of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary. You’ve probably heard about the apparitions at Medjugorje in Bosnia, or some of the other major apparition sites at places like Fatima, Portugal or Lourdes, France. But, unless you are one of the faithful followers of the apparitions, you probably are unaware of the significant influence these apparitions are having on hundreds of millions around
the globe. Just how widespread are these Marian apparitions? Why do so many faithful flock to hear the Virgin's message? How might these events affect the world? You might be surprised.

**ECSTASY!**

What exactly is an apparition? How does the Blessed Virgin Mary appear? Visionaries and seers who have seen the apparition of the Virgin Mary describe a beautiful, young woman glowing in radiant splendor. She appears as a living, breathing, three-dimensional lady enveloped in exquisite light. Seers, while describing her as brilliant to behold and arrayed with every splendor, admit that the “Queen of Heaven” transcends human description.

Visionaries also report seeing strange lights and glorious visions that often accompany an apparition. Visions of angels, glowing orbs, tongues of fire, mysterious solar phenomena, and peculiar luminous clouds have been sighted. Because of the tremendous pleasure and joy experienced by seers during an apparition, the term *ecstasy*\(^1\) is the word most often used to describe this event. Those who have witnessed her, testify that they are paralyzed and enraptured by her beauty and charm.

In addition, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary has repeatedly announced that the most significant signs and wonders are yet future! She admits that she has not yet revealed her full glory to the world. She

---

\(^1\) Ecstasy comes from the Greek word *ekstasis*, meaning trance. In the Book of Acts, both Peter and Paul fell into a trance (Gr. *ekstasis*) during a vision from God (Refer to Acts 10:10; 22:17).
predicts heavenly signs and events that the whole world will witness in the very near future. But, before we explore the future signs and events that she predicts, let’s investigate the history and increasing popularity of the apparition phenomenon.

![Image of the apparition of Mary and flying doves]

This photo of the apparition of Mary is one of only a handful ever captured on film. Flying “doves” in the shape of a cross were also seen accompanying the Marian phenomenon at Zeitoun.

THE STATISTICS

Consider that 15 to 20 million Marian followers visit a single shrine in Guadalupe, Mexico, every single year! The shrine is dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared in 1531 to seer Juan Diego. On December 12, 1999, the anniversary of the Virgin Mary’s appearance, 5 million pilgrims visited the shrine to pay honor to Our Lady. In addition, 1999 marked the first time in church history that the feast of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated by all bishops and priests in

---

the Western Hemisphere. In an apostolic exhortation delivered during his visit to Mexico in January, Pope John Paul II elevated December 12 to a holy day for the Catholic Church.3

In war-torn Bosnia, an estimated 30 million pilgrims have visited Medjugorje since the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary began in 1981.4 Besides the six visionaries who regularly receive messages from the Virgin, thousands of pilgrims claim to see signs and wonders, experience healing, and hear the voice of Mary at Medjugorje. Visiting Medjugorje is a painstaking task involving many hours by bus over war-torn roads. The millions of pilgrims who venture to Medjugorje do so with the knowledge that their pilgrimage will be difficult and dangerous – yet they continue to come in droves.

In Conyers, Georgia, seer Nancy Fowler has received up to 100,000 visitors to her farm on a single day.5 The pilgrims come from all over, many traveling great distances to hear the most recent message from the Blessed Mother. At the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, attendance has increased to 500,000 per year.6

Marian apparitions from almost every state in America are being reported – many of these sites are

---

drawing thousands. From New York City to San Francisco numerous reported visitations from the Blessed Virgin Mary have been documented. The sheer number of Marian followers and their determination to hear from the Virgin reveals that these individuals are not merely curious sightseers, but rather a huge, growing flock of Marian disciples.

THE NUMBERS ARE STAGGERING

Five and one-half million pilgrims visit a single apparition site in Lourdes, France annually. Poland’s Marian shrine Our Lady of Czestochowa (a favorite of Pope John Paul II) draws an estimated five million pilgrims a year. A single apparition site in Knock, Ireland, has drawn millions who come to pray to Our Lady of Knock and visit the Apparition Gable. This Marian shrine in Ireland has been honored by four popes this century, including Pope John Paul II, who went on pilgrimage to Knock in 1979. Furthermore, much of Europe is dotted with Marian shrines – most in commemoration of an apparitional appearance. The same can be said for many nations around the globe.

In Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico, a location where the Virgin Mary reportedly appeared more than forty years ago, multiplied thousands of religious devotees come

---

9 Ibid., p. 104. Also known as Our Lady of Jasna Gora.
10 *Knock: The Apparition Gable From 1879 To the Present*, Cashin Printing Services, pp. 3, 19.
from all over the world. The site has become so popular that preparations are underway to construct a statue of the Virgin twice as high as New York’s Statue of Liberty. A local newspaper reports that:

The grand scale heroic statue of Our Lady of the Rosary, part of the projected 500-acre Mystical City complex, will top at 1,500 feet. It will have room inside to contain radio and TV stations, various chapels, apartments, a food court, conference rooms and an observation deck.\textsuperscript{11}

At the famous apparition site in Fatima, Portugal, pilgrims numbering more than one million are in attendance during the October 13 anniversary of the 1917 apparition. Total annual attendance at Fatima is estimated to be 4.5 million, and growing.\textsuperscript{12} The list of major apparition sites goes on and on.

On May 31, 1999, thousands gathered in Amsterdam to celebrate the 3\textsuperscript{rd} International Day of Prayer of the Lady of All Nations. Dozens of priests, bishops and cardinals presided over the event, where thousands of participants from over seventy countries and six continents converged to honor the Lady of All Nations.\textsuperscript{13} This apparition of the Virgin Mary appeared to visionary Ida Peerdeman numerous times. Her main message was that she wants the Church and pope to officially pro-

\textsuperscript{11} Steve Beauclair, “Skyscraper statue slated for Sabana Grande; $42 million Virgin Mary part of Mystical City,” \textit{Caribbean Business}, Feb. 26, 1998, Late News cover story. Note: The 305 foot high statue will be set on a 1,200 foot base, giving a structure whose total height is 1,500 feet.

\textsuperscript{12} Dickson, pp.103, 104.

\textsuperscript{13} 3\textsuperscript{rd} International Day of Prayer of The Lady of All Nations, Amsterdam, May 31, 1999. The Family of Mary Coredemptrix, Videocassette, 1999.
claim the Lady of All Nations as Co-Redemptrix.¹⁴ To date, millions of faithful Marian advocates have petitioned the pope to officially name her Co-Redemptrix.¹⁵

The popularity of the Virgin and her messages has grown to mammoth proportions. However, Marian historians are quick to point out that apparitions of Mary have been recorded throughout the centuries, but never in the history of Marian apparitions has she appeared with such consistency and frequency as in our day.


History Repeats

Since the time of Christ, apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary have reportedly appeared to kings, popes, saints, and peasants. The Queen of Heaven seems to appear at critical moments in history. She has offered direction and hope for countless people throughout the ages. Author Michael H. Brown summarizes the history of the Marian apparitions, in his book The Last Secret:

¹⁵ 3rd International Day of Prayer of The Lady of All Nations.
According to the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton, there have been at least eight thousand significant apparitions of the Virgin since the early centuries. But scholars stress that no one can give a real estimate. If one considers visions to ordinary, private people who have never formally reported them, the figure would be astronomical. She appeared to martyrs. She appeared during the early persecutions. She appeared to the major saints. She appeared as the church was forming – during the famous Council of Nicaea – and she appeared each time mankind passed through a hard moment. Plague, famine, war. She especially appeared to those who, like herself, were poor, simple peasants, but she has also appeared to kings and popes. From earliest times she has come to eliminate paganism. She has come to replace occult deities.¹⁶

Though the apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been around for centuries, her popularity has never been greater. She transcends normal religious boundaries and offers her maternal help to all. She proclaims that we are all her children. She has shown the world her love and concern, and the world is taking notice!

Concerning the growing number of apparitions worldwide, Brown notes,

[During the second half of the twentieth century Marian apparitions] grew to remarkable proportion … if every daily or weekly apparition is counted in cases where a seer had more than one, the number would not be calculable….the French periodical Le

---

Monde once estimated twenty-one thousand apparitions between 1976 and 1986.\(^{17}\)

Twenty-one thousand apparitions! If true, that would constitute the greatest display of paranormal activity in the history of the world. With hundreds of millions of followers and thousands of alleged apparitions taking place in our generation, could heaven be sending us a wake-up call?

\(^{17}\) Brown, The Last Secret, p. 281. [bold not in original]
Chapter Two

MARY’S MIRACULOUS GLOBAL APPEAL

WORLDWIDE POPULARITY

In 1997, *Newsweek* ran a cover story on the Virgin Mary. In the article they write: “In many ways, the 20th century has belonged to Mary. From almost every continent, visionaries have reported more than 400 ‘apparitions’ of the Virgin – more than in the previous three centuries combined.… Taken together, these visions point to what the Marian Movement believes is a millennial ‘Age of Mary.’”¹

We might expect this phenomenon to occur in countries that are predominately Catholic, but apparitions are being reported from Japan to Africa, from Korea to Australia, from Iraq to Israel, from Egypt to Syria. Whether looking deep within the former Soviet Union or among the peoples of India, one thing is found in common – they are all allegedly being visited by a woman

---

who calls herself Mary, the Queen of Heaven, Our Lady. Father Robert Faricy, quoted in the book *Queen of the Cosmos*, states:

Never in the history of Christianity has the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to so many people over so long a period of time with such regularity. Moreover, it seems that the apparitions at Medjugorje have ushered in a new Marian age. There are reports of her appearing everywhere.2

The masses following these apparitions and the apparent appeal of her messages is truly remarkable. A British Catholic magazine reports that “a Marian revival is spreading throughout Africa, with alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary finding a following among Muslims.”3 Another striking fact is that when a statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried through areas of Africa, India, and elsewhere, hundreds of thousands often join the procession to honor the Queen of Heaven. In two days an estimated 500,000 came to give their respects to her statue in Bombay, India!4

In his book *Call of the Ages*, author Thomas W. Petrisko writes: “In Ukraine, over a half-million have reportedly witnessed Mary’s apparitions since 1987.... millions and millions on all continents of the globe have heard and responded to the Virgin Mary’s apparitions

---

and messages. Indeed, there is a significant upswing in attendance at Marian shrines everywhere.\textsuperscript{5}

\textit{Newsweek} reports that devotion to Mary is flowering everywhere. Furthermore, the pope may soon give her a powerful new role.

The Rev. Charles Dickson, Ph.D., a Lutheran minister, reported this trend in *Queen Magazine*: “people around the world are traveling enormous distances to demonstrate in person their veneration of the Mother of Our Lord.” He goes on to state that France alone has 937 pilgrimage shrines and that at the most popular Marian shrine in France, attendance has increased ten percent in two years. And while devotion to Mary is most noticeable in Catholic countries, Marian devotion is attracting an enormous following from every religion, race and nation.

**MARY IS FOR EVERYONE**

A consistent message given by the hundreds, and possibly thousands, of apparitions currently appearing worldwide is one of peace, unity, and tolerance. At Medjugorje, the apparition of Mary has stated:

> Dear children, today I invite you to peace. I have come here as the Queen of Peace and I desire to enrich you with my Motherly Peace.... I invite you to become carriers and witnesses of my peace to this unpeaceful world. Let peace rule in the whole world.7

In another message, Our Lady of Medjugorje told the seers: “Tell this priest, tell everyone, that it is you who are divided on earth. The Muslims and the Orthodox, for the same reason as Catholics, are equal before my Son and I. You are all my

---


children."⁸ Mary’s message of peace and unity is one that a distressed and perplexed world craves.

The apparitions are so attractive, her messages so appealing, her power so awesome and yet mysterious. Should we be surprised to see millions flock after her? There is also great hope that, with Mary’s help, we might solve the world’s problems. Her reported messages in Betania, Venezuela typify her words of hope given around the world: “My children, I am giving you a piece of Heaven…. Betania, Venezuela. **It is for everyone, not only Catholics….** My message is of faith, love, and hope. More than anything, it brings reconciliation between people and nations. It is the only thing that can save this century from war and eternal death.”⁹

**HELP FROM HEAVEN**

There is a growing realization that we need help from beyond in order to solve the many distressing problems that threaten to destroy us and our world. Regardless of our background, Mary’s messages seem to offer hope to a troubled world. Charles Dickson, author of *A Protestant Pastor Looks at Mary*, writes:

A Muslim student visiting Rome wants especially to see the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Surprised? The poetry of a Syrian mystic is replete with Marian devotion. Surprised? Martin Luther recommended prayer to Mary. Surprised? An American Pentecos-

---

talist minister begins to visit shrines of Marian apparitions. Surprised? Muslims refer to Mary as il-Sittneh, or Our Lady. Surprised? A chapter in the Koran is named after her. Surprised? Mary’s deep kindness as a mother is portrayed in Chinese art. Surprised? And now a presbyterian minister has written a book recommending praying the rosary. Still surprised? ... a closer investigation of both past history and current events points out that Mary has a universal appeal that transcends our cultural, geographic, and even religious boundaries.¹⁰

Mary seems to have universal appeal. Her hypnotic beauty and charm is drawing followers from the four corners of the earth. The apparitions of Mary appear to visionaries as beautiful, approachable, and gentle. At the same time visionaries sense great authority and power emanating from her. She proclaims that her desire is to help save the whole world. She radiates confidence and certainty when she declares that through her God will bring unity and peace.

**Ecumenical Appeal**

Almost all of the apparitions have stated that Mary is going to usher in a new era of peace and unity. Under her mantle all people will gather in peace and solve the problems facing the world. Her emphasis on unity and ecumenism has garnered attention from the media. *The Los Angeles Times* reported in their December 25, 1998 issue in an article entitled “Mary’s Rising Popularity Goes Beyond Faith” that:

---

¹⁰ Dickson, p. 60.
A growing number of Americans from all Christian denominations are reaching out to the Virgin Mary as a comforting conduit of spirituality and a symbol of peace in troubled times. Reported sightings of Mary have steadily increased across the globe in recent years. Her maternal gaze seems to have an ecumenical appeal. It's not just Roman Catholics who are interested in Mary and following the apparitions. Each day, thousands of people bring their troubles to the sites where the Virgin is said to have appeared.

One of the best witnessed series of apparitions occurred at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, a suburb of Cairo. People from many countries and of varied religious backgrounds witnessed the apparitions from 1968 to 1973. It is estimated that the total number of witnesses numbered in the millions! Moslems, Copts, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and others were overwhelmed by the Lady who seemed to be composed of light. Moslems chanted from the Koran: “Mary, God has chosen thee. And purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women.” At Zeitoun, as well as countless other sites around the globe, the phenomenon attracts people from every conceivable background and the message seems to clearly be one of unity and ecumenism.

GLOBAL NETWORK

Wherever she appears, the Blessed Mother makes it clear that she has come for ALL her children, not just

---

Catholics. Protestants, Muslims, and individuals from other religious affiliations often go to apparition sites skeptical, only to find that they too have been touched by the Queen. Many non-Catholics have actually converted to the Roman Catholic faith after an apparition experience. As Medjugorje visionary Ivan Dragicevic has conveyed, Mary has come for all of us.

It is very important to emphasize that the Blessed Mother came for all of us. Mary's messages refer to the whole world. Her messages throughout have been that we must pray for all religions, because we know that we have divided ourselves by religion.\(^\text{12}\)

In 1996, Life Magazine featured Mary on the cover and asked these questions: “Why are two billion Hail Marys said daily? Why did five million people, many non-Christian, visit Lourdes this year to drink the healing waters? Why did more than ten million trek to Guadalupe to pray to Our Lady?...Why the apparitions? Why are Mary hymns creeping into Methodist songbooks?...What is it about Mary?”\(^\text{13}\) The Life article goes on to list numerous apparitions and to quote various statistics. For instance, Life notes that “In Italy, 50 weeping Madonna statues have been reported in the past two years.”

---


Life Magazine explains that Mary’s public image has been on a two-millennium rise. The popular passion for her among people from all faiths has never been greater.

Life Magazine notes that Mary’s popularity is not just among Catholics: “One of the intriguing aspects of the latest rise of Mary is this: The emotional need for
her is so irresistible to a troubled world that people without an obvious link to the Virgin are being drawn to her. It’s not news that Muslims revere Mary as a pure and holy saint – she’s mentioned 34 times in the Koran, ...but to see large numbers of Muslims making pilgrimages to Christian Marian shrines is a remarkable thing. Interdenominational Marian prayer groups are springing up throughout the world.”

Why does she appeal to so many? Is it possible that many of the non-Christians are drawn by the numerous reported miracles, signs, and wonders? In a world that seeks interaction with the supernatural, it is no surprise that many flock to the miraculous. These miracles, if true, would rival the miracles performed in Moses’ day.

**SIGNS AND WONDERS**

The numerous reports of supernatural miracles, sights, signs, and wonders experienced by pilgrims around the world is truly remarkable. In a world searching for purpose and hope, the apparitions are a breath of fresh air to an often spiritually stifled society. Michael H. Brown, an investigative journalist who exposed the infamous Love Canal toxic waste crisis, has spent the last two decades investigating Marian apparitions. He has visited dozens of Marian apparition sites around the world. In his book *The Final Hour*, he writes:

Reports of unusual events, spiritual events, are coming from every habitable continent.... an apparitional

---

14 Ibid., pp. 45, 58, 60.
woman calling herself the Blessed Virgin Mary ... a saintly woman whom Catholics call Our Lady or the Queen of Heaven ... In Czechoslovakia and Japan, Ecuador and Mexico, in Italy and Arizona, are accounts of inexplicable and indeed nearly inconceivable sights: like incidents in the Old and New Testaments, fiery lights, tongues of flame, and strange luminous clouds.... I'm speaking of spectacular and often three-dimensional apparitions, apparitions that move and breathe like a living person.... [Mary has been] stepping up her activity greatly since 1981.15

Statue of the Mother of the Eucharist in Rome. This Eucharist began bleeding on November 11, 1999. Many reported miracles accompany apparitional events.

BEAUTIFUL VISIONS

These supernatural visions and wonders are happening in our day! Consider the reports from Medjugorje.

On June 24, 1981, two teenage girls went for a walk in the rocky hills above their village in western Yugoslavia. Suddenly, one of them saw in the distance the luminous silhouette of a young woman. “Mirjana, look! It’s Our Lady!” …

Returning to the village, they spoke of their experience and were later joined at the hill by four friends, who also saw the apparition….

On the second day they saw the apparition close-up for the first time. The woman appeared young, nineteen or twenty, and was “beautiful beyond anything in this world,” they later said. She wore a silver-gray gown and a white veil, with a circle of twelve stars around her head. Her hair was dark and her eyes light blue. She looked at them with extraordinary affection. For the first time she spoke, identifying herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Thus began the longest series of Marian apparitions in church history, from 1981 until the present. The six visionaries began to experience daily appearances of the Virgin.16

Skeptics may scoff, but analysis of the children during an apparition shows that they are truly in an altered state of consciousness. These visionaries are unaffected by distractions during ecstasy. They have been

16 Beyer, Introduction.
poked with pins. Their vision has been obstructed. Some have even been burnt with a lit cigarette. All of these tests have had no effect on the visionaries and they remained transfixed on what they claim is an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

The Fatima apparitions in 1917 were equally stunning. “A dazzling light hovered over the topmost branches, when – wonder of wonders – what should they behold but the form of a lovely lady standing atop the tree in the light, her feet hidden in a shimmering cloud. She was like the angel, only far more beautiful. She wore a long white dress, and the mantle over her head and shoulders reaching to her feet was edged in burnished gold. Her hands were joined before her breast, and from the right hand hung an exquisite rosary of white pearls. As Lucy later described her, ‘She was a lady more brilliant than the sun.’”

If these events consisted only of seers describing their visions, we might be able to dismiss them. However, reports of healings are also common at apparition sites. For instance, at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, a suburb of Cairo, a remarkable series of events followed the apparitions.

The Zeitoun apparitions ... were seen by everyone present....The persons present at apparitional events there varied from several thousand to over two hundred thousand per night. Total witnesses perhaps numbered into the millions....

Several nights each week, thousands of Moslems (who constituted most of the crowds) fell to their knees on prayer rugs spread wherever space permitted, and wept before the “magnificent, wondrous, glorious form of Our Lady from Heaven.” All witnesses agree that the Lady seemed to be composed of light that usually was intense, yet lessened occasionally. At times, the light of the apparition dimmed enough for the slight bluish coloration of her mantle to be seen, also revealing radiant flesh tones that could be perceived in her face....

The apparitions of “Mary, the Mother of Jesus” were serenely animate, moving from one side of the church roof to another, as if to provide a direct view to all the surrounding throng, from which many called to her to come their way. She often responded to the singing or chanting of the crowd, appearing to bow in acknowledgment, greeting and blessing. Sometimes she made gestures of prayer, or held out and waved what appeared to be an olive branch. At other times, thou-
sands watched her radiant form, which was often aglow with bluish white light, as she held in her left arm what certainly appeared to be the baby Jesus.

The Zeitoun apparitions seemed to effect all witnesses, including hundreds who were spontaneously healed. Many such cases have been documented by Dr. Shafik Abd El Malik, M.B., B.Ch., M.D., Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, who headed a commission of seven doctors to study the miraculous cures. Cancer of various types, severe thyroid diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, blindness, chronic inability to speak, severe hypertension and hemiplegia, paralysis of the hand, severe hernia, complete evulsion of both biceps, brachialis, acute subconjunctival hemorrhage of the left eye, chronic nephritis, severe chronic asthma, a severe finger infection, for which amputation was planned, and other conditions, too numerous to recount here, apparently were instantly cured, as verified by extensive medical evidence.18

This is indeed remarkable. Hundreds of witnesses spontaneously healed of severe maladies. Is this possible? Did millions of people in Zeitoun, Egypt actually witness apparitions of the Virgin Mary? Were many of these people healed of various infirmities? Is it possible that they all experienced the same hallucination? Were the witnesses and the medical community experiencing some type of hoax? If these events are fake, how do we explain away the testimony of so many?

18 Ray Stanford, Fatima Prophecy, New York, Ballantine Books, 1988, pp. 44-49. [bold not in original]
Glowing Lady of light seen by millions of spectators during the Zeitoun, Egypt apparitions.

Crowd witnessing an apparition in Egypt. As a result, many were seemingly healed of various infirmities.
MARY’S MIRACULOUS GLOBAL APPEAL

Jesus healing the sick (Matthew 15:30). Marian advocates are convinced that healings attributed to the apparition of Mary offer further evidence that they are heaven sent.

**MIRACLE OF THE SUN**

Consider that at several apparition sites, a phenomenon known as “the Miracle of the Sun” has been seen by hundreds of thousands. At Fatima, on October
13, 1917, 70,000 people claimed to have witnessed the sun fall from the sky. These eyewitnesses said that they watched as the sun fell from heaven toward the crowd and then return to its normal position in the sky. Many thought this was signaling the end of the world and were sure they would perish. Here is a brief recount of the events at Fatima:

Just when it seemed that the ball of fire would fall upon and destroy them, the miracle ceased and the sun resumed its normal place in the sky, shining forth as peacefully as ever. When the people arose from the ground, cries of astonishment were heard on all sides. Their clothes, which had been soaking wet and muddy, now were clean and dry. Many of the sick and crippled had been cured of their afflictions. 19

The Miracle of the Sun is a common, albeit fantastic, event at many apparition sites. It happened before a crowd of 100,000 in Puerto Rico on April 23, 1991, which was the thirty-eighth anniversary of the apparitions there, 20 and it happened again in the Philippines on March 5, 1993, in front of a crowd of 300,000. 21 Similar events have been recorded at such apparition sites as Medjugorje, Bosnia; Denver, Colorado; Lubbock, Texas; and Conyers, Georgia.

The Miracle of the Sun is one of many miracles reported at apparition sites around the globe. Certainly

19 Our Lady of Fatima’s Peace Plan From Heaven, pp. 7, 8.
21 “Filipinos flock to glimpse vision of Mary,” The Tennessean, Volume 89, Number 66, Mar. 7, 1993, p. 2A.
these various wonders give added credibility to the
global apparition phenomenon. For example, consider
this quote concerning Medjugorje from author and
priest Richard J. Beyer:

The appearances of the Mother of God in Medjugorje
have been accompanied by a number of miracles, in-
cluding physical healings (now numbered at 360), re-
ports of the sun dancing or spinning in the sky, rosary
links and medals that apparently change from silver
to gold, and other phenomenon….Just as Christ
worked miracles during his earthly life to authenti-
cate his teaching and ministry, so Our Lady of Med-
jugorje seems to be using them to validate her pres-
ence and messages, which, as always, direct us to her
Son.22

LOGICAL QUESTIONS

These reports may seem absurd to our twenty-first
century society. Logic and reason demand an alternative
explanation. If these miracles are not attributed to the
supernatural, how might they be rationally explained
away? Is it possible that hundreds of thousands of spec-
tators are experiencing a shared visual hallucination?
Perhaps the hundreds of claimed apparitions and the
multiplied thousands of onlookers can be explained as
simple mass hysteria? Might the numerous healings
and miracles that are witnessed by hundreds of thou-
sands be some grand conspiracy? Maybe visionaries just
want fame. Maybe all these apparitions can be ex-
plained away as fraud or deceit. Maybe. Maybe not!

22 Beyer.
We’re not suggesting that all the reported apparitions can be lumped together as supernatural. Even the most staunch proponents of Marian apparitions acknowledge that some of the lesser known apparitions can be dismissed as either a self-proclaimed visionary’s overly active imagination or as a hoax. But at many major apparition sites, if there is no reasonable alternative explanation for these events, are we to conclude that the Virgin Mary is appearing? Is it possible that the Blessed Mother is manifesting and performing miracles around the world in our present day? We must consider the possibility. For if God is sending the Virgin Mary to warn the world, we must pay heed.

Each individual should seriously consider the implications of these alleged supernatural events. If they are real, then they will affect every single person on the globe in the days ahead. If they are some sort of hoax or hallucination that has misled millions of people, then we have an equally serious situation to deal with.
Chapter Three

When Mary Speaks, Rome Listens

Victory through Mary

These apparitions and the supernatural phenomena associated with them, have not gone unnoticed by high level Church officials. In 1984 Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the head of the Roman Catholic Church’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), declared that, “one of the signs of our times is that the announcements of ‘Marian Apparitions’ are multiplying all over the world.”

Even the current pope has stated, “If I wasn’t a Pope, I’d be in Medjugorje already.” The pope has visited numerous Marian shrines and apparition sites and his Marian devotion is truly remarkable. In his book, Crossing The Threshold of Hope, the pope writes: “I

---


think what I have said sufficiently explains the Marian devotion of the present Pope and, above all, his attitude of total abandonment to Mary – his Totus Tuus.³

Pope John Paul II believes that if victory comes to the Universal Church it will be brought by Mary. In his book, Crossing The Threshold of Hope, he makes this revealing statement:

After my election as Pope, as I became more involved in the problems of the universal Church, I came to have a similar conviction: **On this universal level, if victory comes it will be brought by Mary.** Christ will conquer through her, because he wants the Church’s victories now and in the future to be linked to her.

I held this conviction even though I did not yet know very much about Fatima. I could see, however, that there was a certain continuity among La Salette, Lourdes, and Fatima – and, in distant past, our Polish Jasna Gora.

And thus we come to May 13, 1981, when I was wounded by gunshots fired in St. Peter’s Square. At first, I did not pay attention to the fact that the assassination attempt had occurred on the exact anniversary of the day Mary appeared to the three children at Fatima in Portugal and spoke to them the words that now, at the end of this century, seem to be close to their fulfillment.⁴

---


⁴ Ibid., pp. 220, 221. [bold not in original]
The pope’s devotion to the Blessed Mother is renowned the world over. He frequently visits apparition sites to pay homage and adore the Virgin.
CONSECRATION TO THE APPARITION

The pope credits the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life during the 1981 assassination attempt. Shortly after the assault on his life, Pope John Paul II, consecrated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The pope’s consecration was done in response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima.

Furthermore, in October, 2000, the pope ordered the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the Vatican for the Great Jubilee. On Sunday October 8, Pope John Paul with 1500 bishops – the largest group to assemble since Vatican II – entrusted humanity and the third millennium to Our Lady of Fatima. This is extremely significant. Over one third of the Catholic Church’s bishops, and the pope himself, entrusted the world to Our Lady of Fatima!

Certainly the apparition has the pope’s and Rome’s attention. It seems more than coincidence that apparitions of Mary have increased substantially during this pope’s pontificate. Unquestionably Pope John Paul’s many visits to Marian shrines and apparition sites around the world indicate that he believes Mary is appearing and that her appearances are of utmost importance. Furthermore, the pope’s strong Marian devotion

---

has strengthened Marian devotion worldwide. Just consider the following statistics.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

Globally, Marian groups and conferences are mushrooming. One group alone, the Blue Army, boasts over
20 million members. Another group known as the Marian Movement of Priests is supported by at least 400 cardinals and bishops, and more than 100,000 priests, and millions of religious and faithful around the world.

Keep in mind that there are only an estimated 400,000 priests in the entire Catholic Church. This means that over one quarter of all priests are active members of the Marian Movement of Priests! And this is only one Marian group.

Father Stefano Gobbi, the head of the Marian Movement of Priests, often receives messages from Mary. In many of her messages, she confirms the inextricable link between her apparitions and the Catholic Church, particularly in these last times:

But in the furious struggle of these last times, this struggle between heaven and earth, between the heavenly spirits and the demons, between the Woman and the Dragon, I appear as a great sign of my greatest victory...For this great victory, I have formed for myself the cohort of all my little children who, from every part of the world, have responded to me with a yes. With my Marian Movement of Priests, I have brought my invitation to the farthest confines of the earth, and I have formed for myself my victorious army.\(^{10}\)

---


No one could deny that the Roman Catholic Church – its head, and multitudes within it – are enlisted in Mary’s army. Yet, throughout history, the apparition has been central to the Church.

Father Stefano Gobbi has received hundreds of Marian messages (interior locutions) which are recorded in this book. The pope has encouraged his widespread travel in order to spread Our Lady’s messages.

MARY’S INFLUENCE IN THE CHURCH

Without doubt, the apparition of Mary has always had Rome’s attention. For over a thousand years, many previous popes were devout followers of the apparition of Mary. For example, an apparition appeared to Pope John XXII and ordered him to make known to all that in the Saturday after death she would deliver from purgatory all who wore the Carmelite scapular. This was proclaimed by that pontiff in a Bull, and it was confirmed in subsequent years by Alexander V, Pius V, Gregory XIII and Paul V.11

The apparition of Mary has even assisted the papacy in times of need. For example, when Pope Pius IX proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, there was concern that the new doctrine would not be well received by many Catholics. However, in 1858, just four years after this doctrine was declared, Our Lady of Lourdes appeared with the salutation, “I am the Immaculate Conception.” No apparition up to that time had ever referred to herself in that manner, and in so doing, the Immaculate Virgin herself gave supernatural confirmation to the declaration.12

In 1870, just before Pius IX introduced the doctrine of Papal Infallibility, he received confirmation from an apparition that he should proceed with the new proclamation. She even assured him of her assistance at every

step of the way. Of course, Pius IX is just one of a long list of popes who were reportedly aided by the Queen of Heaven during difficult times.

In his encyclical entitled *Le Pelerinage de Lourdes*, Pope Pius XII recognized the inextricable link between the popes and the apparition of Mary. On July 2, 1957, this pope declared, “This century of Marian devotion has also in a certain way woven close bonds between the See of Peter and the shrine in the Pyrenees, bonds which We are pleased to acknowledge.” His official encyclical was given at Rome, from Saint Peter’s, on the feast of the Visitation of the Most Holy Virgin. In it, Pius XII explains how the apparitional appearances at Lourdes played a crucial role in confirming Catholic dogma:

The fiftieth anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin gave Saint Pius X occasion to bear witness in a solemn document to the historic connection between this act of the Magisterium and the apparitions at Lourdes. “Pius IX,” he wrote, “had hardly defined it to be of Catholic faith that Mary was from her very origin exempt from sin, when the Virgin herself began performing miracles at Lourdes.”

The Virgin Mary herself desired this tie: “What the Sovereign Pontiff defined in Rome through his infallible Magisterium, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, blessed among all women, wanted to confirm by

---

When Mary Speaks Rome Listens

her own words, it seems, when shortly afterward she manifested herself by a famous apparition at the grotto of Massabielle...”

Pope Pius IX, Pius X, and Pius XII are among the long list of popes who relate the importance of the Queen of Heaven’s apparitional manifestations, and how these supernatural appearances have helped guide the Roman Catholic Church through the centuries.

The Queen's Sway Continues to Rise

According to Father Bill McCarthy, in his book Mary In the Church Today, nearly every recent pope has visited and preached at some apparition site. Yet, without question Pope John Paul II has traveled on pilgrimage to more Marian shrines than any previous pope. In John Paul II’s Book of Mary, the pope reflects on his deep devotion to the apparition of Mary and his numerous pilgrimages to apparition sites around the globe.

At this time, my thoughts go on pilgrimage to the Marian shrines of the world that I have been able to visit. It is a pilgrimage that begins at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. From there I started the journey on my Petrine ministry, later taking the road that led to the heart of North and South America. As for the European continent, we all continually pour over the message of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is an exhortation to prayer and conversion, and the tears of Our Lady of La Salette as we

---

15 Ibid., p. 3.
16 Fr. Bill McCarthy, Mary In the Church Today: Official Catholic Teachings on the Mother of God, McKees Rocks, PA, St. Andrew’s Productions, 2000, p. 461.
face the great spiritual dangers of our time. I had the personal opportunity to understand the message of Our Lady of Fatima in a particular way: the first time on May 13, 1981, when an attempt was made on the pope’s life, and then again toward the end of the 1980s when communism collapsed in the countries of the Soviet bloc.17

There are many Catholic books that explain Mary’s importance in the Church.

17 Margaret R. Bunson, John Paul II’s Book of Mary, Huntington, IN, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1997, p. 78.
The Queen of Heaven, crowned and on her throne, prominently displayed in the Vatican.
SKEPTICS WITHIN THE CHURCH

No person who has done his homework can doubt the profound abiding relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the apparition of Mary. However, there are some within the Church who suggest the possibility that certain apparitions might be the work of Satan. Among those who warn that some of the apparitions may be deceptive is Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.. In his book, *A Still Small Voice*, Father Groeschel wrote the following: “Saint John of the Cross was aware of the likelihood of error and self-deception, especially in the case of locutions….He also strongly suggests that the locutions may be the work of Satan.”

Warnings of possible deception even come from previous popes. In the *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*, in an article entitled: “The Catholic Church and Medjugorje,” author Michael J. Mazza writes:

Such patrons of Medjugorje often point to the scores of people praying the rosary and going to confession there, and conclude that surely Satan can’t be behind such “good fruit.” As has been stated earlier, he very well might be, if he is wagering that he will get more out of it than he will lose. Pope Benedict XIV warned in the 18th century that evil spirits have at times recommended that which is good in order to hinder a greater good and have encouraged persons to a particular act of virtue that they may the more easily de-

---

ceive the unwary and in the course of time lead them by degrees to commit most horrible sins.19

It should be noted that even among the literally millions of proponents of the apparitions, there are some Catholics who doubt the source of some Marian apparitions. These Marian proponents warn that it is possible for Satan to pose as an angel or a saint. Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, C.M., expresses this concern in *Morning Star: Christ's Mother and Ours.* “It is possible for Satan to masquerade as an angel or a saint and set a trap by speaking truth for a time. Then when the visionary and others are convinced that the apparitions are genuine, Satan can spring the trap with a message designed to confuse or destroy faith. This is one of the reasons the Church does not give approval to ongoing apparitions.”20

**CAUTION FROM THE CATECHISM**

Although the Catholic Church has approved the authenticity of several Marian apparitions, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* issues this amazing warning:

> Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history.….  

---

Christian faith cannot accept “revelations” that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment.\textsuperscript{21}

If the Catechism, which contains the official instructions and doctrines of the Catholic Church, commands the faithful to reject “revelations” that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of Christ, certainly all Catholics ought to be careful and discerning when dealing with apparitions. However, though there is debate over the source of some apparitions, many individuals have reason to believe that these wonders are truly heaven sent.

Chapter Four

MORE REASONS TO BELIEVE

BIBLICAL CONTENT

The first thing we notice when reviewing the apparition’s messages is that much of what she says can be found right in the pages of Scripture. Taken as a whole, the evidence indicates that the apparitions of Mary seem to have both supernatural power at their disposal and biblical content in their messages. With signs, wonders, miracles, the good fruit of transformed lives, and biblical content, it is not surprising that millions believe that these messages are truly messages from heaven.

For instance, a typical message from Our Lady of Medjugorje includes exhortations to pray, to convert, and to lead holy lives. Certainly these messages line up with the Scriptures’ clear teachings. The following is a message given by Our Lady of Medjugorje on May 25, 1999:

Dear Children! Also today I call you to convert and to more firmly believe in God. Children, you seek peace
and pray in different ways, but you have not yet given your hearts to God for Him to fill them with His love. So, I am with you to teach you and to bring you closer to the love of God.\(^1\)

The basic content of this message can be found in the pages of Scripture. Surely, God wants to fill us with His love; He wants us to increasingly trust in Him. Other messages from Medjugorje reveal that Mary often reiterates Bible truths. Here are a few examples of Mary’s biblical messages, from the book Medjugorje Day By Day:

Dear children, today I ask you to read the Bible in your homes every day. Put it in a visible place where it will always remind you to read it and pray it.\(^2\)

Dear children, it is truly a great thing when God calls men. Think how sad it would be to let those opportunities pass without taking advantage of them. So do not wait for tomorrow or the day after. Say “yes!” to Jesus now! And may your “yes!” be forever.\(^3\)

My dear children, tonight your Mother warns you that during these times Satan wants you and is looking for you! It takes only a little spiritual emptiness to allow Satan to work in you. For this reason your Mother wishes you to begin to pray, for your weapon against Satan is prayer. In prayer with the heart you will overcome him.\(^4\)


\(^3\) Ibid., April 27th meditation. Message given on May 16, 1987.

More Reasons To Believe

Moral Truth

Many more biblical messages from Medjugorje could be cited. Of course, the Bible encourages believers to read the Scriptures; to put our trust in Jesus; and to pray against the spiritual attacks of Satan. Furthermore, these biblical messages are not exclusive to the Medjugorje apparitions, but are common at most apparition sites. One of the apparition’s recurrent themes is that we need to turn from sin and stop the moral outrages that offend God.

Here is an example from the apparition of Mary to Julia Kim in Naju, Korea: “Abortion and genetic experimentation are calling down a chastisement upon the whole world.” Another example of Mary’s outrage against sin can be found in her messages to Father Stefano Gobbi, in Como, Italy: “Even in those countries of the most ancient Christian tradition, the great crime of killing children still in their mother’s womb has gone so far as to be legitimized. This crime cries for vengeance in the sight of God.” It is safe to say that the messages given by the vast majority of apparitions contain biblical truth and warn against moral depravity.

From these messages it appears that Our Lady is simply emphasizing truth to a world that is in moral free-fall. Desperate conditions require desperate ac-

---


tions. Certainly God could send the Virgin Mary to earth, in order to warn us of the severe effects of sin and turn us back to Jesus. Mary is simply reminding the world that there are consequences to sin. Many Marian experts agree that the Virgin’s message is nothing new, but rather a call back to basics. Fr. Robert Fox, a well known Marian expert, put it this way:

This cannot be the work of the Devil....What we have at Medjugorje are not new prophecies, but Our Lady in a motherly way reaching out to her children. The messages are so simple that the youngest child could understand it. ... Medjugorje is fulfilling what Fatima promised.7

The apparition of Mary has said that so many of her statues weep because of the moral crimes that grieve her Immaculate Heart.

Proponents insist that the numerous conversions and the transformed lives of pilgrims verify that the

fruits of the apparitions are good and therefore from God. While there is healthy debate, a growing number believe, that from all indications, it appears God is sending the Blessed Virgin Mary during these critical times.

**APPARITIONS ARE BIBLICAL**

The method that Mary has chosen to convey her messages is also biblical. Apparitions are found throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. An apparition is defined as a visual supernatural encounter. An apparition is not a hallucination or a figment of a visionary’s imagination. Those familiar with the New Testament, will recognize that there are several examples of apparitions of Jesus Christ, angels, and others. The Book of Acts, which presents the activities of the first century church, has over a dozen instances of apparitions. Here are a few examples of apparitions recorded in the New Testament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Scripture Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Annunciation</td>
<td>Luke 1:26-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Transfiguration</td>
<td>Matthew 17:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen’s vision</td>
<td>Acts 7:55, 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip’s transport</td>
<td>Acts 8:39, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul’s conversion</td>
<td>Acts 9:4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter’s prison escape</td>
<td>Acts 12:7-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John’s vision</td>
<td>Revelation 1:10-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many more examples. But, even a skeptic must admit that Mary has chosen a biblical method in which to communicate her messages. Does this prove
that these apparitions are from God? No, but it does strengthen the likelihood. There are many elements to these apparitions that lend credence to the possibility that these messages are heaven sent.

The Annunciation (Luke 1:30). Accounts of apparitions are found in both the Old and the New Testaments.
TESTING THE SPIRITS

Despite various concerns, supporters of the apparitions believe that God has sent the Virgin Mary to our troubled world as a beacon of hope and to turn us back to God. They believe God has, since the time of Christ, sent the Virgin to offer hope and direction to a desperate world. They say that, as Queen of Heaven and earth, Mary is uniquely qualified for this mission of mercy. Therefore, it is no surprise that God would send her in these final days.

Given the large number of documented paranormal activities we will assume that something is happening. With that assumption, how can we ascertain the purpose and origin of these apparitions? How can we test these phenomena so that we won’t be led astray?

If the Virgin Mary is being sent to earth to bring messages on behalf of God Almighty, then her messages should agree with what the Lord has already revealed to us in His Word. The Bible commands us to test the spirits (1 John 4:1). The most certain way to test a spirit is to test the message. If the message is from the God of the Bible, then the spirit’s message will agree with the Word of God and the gospel (Galatians 1:6-9).

In order to obey the Lord’s command to test the spirits, we will analyze the Virgin Mary’s messages with the Word of God. We will investigate whether or not the apparition of Mary presents the clear gospel given in Scripture. Some may ask, “Why test the messages with the Bible?” As Christians, we believe the Bible is God’s infallible, inerrant message to mankind. This belief is
not based on blind faith, but rather, faith based on many infallible proofs. In the next chapter we will divert for a moment to illustrate why we believe that the Bible is our one and only filter for discerning truth. After which, we will obey the Bible’s admonition to test the spirits.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God (1 John 4:1).
Chapter Five

WHY THE BIBLE IS OUR FILTER

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT

For those not acquainted with the Marian Movement, a brief summary of the fruit of this movement is in order. The Marian Movement overflows with sincere, kind, morally upright people who truly long for peace and unity on earth. Many are outraged at the moral atrocities that plague our society, and they are hoping that God, through the Virgin Mary, will put an end to such horrors as war, abortion, and moral decay.

Numerous individuals within the Marian Movement are on the front lines battling these moral and ethical crimes that are destroying society. These individuals have an active faith through prayer and ministry. You can almost feel the excitement and anticipation in the air when you are around many in the Marian Movement. They sense that God will soon move mightily through the Virgin Mary, to crush evil and bring about peace!
It is interesting that Jesus said that the world would know His followers by their love and the good fruit in their lives.\(^1\) Consequently, within the Marian Movement, followers often point to the good fruit, love, and transformed lives of those within the movement as evidence that this is from God. Although, this is a biblical test for followers of Christ, it is not the biblical method for testing spirits. The Bible commands us to test the spirits, and that “even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you...let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8).

So while it appears that there are many sincere, God-fearing individuals within the Marian Movement, that, in and of itself, does not necessarily mean the apparitions are from God. We must test the spirits with the Word of God.

**Evidence**

Since the time of Christ, skeptics have tried to discredit the authenticity of the Bible. From every conceivable angle, people have attempted to disprove the Bible’s claim that it is the inspired Word of God. No other book has received such ferocious and consistent attacks. Yet, the Bible remains the only “Holy Book” on planet earth that establishes itself as God’s Word, transcending time and space. When a sincere, truth-seeking person comes to that inevitable fact, they are set free. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32), and He said that God’s Word is truth (John 17:17).

\(^{1}\) John 13:35; Matthew 7:15-20
This chapter cannot do justice to the numerous volumes written that test and prove the Bible’s reliability and accuracy. We seek only to highlight a small number of the many evidences that prove God has inspired each and every word of the Bible. If you are a skeptic, the question you must ask yourself is this: Are you willing to risk your eternal destiny on the hope that the Bible is not the Word of God? If not, then investigate the claims of Jesus Christ and test His words, to see if they are true. God is not afraid of what you’ll find, neither should you be. Examine the world’s other self-proclaimed “holy books” and compare their accuracy and reliability with the Bible. As the Bible exhorts: Test ALL things; hold fast what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

**Prophecy**

Prophecy sets the Bible apart. No other book dares to establish its credibility by predicting future events before they happen. Yet the Bible predicts hundreds and even thousands of specific historic and future events. All of them have been fulfilled precisely, or are being fulfilled in these last days. God alone can declare the future with 100% certainty. While many false prophets have an occasional hit, often because they simply plagiarize the Bible, only the Bible has 100% hits, 100% of the time. God declares:

> For I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.” (Isaiah 46:9, 10).
The Bible has accurately predicted the rise and fall of many ancient kingdoms. The Bible has foretold specific earth-shaking and history-making events, which were fulfilled literally. The Bible has predicted the entire history of Israel in intimate detail, and to date, the Word of God has proven itself true and accurate. The Bible anticipated the Messiah with over 300 prophecy references, all fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We begin with the Messianic prophecies.

**JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY**

The Old Testament predicted the coming of God’s Anointed One, Jesus Christ, in amazing detail. Here is a sampling of fulfilled prophecies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Messianic Prophecies</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fulfillment</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed of a woman, virgin birth anticipated (Genesis 3:15)</td>
<td>Galatians 4:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He would be the Seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3)</td>
<td>Matthew 1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)</td>
<td>Luke 3:33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)</td>
<td>Matthew 2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herod would kill children (Jeremiah 31:15)</td>
<td>Matthew 2:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3)</td>
<td>Matthew 3:1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son of God (Psalm 2:7)</td>
<td>Matthew 3:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus would be a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15)</td>
<td>Luke 1:76; Acts 3:20-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He would heal the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1, 2)</td>
<td>Luke 4:18, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messiah fully God and fully Man (Isaiah 9:6, 7)</td>
<td>John 10:30-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hated without cause (Psalm 35:19)</td>
<td>John 15:24, 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exact date of Jesus’ triumphal entry  
(Daniel 9:25)  
Mark 11:7-11

Palm Sunday, Triumphal entry  
(Zechariah 9:9, 10)  
Mark 11:7, 9, 11

Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)  

Despised, rejected, man of sorrows, paid  
for our sins (Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12)  
John 1:11; Luke 23:18; Romans 5:6-8

Gall and vinegar offered Him  
(Psalm 69:21)  
Matthew 27:34

He would be crucified  
(Zechariah 12:10)  
John 19:34; John 20:27

Prayed for His enemies (Psalm 109:4)  
Luke 23:34

Scorned and mocked; hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22)  
Luke 23:35; Matthew 27:35

His mission committed to God the Father (Psalm 31:5)  
Luke 23:46

Jesus’ bones would not be broken  
(Psalm 34:20)  
John 19:33

He would rise from the dead  
(Psalm 16:10; Psalm 49:15)  
Mark 16:6

He would ascend to God bodily  
(Psalm 68:18)  
Mark 16:19; Eph. 4:8-10

STATISTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE

This only represents a couple dozen of the over 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. It is statistically impossible for one man to fulfill all of these prophecies by chance. To illustrate, let’s calculate the odds of just eight of these prophecies being fulfilled in any one person.

1) What’s the chance that a man would be born in the tiny town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)? Scholars have conservatively estimated that during Jesus’ day, the chance would be 1 in 200,000.
2) How many kings have entered their city on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)? Let’s be very conservative and say 1 in 100.

3) How many people have been betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)? Certainly less than 1 in 1000.

4) How often is betrayal money used to buy a potter’s field (Zechariah 11:13)? Probably none, other than Jesus, but let’s say 1 in 100,000.

5) Of those who were murdered, how many were wounded in their hands (Zechariah 13:6)? No more than 1 in 1000.

6) How many criminals who are innocent offer no defense at their trial (Isaiah 53:7)? Very few, but let’s say 1 in 1000.

7) Of those crucified, how many died with the wicked, but had their grave with the rich (Isaiah 53:9)? Maybe, at most, 1 in 1000.

8) Of all the people who have been put to death, what portion were crucified (Psalm 22:16)? Maybe 1 in 10,000.

Taking just these eight prophecies, the probability that one man would fulfill just these eight is 1 chance in $10^{27}$. That’s 10 with 27 zeros!! And that’s only eight of the over 300 fulfilled prophecies. Any person rejecting Jesus Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proven

---

more absolutely than any other fact in the world. Any person rejecting the accuracy and inerrancy of God’s Word is simply choosing to ignore the evidence.

Of course, the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled are only one example of irrefutable evidence that the Bible is God’s inspired Word. There are many more proofs, but let’s briefly look at one more example that establishes God’s Word as inerrant and unequaled.

THE RESURRECTION

The capstone of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No other person in history predicted his own death and subsequent resurrection, and then proved his assertion by appearing to hundreds after his death, in his resurrected body. This fact alone, proves that Jesus is exactly who He said He was – God in human form. But, what hard evidence exists that establishes Jesus’ resurrection as an historic fact?

To begin with, all the apostles claimed to be eyewitnesses of Jesus after His resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude all write that Jesus’ resurrection is an historic fact. The resurrection was even reported by historians. The apostle Peter writes, “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of

---

3 John 10:30-33; Philippians 2:5-8
4 James and Jude write about Jesus’ Second Coming, which presumes He has previously risen.
our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” (2 Peter 1:16). Of course it is one thing to claim Jesus rose from the dead, it is another thing to PROVE it. Let’s highlight a few of the many historical evidences that verify the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**FACT #1 – THE RESURRECTION CHANGED HISTORY**

Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection actually changed the course of history, as no life has ever done. So much so that the entire world’s calendars revolve around His birth, from B.C. (Before Christ) to A.D. (the Latin *Anno Domini* – the year of our Lord). Though His followers have been tortured, burned, fed to the lions, and persecuted throughout the ages, Christ remains the central, most influential person ever to walk this earth. If evidence existed that Jesus had not risen, and was thus a liar, He would have been dismissed as one of the many false prophets who have come and gone throughout history. Yet, no contrary evidence has ever held up. And despite the attempts of many to bury this truth and discredit the resurrection, the resurrected Jesus remains the central figure of world history because of this indisputable fact.

**FACT #2 – THE EMPTY TOMB**

Another obvious fact confirming the resurrection was the empty tomb. Though the Jewish and Roman authorities went to great lengths to guard and seal the tomb, Jesus still rose. Both the Jewish and Roman authorities wanted to squash this new sect. In order to do so, all they would have needed to do was produce the
The Resurrection (Matthew 28:5, 6). Many skeptics have set out to disprove Christ’s resurrection only to be convinced, by the overwhelming evidence, that Jesus rose. Dr. Simon Greenleaf, the famous Royall Professor of Law at Harvard University, concluded that the evidence for the resurrection was so overwhelming as to hold up in any court of law.
body. As the only ruling authorities they used every means at their disposal to keep Jesus in the grave. Yet, they were unable to because He supernaturally rose. No conspiracy could have accomplished what God alone did. Many Jewish and Gentile skeptics became Christians because of the irrefutable evidence surrounding the resurrection. If the resurrection was some sort of hoax, certainly the world power of that day, Rome, would have exposed the deception and ended the much hated Christian sect.

**FACT #3 – APPEARANCES OF CHRIST CONFIRMED**

Jesus appeared to hundreds of people on various occasions in His resurrected body. The apostle Paul, who had previously persecuted the early Christians until he met the risen Lord, explains that over 500 people witnessed the resurrected Jesus at one time (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Paul uses as evidence to Christ’s resurrection the fact that most of the 500 witnesses were still alive at that time. In other words, try to tell those 500 witnesses He didn’t really rise from the dead, they were all eyewitnesses! Again, if the Jewish authorities or the Roman government could have produced the body, they would have, and Christianity would have died on the spot. Yet, hundreds of eyewitnesses spread the Good News of Christ’s resurrection around the world, much to the exasperation of both the Jewish and Roman authorities.

**FACT #4 – IT CHANGED LIVES**

The men who cowered at Christ’s trial and denied Jesus during His crucifixion, were the same men who
became bold witnesses after His resurrection. All of them suffered greatly for their conviction that Christ was risen. All of Jesus’ apostles, except John, were martyred. What motivated these former cowards to go everywhere proclaiming the message of the risen Christ? Only indisputable evidence of the fact that Jesus rose could explain their turn-around. They all testified to the very death, when they could have bought their freedom simply by denying Christ. Why would these formerly fearful men suffer great persecution and even death for a lie?

Of course, since the time of Christ, millions have been persecuted, tortured and killed for their belief in Jesus Christ.\(^6\) If this was simply a first century conspiracy, why would MILLIONS give their lives and all they had, unless they had unshakable faith in the resurrected Christ? These men and women discovered such awesome news that they were compelled to share this news, at any cost.

**ISRAEL IN PROPHECY**

There is so much evidence for believing that the Bible is God’s inspired Word. For instance, the Bible predicts the entire future of Israel in minute detail. Can you think of any nation or ethnic group that was destroyed and dispersed thousands of years ago, yet remains today? What group of people have retained their national, cultural, and ethnic identity for more than a few hundred years?

Only one – the tiny nation of Israel! And, amazingly, God predicted each and every event. This tiny nation, about the size of New Jersey, remains today, though it was laid waste almost 2000 years ago. And although Israel’s inhabitants were dispersed to the four corners of the globe, they remained an identifiable, national, ethnic group. The Jews are the only people in history who have not been absorbed or assimilated into other cultures after their dispersion. We find Jews everywhere. American Jews. Russian Jews. Ethiopian Jews. For this reason, they have even been labeled the “wandering Jews.”

But why would they remain Jews? All other nations, most much larger than Israel, have been assimilated or absorbed by the nation that conquered them. Why don’t we have American Romans? The Roman empire dominated the world at one time, yet the ethnic and national identity of that once proud nation has been lost. Why don’t we hear about Russian Babylonians? The Babylonian empire was huge, and yet their ethnic and national identity has also been completely lost.

Israel is unique. They are God’s chosen people. Their very existence testifies to the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. God warned His people that if they disobeyed Him and followed after the ways of the pagan nations, they would be scattered abroad. In many Bible passages, God predicted that Israel would be dispersed to the four corners of the globe, if they did not follow His Word.

---

[If the Jews do not obey the Lord] then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other (Deuteronomy 28:64).

**Israel Returns**

Yet, God predicted a time, during the last days, when He would bring back His people into their own land, never to be uprooted again.

So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds....But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went....[Therefore] I will sanctify My great name....**For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land** (Ezekiel 36:19-24).

This happened on May 14, 1948, when Israel was once again declared a sovereign state! And today, Jewish people continue to stream back into their homeland, just as God prophesied. This is remarkable, and absolutely unique to the nation Israel. It has never happened before, and yet, as God’s Word predicted, it has occurred right before our very eyes!
The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). God’s promise to preserve the Jews and bring them back into their land in the last days authenticates that the Bible alone is the Word of God. Israel’s very existence is a thorn in the side of every Bible skeptic.

**SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE**

For those of you who have a scientific inclination, one more set of evidences will be presented here for your
WHY THE BIBLE IS OUR FILTER

consideration. Many people feel that the Bible is antiquated due to recent scientific discoveries. Those who feel this way typically have not done their homework. Despite what we hear from the secular media, the Bible has actually been confirmed by modern science. Those who seriously study the Bible and science reach the same conclusion that thousands of other scientists have arrived at. Namely, that the Bible is the only “holy book” which agrees with modern scientific observation. That’s right, thousands of years ago, God’s prophets uttered what was considered absurd in their day. Yet, today we know these scientific facts to be true. The following table lists some of those amazing insights given by the Creator of the universe to His servants.

**Science Confirms the Bible**
(The Bible was written 2,000-3,500 years ago)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biblical Foreknowledge</th>
<th>Scientific Knowledge Then</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The earth is a sphere (Isaiah 40:22).</td>
<td>The earth was a flat disk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incalculable number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22).</td>
<td>Only 1,100 stars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free float of earth in space (Job 26:7).</td>
<td>Earth sat on a large animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation made of invisible elements (Hebrews 11:3).</td>
<td>Science was ignorant on the subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each star is different (1 Corinthians 15:41).</td>
<td>All stars were the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light moves (Job 38:19,20).</td>
<td>Light was fixed in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air has weight (Job 28:25).</td>
<td>Air was weightless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winds blow in cyclones (Ecclesiastes 1:6).</td>
<td>Winds blew straight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood is the source of life and health (Leviticus 17:11).</td>
<td>Sick people must be bled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ocean floor contains deep valleys and mountains (2 Samuel 22:16; Jonah 2:6).

The ocean floor was flat.

Ocean contains springs (Job 38:16).

Ocean fed only by rivers and rain.

When dealing with disease, hands should be washed under running water (Leviticus 15:13).

Hands washed in still water.

Of course, the Bible is not a scientific text book. However, when it does address the Creation it is accurate. All other “holy books” are filled with myths and legends. Yet, the Bible, when examined in context, always proves itself correct. If you are a skeptic, that’s fine, as long as you are willing to investigate all the evidence before drawing conclusions.

No one can honestly dismiss the Bible, based on these facts alone. Of course, individuals do not reject the Bible due to a lack of evidence, but because they don’t want to be accountable to the God of the Bible. Also, we must realize Satan is blinding the eyes of unbelievers. We need to pray that their eyes would be opened.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).

**Many More Reasons to Believe**

There are thousands of evidences that establish the Bible as God’s Word. Most Christian book stores have a large section of books that defend and establish this

---

8 John 3:19, 20; Romans 1:18-21
fact. We could look at the many evidences found this century by archaeologists that support the historical accounts of the Bible. Or we could investigate the numerous last days prophecies that show the Bible is faithful and true. Instead, we will list a few helpful resources for those who are sincerely seeking the truth.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.answersingenesis.org">www.answersingenesis.org</a></td>
<td>Science and Apologetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.calvarychapel.org">www.calvarychapel.org</a></td>
<td>Many biblical resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.christiananswers.net">www.christiananswers.net</a></td>
<td>A wealth of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.icr.org">www.icr.org</a></td>
<td>Science and Apologetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.khouse.org">www.khouse.org</a></td>
<td>Many resources (online Bible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.raycomfort.com">www.raycomfort.com</a></td>
<td>Apologetics and Evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.thebereancall.org">www.thebereancall.org</a></td>
<td>Many biblical resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.understandthetimes.org">www.understandthetimes.org</a></td>
<td>Science and Prophecy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

With the Bible as our guide, let’s turn our attention to Mary of Nazareth. God’s Word describes a humble, young girl, whose obedience changed history.
Chapter Six

The Blessed Virgin Mary in Scripture

Mary of Nazareth

The evidence that the Bible is the Word of God is overwhelming. No other book dares to establish its credibility by predicting hundreds of world-shaking and world-making events in advance. As the inspired Word of God, the Bible is the Christian’s ultimate and final source of doctrinal truth. What does the Bible tell us about Mary of Nazareth? How does the humble Virgin Mary described in the Scriptures compare with the apparition of Mary that is appearing to visionaries around the world? Before evaluating the messages proclaimed by the apparition of Mary, we shall first explore the Bible’s description of Mary of Nazareth.

Why all the Attention?

The love, adoration, and attention paid the Virgin Mary is truly exceptional. Her prayer, known as the “Hail Mary,” may be the most often recited prayer in the
world. Certainly, her images span all of Christendom. There are more shrines to Mary than any other Christian figure. Musicians have composed songs about her; poets have pondered her mysteries; and thousands upon thousands have written about the young girl from Nazareth. What is it about Mary? Why all the attention?

Rosary beads. In 1214, Saint Dominic received the Rosary in its present form from an apparition of Mary. One hundred fifty-three “Hail Marys” are recited when praying all fifteen mysteries. An estimated two billion “Hail Marys” are prayed daily.

Well, she was the only woman in the entire world to have a child while remaining a virgin. And, of course, the Blessed Virgin Mary gave birth to the Savior of the world. She was the mother of Jesus Christ. She bore, suckled, and nurtured the God of the universe! Need more be said? She is rightly called “blessed among women.”

But while innumerable volumes have been written about her, only one written account in the entire world contains the indisputable facts of the “Maidservant of the Lord.” That account is the Word of God. The Bible gives us insight into the life of Mary that we know is
absolute fact. The Bible does not speculate. The Bible does not exaggerate. The Bible reveals only truth. No more, no less. Who is this remarkable woman? What was and is her role in God’s plan of salvation? The Bible tells us. God’s Word paints a clear picture of Mary. Let’s take a look at her portrait.

**Old Testament Prophecy Anticipates the Virgin Birth**

Way back in the first book of the Bible, the virgin birth of Jesus is alluded to. In Genesis 3:15, God declares war on Satan: “And I [God] will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman [Eve], and between your seed and her Seed [Jesus]; He [Jesus] shall bruise your [Satan’s] head and you [Satan] shall bruise His [Jesus’] heel.”

This verse appears to be the first reference to the promise of a future Redeemer-Jesus, the Seed of Eve, but also the Seed of Mary. That the woman is said to have a seed, seems to suggest the virgin birth. In the Bible, a woman does not have a “seed” rather the man provides the seed. Because this verse says that the woman would have a “Seed,” a miraculous conception is suggested. The “Seed,” Jesus Christ, would be miraculously placed in Mary’s womb by God. She would be the first woman on earth to give birth without engaging in intercourse.

The prophet Isaiah gives an unmistakable prediction of the virgin birth: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel [God with us].”
(Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah continues in chapter 9 to describe this future Child – “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

What an amazing prophecy written 700 years before the birth of Christ! No other book in the entire world has dared to predict the virgin birth of God Almighty, and then record the precise fulfillment of that prophecy. This prophecy alone should convince the most ardent skeptic that the Bible is God’s inerrant Word to mankind.

These are the prophecies that anticipate the virgin birth. It was the dream of every Jewish girl to be the mother of the Messiah, and God chose Mary. Why? The New Testament gives us the answer.

THE OBEDIENT VIRGIN MARY

In the New Testament, the events surrounding the birth of Jesus are elucidated most clearly in Luke’s Gospel. Luke was a physician, so it is no surprise that he emphasized the humanity of Christ and the fact that He was born of a virgin. As a physician, Luke must have been in awe of God’s method for bringing His Son into the world.

In chapters 1 and 2, Luke describes some of Mary’s characteristics, and we begin to understand why God chose Mary to be the mother of His only begotten Son. In Luke 1:26-28, the angel Gabriel is sent by God to the
Virgin Mary, and he says to her: “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” (Luke 1:28). Certainly, Mary was highly favored and blessed by God.

Though Mary was troubled and afraid when Gabriel spoke,\(^1\) she listened, asked questions, and once she understood, she made this wonderful declaration of faith: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38). Mary obeyed the Lord. She could not fathom how God would accomplish this miraculous task,\(^2\) but Mary obeyed.

In order to understand the price of Mary’s obedience, we must understand Jewish culture. In that day and age, to have a child out of wedlock, would make a woman the scorn of society. She would have been an outcast. Certainly Mary was aware of this fact. Also, Mary must have considered how Joseph, the man she was betrothed to, would react. How would you react if the girl you were engaged to told you she was pregnant and that the father was God?! How would the community react? It was a very special girl who obeyed God in the face of so much potential scorn and mockery.

In addition, the Old Testament law required that if a man found that his espoused virgin lost her virginity, he was to expose her publicly and the men of the city were to stone her to death.\(^3\) Even though Mary remained a virgin, she must have wondered whether Joseph would

---

\(^1\) Luke 1:29, 30
\(^2\) Luke 1:34
\(^3\) Deuteronomy 22:13-21
believe her. At the least, Joseph should have divorced her and put her away if he considered her unclean.\(^4\)

As a matter of fact, the Bible states that when Joseph found that Mary was with child, he was going to put her away secretly (divorce her). “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” (Matthew 1:19). Joseph wanted to do the right thing and still show Mary mercy. While Joseph thought about what he should do, an angel appeared to him and explained the miraculous conception.\(^5\) Of course, Mary believed and obeyed the Lord’s words BEFORE she knew how Joseph would react. This reveals Mary’s sincere faith and obedience.

The Bible also informs us that the Jewish religious leaders believed Jesus was born of fornication.\(^6\) They were aware of Mary’s pregnancy out of wedlock. Mary most assuredly knew the Old Testament law, and the repercussions of her obedience, yet she still obeyed. What a wonderful role model she is for all Christians.

From these and other verses it becomes clear that Mary was blessed by God because she obeyed God. Her strong faith in the Lord was revealed by her obedience, despite the possible consequences. “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told to her from the Lord.” (Luke 1:45).

\(^4\) Deuteronomy 24:1  
\(^5\) Matthew 1:20-25  
\(^6\) John 8:41
THE HUMBLE VIRGIN MARY

God also chose Mary because of her sincere humility. In the “Magnificat,” Mary reveals to us her heart: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. …He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly.” (Luke 1:46-48, 52).

Mary considered herself the lowly maidservant of the Lord. She understood God’s infinite and eternal greatness. It is a humbling thing to meet Almighty God. Mary knew that she was made from the dust and that everything she had, everything she hoped for, was from God. All she could do was praise and thank Him!

The wedding in Cana is an example of Mary’s humility. When the host of the wedding had run out of wine, Mary told Jesus, “They have no wine.” (John 2:3). Jesus replied to His mother, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” (John 2:4). It seems that Jesus mildly rebuked His mother. And how did Mary respond? Did she say, “Jesus, they’re out of wine. This is a disgrace! You’re my Son and You’re the Lord. Can’t You solve this problem?” No. Did she say, “Jesus, I just thought You could help. Why did You respond harshly?”?

No, Mary responded with her final recorded words in the Bible, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” (John 2:5). This response shows that Mary did not want to hinder Jesus’ ministry. She surrendered to God’s will. Jesus’ public ministry had begun and Mary stepped
aside. Mary’s humble obedience in very difficult circumstances tells us a lot about this lowly woman from Nazareth.

**AT THE CROSS**

Besides Mary’s obedience and humility, there is another character trait that is revealed in the Gospels. Mary loved Jesus. When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised, Simeon, a just and devout man, proclaimed that Jesus was the Savior, and then he said to Mary: “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:34, 35).

The “sign” that Simeon spoke of was Jesus’ death and resurrection. Thirty-three years later, Jesus hung on the cross for our sins. Mary was there, at the cross, with others who loved Him. Certainly, at that moment, “a sword pierced Mary’s heart.” She watched as Jesus was brutally beaten, whipped and crucified. She could do nothing but mourn in silent agony. Her love for Jesus caused her own soul to be pierced as she and the other women watched Jesus’ agonizing death. They could not help Him. They could only watch their Savior’s atoning work. Mary’s love for Jesus is obvious. The Bible tells us that: “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19). Mary responded to Jesus’ love.
Hungry for Truth

Another of Mary’s attributes was her desire for truth. In Luke’s account we are told repeatedly that, “Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19).\(^8\) When God communicated, when God moved, she contemplated His actions seriously. She submitted to God’s will though she had legitimate questions, and then she would chew on them over and over, like a cow chews its cud. She took God’s word to heart. She pondered and meditated on the Lord’s revelation. She was teachable and hungry for truth.

Mary’s hunger for truth, obedience, humility and love should encourage all believers to trust the Lord despite the trials and tribulations of this world. Mary is a wonderful role model for all Christians. We, as Christians, can learn from the selfless and meek Virgin Mary. The Bible is clear that she was a faithful maidservant of the Lord. But is she more? Many believe Mary is our mother. Many believe Mary was sinless. Many believe that Mary was assumed bodily into heaven. Many believe that she is queen. Are these beliefs founded in Scripture?

Mary our Mother?

Is Mary the mother of us all? Some believe she is. They point to the passage in John’s Gospel, where Jesus says from the cross, “Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.” (John 19:26, 27). They believe that Jesus was proclaiming

\(^8\) See also Luke 2:33; 2:51
Mary as our mother when He said, “Behold your mother.” Is this what Jesus meant? Consider the following biblical facts.

1) Jesus was Mary and Joseph’s firstborn: “[Joseph] did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:25).

2) Jesus had younger brothers and sisters: “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?” (Matthew 13:55, 56).

3) It is believed that Jesus’ stepfather Joseph, died before Jesus’ public ministry began.9

Therefore, Jesus, as the eldest brother had the duty of taking care of His mother. Rather then entrusting Mary to a younger sibling, Jesus entrusted Mary to John, His disciple. But, why wouldn’t Jesus entrust His mother to His next oldest brother? Some believe the reason is that Jesus didn’t actually have brothers and sisters, but rather, cousins. This theory ignores the biblical record. However, John’s Gospel gives us the clear answer. We are told: “even His [Jesus’] brothers did not believe in Him.” (John 7:5). Now it all makes sense. Jesus repeatedly stated that those who trust Him and obey His words are His true family. By entrusting Mary to John, He revealed that Mary and John, as believers, were family!

---

9 Joseph is not mentioned during Jesus’ adult ministry.
The Bible never calls Mary the mother of us all. Interestingly, the New Testament states that Jerusalem is the mother of all believers, “...but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.” (Galatians 4:26). This is in fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham. Also, the Old Testament declares that Sarah, Abraham’s wife, is the mother of nations.\(^{10}\) And God states that Eve is the mother of all living: “And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” (Genesis 3:20). Nowhere in Scripture is Mary identified as our mother. Nor does Scripture imply that she is the mother of all.

**Sinless?**

Was Mary sinless? The Scripture states that Mary called God her savior.\(^{11}\) Only a sinner needs a Savior. In addition, the Bible says that ALL have sinned.\(^{12}\) Furthermore, we are told that after Mary’s purification according to the law of Moses that, “when the days of her [Mary’s] purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him [Jesus] to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord...and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, ‘A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.’” (Luke 2:22-24).

This revealing passage confirms that Mary was a sinner. Why? Because Mary, by obeying the Law of Moses, (specifically Leviticus 12), acknowledged her sin. According to Leviticus 12, a turtledove was a sin offering. “When the days of her purification are fulfilled, ...

\(^{10}\) Genesis 17:16
\(^{11}\) Luke 1:47
\(^{12}\) Romans 3:9, 10; 3:23
she shall bring to the priest a lamb...or a turtledove as a sin offering.... Then [the priest] shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement for her.” (Leviticus 12:6, 7). Only a sinner needs atonement for sins. Mary acknowledged her need for atonement and forgiveness. Mary was not self-righteous.

ASSUMPTION?

As for Mary’s alleged bodily assumption, there is not a single Scripture that even hints that Mary was assumed bodily. This doctrine sprang from the belief that Mary was sinless. If she was sinless, then she would not be under the universal curse of death and decay. Therefore, proponents of this doctrine reason that because she was sinless, she did not experience the results of sin, namely death and decay, and would therefore had to have been assumed bodily. Of course, the Bible clearly states that all are under sin,¹³ therefore all experience death and bodily decay.

Furthermore, if Mary had been taken up into heaven, wouldn’t the Bible have mentioned it? When Elijah was taken up into heaven, the Bible gives a detailed description of the event.¹⁴ Certainly Mary’s assumption would have been reported.

¹³ Romans 3; Galatians 3:22
¹⁴ 2 Kings 2:1-18
The Bodily Assumption of Mary. The Bible explains that when Christians die they are immediately present with the Lord but absent from the body (2 Corinthians 5:8). It is not until Christ’s return that believers receive their new bodies (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).
QUEEN?

Is Mary the queen? There is absolutely no mention of Mary as queen in the Scriptures. Many point to the woman of Revelation 12 and say that this woman, with a crown of twelve stars, is Mary. They further state that if the Revelation 12 woman is Mary, then Mary must be queen because she has a crown. “Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.” (Revelation 12:1, 2).

Most Bible scholars believe that the woman of Revelation 12, is a reference to the twelve tribes of Israel who were sealed by God for salvation in Revelation 7. In the Old Testament, Israel is the earthly bride of God the Father. During earth’s final period, God again deals with Israel. The period described in Revelation 6 through 19, is even called “the Time of Jacob’s Trouble.” Of course, God changed Jacob’s name to Israel.

Most importantly, according to Joseph’s dream recorded in Genesis 37:5-11, the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel, and the son and the moon represent Jacob (a.k.a. Israel) and his wife. Therefore, the woman of Revelation, from a scriptural perspective, appears to be Israel. In addition, God states clearly in

---

15 Isaiah 54:5. Refer also to Isaiah 26:17, 18 and 66:7, 8 where Israel is portrayed as a woman in labor.
16 Revelation 7; Daniel 9; etc.
17 Jeremiah 30:7
18 Genesis 35:10
Romans 11 that He is not through with Israel, but that He will again deal with her in the last days.\textsuperscript{19}

That she is with child,\textsuperscript{20} also speaks of Israel's role in the last days. Israel's repentance in the last days ushers in, or literally gives birth to Jesus' Second Coming. The prophet Zechariah describes the events surrounding Jesus' return:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a first-born….

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 12:10; 14:4).

Notice that it is Israel's mourning and repentance that ushers in Jesus' Second Coming. Also notice that Jesus is considered Israel's son. It is Israel who gave the world the Messiah. Mary, as a Jew, was the instrument God chose, but Israel, as God's wife, brought forth the Savior.

Finally, we are told in Revelation 12:2 that this woman is in pain. This directly contradicts the Catholic Marian doctrine that Mary, because she was sinless, did not experience the consequences of the curse, namely, that she was exempt from pain and death.\textsuperscript{21} Genesis

\textsuperscript{19} Romans 11:25-32
\textsuperscript{20} Revelation 12:2
\textsuperscript{21} Catechism of the Catholic Church, New York, An Image Book, published by Doubleday, 1994, paragraphs 491, 492, 966, pp. 138, 274. The belief that Mary did not suffer the consequences of sin, led to the doctrine of her bodily assumption. If she was sinless, then she would not suffer bodily decay.
3:16 shows that pain in childbirth is the direct result of the curse. Therefore, if Mary was sinless, she cannot be the woman of Revelation 12 who is experiencing pain.

Catholic Theologian Agrees

Roman Catholic theologian Father Hubert J. Richards agrees that the Revelation 12 woman refers to Israel. His book, What The Spirit Says to the Churches: A Key to the Apocalypse of John, carries the Nihil obstat and Imprimatur of the Roman Catholic Church. Concerning the woman of Revelation 12, Father Hubert J. Richards writes:

The vision proper, then, begins with the figure of a Woman clothed with the sun and the stars. We think naturally enough of our Lady, to whom this description has traditionally been applied. After all, we say, of whom else could John be thinking when he speaks of the mother of the Messiah? However it is clear from the rest of the chapter that this interpretation will stand only if the verse is isolated: what follows has very little relevance to our Lady. Nor is it any honor to Mary to apply any and every text to her without thought....

Who then is she? The source to which John has turned for his imagery throughout this book is the Old Testament. There, the Woman, the bride of God...
who brings forth the Messiah, is Israel, the true Israel, the chosen people of God. It is quite certain that this is what is in John’s mind when he begins his description with a quotation from Gen. 37:9-10, where the sun and moon and twelve stars represent the twelve-fold Israel.

This Woman will later be contrasted with the Harlot (the collective personality of Rome, opposed to the true Israel), and will be specified at the end of the book, again appearing in light and splendour for her marriage with the Lamb, as the twelve-gated Jerusalem which forms the new Israel. In fact the number twelve occurs so frequently in the Apocalypse in reference to Israel that it cannot have a different meaning here. All the early Fathers of the Church interpreted these verses as about the Israel of God.  

CONCLUSION

Finally, Luke’s Gospel describes the first recorded instance of Marian devotion. “And it happened as He [Jesus] 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!’” (Luke 11:27). Jesus’ response, as always, put things into perspective. “But He said, ‘More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’” (Luke 11:28).

23 Hubert J. Richards, What the Spirit Says to the Churches - A Key to the Apocalypse of John, New York, P.J. Kenedy and Sons, 1967, pp. 93, 94. [bold not in original]
Mary is a wonderful role model for all Christians. She is indeed blessed among women. The Bible tells us these facts, but no more. The humble girl from Nazareth is not divine, she is not our mother, she was not sinless, and she is not our queen. The Bible repeatedly commands us not to go beyond what is written.\textsuperscript{24}

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar (Proverbs 30:5, 6).

We’ve looked at the Blessed Virgin Mary as portrayed in Scripture, now we turn our attention to the Mary of the apparitions. Is this the same Mary? Is Mary of Nazareth appearing in our day? Has God sent her to turn the world back to Jesus? God is certainly able to send the Virgin Mary. With God, all things are possible, so we should keep an open mind.

\textsuperscript{24} Deuteronomy 4:2; Matthew 15:3, 6; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18, 19.
Chapter Seven

United She Stands

Innocent or Guilty by Association

In examining the apparition’s messages, we need to first determine a critical aspect: Are all the apparitions originating from the same source? Do we make them all innocent or guilty by association? Not necessarily. Even proponents of the apparitions acknowledge that not all of Mary’s purported appearances are legitimate and even some that seem genuine could be a trick of the devil. However there are consistent doctrines and themes that are repeated over and over again in the apparitions’ messages throughout the world. Most important, the apparition itself claims to be appearing all over the world.

I am Appearing Everywhere

A popular apparition of Mary in Rome stated in 1997: “All the messages come from God and eve-
rywhere I am appearing, I am speaking about the same things.”¹

The Queen of Heaven told visionary John Leary: “My children, you have seen the celebration of my Queenship….I have sent many messages to you through various visionaries.”²

In Ecuador, where crowds of over 100,000 people have assembled to hear the apparition’s words, Our Lady told visionary Patricia Talbott: “At the end of all the apparitions in the world, I will leave a great sign in this place and in all those where I have been.”³

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 13, 1981, Our Lady proclaimed: “With messages I have given and apparitions I have granted in many parts of the world, with my numerous weepings, even with blood, I want to make you understand that this is a grave hour.”⁴

In Zompita, Udine, on January 24, 1984, the Blessed Mother said:

Look at my merciful eyes which shed tears of sorrow and compassion. In so many parts of the world I give this sign, causing copious tears to stream from my eyes, even tears of blood…in so many parts of the

world I am still giving my maternal messages....Yes, in these times I am appearing in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, in America, and in distant Oceania. The whole world is wrapped in my mantle.\(^5\)

Most apparitions, including "The Mother of the Eucharist" who is appearing in Rome, declare that the Queen of Heaven is appearing everywhere with the same message.

\(^5\) Ibid., p. 385. [bold not in original]
In Brazil on February 11, 1988, Our Lady told Father Gobbi: “This century has been marked by my strong presence in your midst, and, in order to make it perceptible to all, I have everywhere multiplied my miraculous manifestations.”

In Phoenix, Arizona, the Blessed Mother told Estela Ruiz on December 10, 1988, “I am the same one that appeared all over the world. Look around this church and see all the different forms in which I have appeared. I am the Mother of God, and I have appeared in different places.”

Finally, it should be noted that reported apparitions of Jesus have also been appearing to Catholics around the globe. As well, these apparitional messengers have collectively endorsed the apparitions of Mary as legitimate and united. They command the faithful to listen to and obey all of her messages. And they make it clear that she is manifesting herself everywhere. The following two messages from the apparition of Jesus originate from San Nicolas, Argentina and Cochabamba, Bolivia respectively. The apparitional messages at both locations have received the Imprimatur of the Catholic Church.

My Mother should be received, My Mother should be listened to in all of her messages. Mankind must discover the wealth she brings to Christians.

---

6 Ibid., p. 549.
My daughter, if the world would only understand how important and necessary are the apparitions of My Mother… My Mother speaks with people in many places, in the language with which you say your prayers. She speaks to all because the Good News of her Son is for everyone. Men are filled with love a lot easier if they see that she looks like them. That is why she appears with the physical characteristics of each country where she presents herself.9

A United Front

Many more examples could be cited. Most of the apparitions either state that she is appearing around the world, or they state that she has appeared throughout history. At Medjugorje, on August 25, 1991, the Virgin said:

Dear children, today, also I invite you to prayer, now as never before, when my plan has begun to be realized….everything that I wanted to realize through the secrets which began at Fatima may be fulfilled. I call you, dear children, to grasp the importance of my coming and the seriousness of the situation. I want to save all souls and present them to God. Therefore, let us pray that everything I have begun will be fully realized.10

This message is very important because it ties many of the Marian apparitions around the world together.

---

Most Marian theologians believe that the Fatima apparition in 1917, was the “beginning of the end” of history and that Mary would usher in this final age. Marian advocates often quote Saint Louis de Montfort, who was a great devotee of Our Lady. Saint Louis de Montfort predicted that:

The power of Mary over all devils will be particularly outstanding in the last period of time. She will extend the Kingdom of Christ over the idolators and Moslems, and there will come a glorious era in which Mary will be ruler and queen of human hearts.11

This prophecy parallels what Saint John Bosco wrote many years ago: “Very grave trials await the Church. What we suffered so far is almost nothing compared to what is going to happen....Only two things can save us in such a grave hour: devotion to Mary and frequent Communion.” 12 The messages given at Fatima, Medjugorje, and numerous other apparition sites fulfill and agree with the predictions given by these two Catholic saints.

There are several reasons to believe that most of the major apparitions around the world originate from the same source. Possibly the strongest reason is that, to our knowledge, no Marian apparition has ever pointed to another apparition, stating that it was a deception in her name. The apparition of Mary does warn that wherever she appears, Satan is likely to manifest himself.

But, Mary has never pointed to a particular apparition and declared it an impostor!

**THE APPARITIONS ORIGINATE FROM THE SAME SOURCE**

It appears that the majority of Marian apparitions originate from the same source for the following reasons:

1) The apparitions themselves declare that they are appearing around the world.

2) Predictions by Catholic saints agree that Mary would manifest and reign in the end time.

3) Messages from apparitions have a consistent theme.

4) All apparitions of Mary predict her triumph and an era of peace and unity.

5) To our knowledge, Mary has never pointed to a particular apparition site and declared that it was a deception or delusion.

**SOLIDARITY**

In addition to the apparitions declaring solidarity with one another, and the predictions by saints of Mary’s end time reign, there are common themes stated over and over by the major apparitions of the world which indicate that all the apparitions originate from a common source. For instance, the apparitions constantly emphasize the need for prayer and conversion. They also state that Mary’s purpose for coming is to bring peace and unity. So rather than deny or contradict one another, the apparitions present a united front.
Furthermore, many within the Roman Catholic Church, and the Vatican in particular, are anticipating that Mary will usher in an era of worldwide peace. Many Catholic theologians also believe that Mary is the woman of Revelation 12, and that she will be the one who destroys Satan and the demonic forces in the last days. The apparition of Mary often portrays herself as the woman of Revelation 12, and she declares that she will destroy Satan and usher in an era of peace. Therefore, we can see that the apparitions confirm the hopes of Catholic saints who have predicted her coming and that Church leaders attest to her credibility. All of these facts indicate that the apparitions of Mary have created a united front and a unified message.
Chapter Eight

CHURCH APPROVED APPARITIONS

ENDORISING AND EMBRACING

Though the pope, numerous bishops and priests, and tens of millions of lay Catholics have embraced several apparitions, relatively few apparitions have received full church approval. However, this does not mean that all others are frauds or deceptions. For example, several of the most popular apparitions, such as Our Lady of Medjugorje, are still under investigation by Church authorities. Although not yet formally approved, the apparitions at Medjugorje have been openly affirmed by at least twenty-four cardinals; twenty-four archbishops; sixty-one bishops; and the pope himself.¹

Hundreds of additional apparitions are still under investigation and are unofficially endorsed by Catholic

clerics. And so it is with many reported apparitions. They have not been formally rejected and they remain popular among many Catholics and others. In addition, down through the ages, dozens of Marian apparitions have received formal Church approval – meaning that they are supernatural and conform to Church teaching. Many others carry the Imprimatur (approval) of the local Roman Catholic bishop\(^2\) – meaning that there is nothing contrary to Catholic faith and morals in the apparitions’ messages.

The Medjugorje apparitions may be the most influential apparitional events in Church history.

Below is a table of some of the apparitions that have received Church approval or carry the Imprimatur of the local bishop. For an overview of the discernment

\(^2\) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, An Image Book, published by Doubleday, 1994. According to paragraph 862, on page 249: “the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ.”
process used by the Catholic Church, refer to the sources listed after the table.

**Church Approved Apparitions**

* – Denotes formal Church approval  
B – Denotes bishop Imprimatur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Visionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ 1300’s</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>St. Bridget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1347</td>
<td>Siena, Italy</td>
<td>St. Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1531</td>
<td>Guadalupe, Mexico</td>
<td>Juan Diego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1600’s</td>
<td>Agreda, Spain</td>
<td>St. Mary of Agreda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1830</td>
<td>Rue Du Bac, France</td>
<td>St. Catherine Laboure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1836</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td>Father Genettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1840</td>
<td>Blangy, France</td>
<td>Sister Justine Bisqueyburu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1846</td>
<td>La Salette, France</td>
<td>Melanie Calvat &amp; Maximin Giraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1858</td>
<td>Lourdes, France</td>
<td>Bernadette Souibirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1871</td>
<td>Pontmain, France</td>
<td>Eugene and Joseph Barbadette (others)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1876</td>
<td>Pellevoisin, France</td>
<td>Estelle Faguette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1877</td>
<td>Gietrzwałd, Poland</td>
<td>Justyna Szafrynska, Barb Samulowska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1879</td>
<td>Knock, Ireland</td>
<td>15 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1884</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Pope Leo XIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 1900</td>
<td>Tung Lu, China</td>
<td>Many people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1904</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>St. Maximilian Kolbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1917</td>
<td>Fatima, Portugal</td>
<td>Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1918</td>
<td>San Giovanni, Italy</td>
<td>Padre Pio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ 1932</td>
<td>Beauraing, Belgium</td>
<td>5 children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Witness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Banneux, Belgium</td>
<td>Mariette Beco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Blessed Faustina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Heede-im-Emsland, Germany</td>
<td>4 girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Wangen, Germany</td>
<td>1 woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Marienfried, Germany</td>
<td>1 girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Codosera, Spain</td>
<td>2 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland</td>
<td>Ida Peerdeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Tre Fontane, Italy</td>
<td>Bruno Cornacchiola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>L'Ile-Bouchard, France</td>
<td>4 girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Syracuse, Italy</td>
<td>1 man and 1 woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Ngom, South Africa</td>
<td>1 “religious”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>San Vittorino Roman, Italy</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Cefala, Italy</td>
<td>4 children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Zeitoun, Egypt</td>
<td>Millions of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Milan, Italy</td>
<td>Father Stefano Gobbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Akita, Japan</td>
<td>Sister Agnes Sasagawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Betania, Venezuela</td>
<td>Maria Esperanza (stigmatist)³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Cuapa, Nicaragua</td>
<td>Father Edward Bernardo Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Millbury, Massachusetts</td>
<td>Eileen George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Kibeho, Africa</td>
<td>7 teenagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
<td>Myrna Nazzour (stigmatist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>San Nicolas, Argentina</td>
<td>Gladys Quiroga de Motta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Manilla, Philippines</td>
<td>Numerous soldiers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ A stigmatist is one who bears the wounds of Christ in his or her body. The wounds are bleeding and painful.
CHURCH APPROVED APPARITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Josyp Terelya and thousands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Sister Anna Ali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Geneva, Ohio</td>
<td>Mariamante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Litmanova, Slovakia</td>
<td>Ivetka Korcakova, Katka Ceselkova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Cochabamba, Bolivia</td>
<td>Catalina Rivas (stigmatist)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**

1) International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton's web site on Marian apparitions at: http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/aprtable.html

2) Catholic Apparitions of Jesus and Mary at: http://Apparitions.org/


Bishop of Leon. The book is also endorsed by Father Rene Laurentine.


**CHURCH APPROVAL DEFINED**

When the Church approves an apparition as genuine, the apparition and her messages are declared to conform with the true teaching of Jesus Christ and are in harmony with Church teaching. The Church’s approval declares that people may read and receive the messages without harm and that, in fact, the instructions and directions contained in them are useful and conducive to salvation. Their exact observance leads to a complete, living Christianity which fully comprises personal and public life. People are allowed to pay public adoration to the apparition without harm. They are allowed and even encouraged to visit Marian shrines at approved apparition sites. Although Catholics are not required to follow or obey the messages of an apparition, doing so will not harm their faith and may enhance it.

**UNITED SHE STANDS**

In the next chapter we will examine the apparitions’ messages with the Word of God. We will highlight mainly those messages which originate from approved apparition sites. But, we will also include some messages from other popular apparition sites. Though these sites do not carry official approval, none have been formally rejected.
Our purpose for this is to examine whether the major apparitions of Mary are putting forth a united front. And more importantly, do they agree with the Scriptures? Specifically, we will look at the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as presented in the pages of Scripture and compare His unique qualities with the qualities that the apparition of Mary ascribes to herself.
Chapter Nine

MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN?

THE EVIDENCE CONFIRMS – THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INFALLIBLE WORD

As we’ve seen in chapter 5, the Bible is the Word of God. It is God’s Word to mankind. His love letter to those who were created in His image and likeness. We can state with great certainty that: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16). Jesus Himself is the Word of God.¹ Amazingly, God has even magnified His Word above all His name!² The Bible stands alone. It is our only infallible source of truth. It is the discerner of truth and the filter that screens every claim, whether from man or spirit.

¹ John 1:14
² Psalm 138:2
This book was written for this purpose: to test the alleged messages from heaven. If they pass the test, we can confidently assert that God has indeed sent mankind a message of hope.

**The Word of God Testifies of Jesus**

It would be accurate to say that the Bible is all about Jesus Christ. Who He is, what He has done, what He will do; and our relationship with Him. The Bible states that “in the volume of the book it is written of Me [Jesus].” (Hebrews 10:7). Jesus Himself said: “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (John 5:39). The Bible declares that Jesus stands alone. He has many qualities that are uniquely His. The apparition of Mary also claims many unique qualities. Let’s look at the claims of the apparition of Mary and compare and contrast them to the Bible’s claims about Jesus.
Jesus expounded to His disciples in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. The Law of Moses, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Gospels, the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation all testify of Jesus Christ (See: Luke 24:27; John 1:45; Revelation 19:10).

**THE COMPARISON**

All messages quoted are from the apparition of Mary. The date, location, and visionary’s name are
listed in the footnotes. **No messages in this comparison have been formally disapproved or rejected by the Roman Catholic Church.**

**KEY**

* Denotes messages which have formal Church approval.

B Denotes messages which carry the Imprimatur of the local bishop.

M Denotes messages from Our Lady of Medjugorje.

ND Denotes messages which have not yet been approved or rejected.

1 – **SAVIOR:**

**Apparition of Mary:** Here is a sampling of the messages from Mary concerning the subject of savior:

M I call upon you to open yourselves completely to me so that through each of you I may be enabled to convert and save the world....³

ND In order to save souls, I wish that there be propagated in the world the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.⁴

* I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved.⁵

If sinners were to listen to my warnings and return to my Maternal Heart, my mercy toward them would be great, and they would find protection and salvation.6

I am the Mother of all peoples. I look at the hearts of nations, to gather the seeds of good and to make them blossom in the garden of my Immaculate Heart, that I may save them in greater numbers....7

My daughter, in this time, I am the Ark, for all your brethren! I am the Ark of peace, I am the Ark of salvation, the Ark where my children must enter, if they wish to live in the Kingdom of God.8

Many more similar messages could be quoted. Do these messages from the apparition of Mary agree with what the Scripture teaches? Let's examine the Scriptures to see what the Bible says about the Savior.

Scripture:

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).

---


6 Mother Elena Patriarca Leonardi, Mary’s Triumph Years of Revelation, via dei Gracchi, 29 B-Roma, House of the Kingdom of God and Reconciliation of Souls, pp. 65, 66. Message from Mary given in Italy to Mother Elena Leonardi.


[Jesus] has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:11-12).

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25).

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no savior besides Me (Hosea 13:4).

And we have seen and testified that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).

I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior (Isaiah 43:11).

These are a small sampling of the numerous verses that clearly teach that Jesus is our only Savior. Search as we might, there are no Scriptures that proclaim Mary, the prophets, the apostles, the angels, or any other created being as savior. Jesus is the only God-Man. As God, He paid the infinite price for our sins. As Man, He died for the sins of mankind. It appears that the apparition of Mary contradicts this clear, Scriptural teaching. Are these messages the exception? Are we misunderstanding her words? Let’s continue our comparison.
2 – SUFFERING SERVANT:

Apparition of Mary:

★ I am the same Mother, under different titles but I am Mary, of Nazareth, the Mother of Suffering.9

ND Our Loving Mother said, “We are both revealing our suffering faces to you. Tell others we suffer for them in love.”10

★ For a long time I have suffered for you; if I do not want my son to abandon you, I am forced to pray to him myself without ceasing. You pay no heed. However much you would do, you could never recompense the pain I have taken for you.11

ND I pray without ceasing for those of my children who have fallen into vice and corruption, suffering in their place.12

★ I boldly assert that His suffering became my suffering, because His heart was mine. And just as Adam and Eve sold the world for an apple, so in a

9 Sister Margaret Catherine Sims, CSJ, Apparitions in Betania, Venezuela: Mary, Virgin and Mother of Reconciliation of All People, Framingham, MA, Medjugorje Messengers, 1992, p. 50. Message to Maria Esperanza, Betania, Venezuela.


certain sense my Son and I redeemed the world with
one heart....

And now I look at all the human beings on earth to
see whether maybe there are a few who feel
compassion for me and who think of my sorrows, but I
find few who meditate on my suffering and sorrow.

The indifference of the children of God will not allow
them to see the great danger which lies in wait. The
pain in my heart will be all the more piercing, since it
will be these especially beloved sons who abandon
me...The selfishness of the children of God will be the
cause of conflicts and divisions which will intensify
my pain.

There are countless messages that claim Mary suf-
fers for us. Of course Mary did suffer while she was on
the earth, as all Christians do. Jesus told His followers
that in this present world we would have troubles, but
we were to be of good cheer because He had overcome
the world. While all Christians suffer, the Bible is ex-
PLICIT in declaring that only Jesus is the Suffering Ser-
vant who bore the sins of the world.

Scripture:

Throughout the Bible, men and women of God have
suffered for their faith. From Abraham to Joseph, from

---

14 Raphael Brown, Saints Who Saw Mary, Rockford, IL, Tan Books and
15 Thomas W. Petrisko, editor, “Our Lady of the Rosary in Puerto Rico,” Our
Lady Queen of Peace, McKees Rocks, PA, Pittsburgh Center for Peace, Special
Collado, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico, in April 1953.
Moses to the prophets and apostles, God guarantees that believers will suffer for their faith. This includes the Blessed Virgin Mary who suffered for her faith. Mary, having a child out of wedlock, would have been the scorn of that society. Watching her Son beaten and killed would certainly pierce her soul. Mary indeed suffered, but this is God’s promise to all believers: “We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22).

While all believers experience trials and tribulations for the cause of Christ, Jesus is uniquely qualified to suffer for sins. As the only righteous Man, Jesus alone was qualified to suffer and die in our place. Here is what the Bible teaches:

[Christ] committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:22-24).

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Hebrews 13:12).

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of
their salvation perfect through sufferings (Hebrews 2:9, 10).

Surely He [Jesus] has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed....Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:4, 5, 10).

Jesus is the Captain of our salvation because He became the Suffering Servant. Only Jesus bore our sins. Jesus committed no sin, yet suffered and died for the sins of all mankind. As Christians, we suffer for many reasons: because of our rebellion against God; because of the curse on all creation; to be conformed into the image of Christ; to give us sincere compassion for others who suffer; to humble us, and so on. But our suffering never pays the infinite debt of sin. Only Jesus’ suffering and death, because He is God, could pay the infinite price to atone for our sins. Why does the apparition of Mary claim that she shares a role that only Jesus could fulfill? Why does she claim to suffer for the sins of mankind, when the Bible teaches that only Jesus did?

3 – ATONING WORK:

Apparition of Mary:

MARY: I love you even when you are far away from me and my Son. I ask you not to allow my heart to shed tears
of blood because of the souls who are being lost through sin.16

★ The great Mother humiliated Herself to the lowest depths;...And, as if ashamed in the presence of her divine Son for not having paid her debts, She offered her own life and her own blood in satisfaction and in imitation of her Master's example....She begged that she alone be singled out to suffer for his love.17

★ A bleeding wound appeared on the right hand of the statue of Our Lady in the chapel. Sister's guardian angel told her the flowing blood is significant for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins.18

★ [Jesus] wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart....[Lucia recalled,] Before the palm of the right hand of Our Lady was a heart encircled by thorns which seemed to have pierced it like nails. We understood that it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary outraged by the sins of humanity, for which there must be reparation.19

B ...and how much blood flows down again from the weeping eyes of your heavenly mother20

18 Marian Apparitions of the 20th Century: A Message of Urgency, Marian Communications, Ltd. Testimonial based on the apparition of Mary to Sister Agnes Sasagawa, Akita, Japan.
Why does the apparition of Mary claim to share in something that only Jesus could do: namely, atone for our sin? Why does she reveal to visionaries that she suffers for sin? Why would the apparition confuse this straight-forward teaching?

**Scripture:**

The Bible teaches that Jesus’ death atoned for the sins of the world. What does that mean? We don’t use the word “atone” in our common speech, so often its meaning escapes us. To confuse the issue more, the modern word has picked up new meanings that do not fit Scripture. So what does the Bible mean by the word “atone?”

To begin with, the Bible teaches that the sins of the world—past, present and future—have one ultimate consequence. That consequence is described by the word “death.” As sinners, the Bible tells us we not only face physical death, but also a second death. This is the second death: “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14, 15).

Man faces a “death” penalty in the Lake of Fire. Not only must this penalty be paid, but it must be paid for eternity. The Scripture speaks of those who are cast into the lake of fire as being tormented day and night forever and ever.21 So sin has an infinite penalty—eternal death in the Lake of Fire. This is not very good news.

But there is good news. The Bible tells us that God left heaven and came to the earth as a man—the God-

---

21 Revelation 20:10
man, Christ Jesus. Since God is infinite, the suffering Jesus endured on the cross was of infinite value. His death was an infinite payment for all sins, for all time, for all mankind. The Bible says that Jesus literally died in our place, as our substitute, paying the eternal death-penalty for us.

God now gives each of us a choice to make. Which payment plan do we prefer? We can pay our own sin-penalty for all eternity OR we can accept the payment that was made for us by Jesus Christ on the cross. It’s our choice. If we put our faith in God’s payment plan, then the Bible says that God gives us a “perfection” or “righteousness” that allows us to live in His holy presence for eternity. Here are some of the verses that teach that Jesus, and only Jesus, reconciled us to God through His atoning death:

And the Lord has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all...By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify (declare righteous) many, for He shall bear their iniquities (Isaiah 53:6, 11).

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His foot-stool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ...there is no longer an offering for sin (Hebrews 10:12-14, 18).
For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

4 – MEDIATOR:

Apparition of Mary:

M  Dear children, today I invite you to ask yourself why I am with you this long. I am the Mediatrix between you and God.22

ND All come to this place from all parts of the earth, for I as Mediatrix of All Graces, will pour out graces on all of you.23

★  It is for this, that, as Mother, as Immaculate Mother, Mediatrix of all Graces, that I call you to this place...so that my union with you may be more intimate and vital, through the Holy Spirit, permitting you to live deeply in the spirit of the Gospel.24

ND While the world is rushing into moral decays, all the children of the world will soon know that I am the “Mediatrix of Graces.”25

ND I ask that at the same time during each Saturday, you come together and pray and consecrate your lives to me, that I may be your ‘Mediator’ with Our God.

---

23 Ibid. p. 311. Virgin Mary message to Amparo Cuevos, Escorial, Spain, May 6, 1989.
24 Sims, p. 42. Message given to Maria Esperanza in Betania, Venezuela.
During this time of prayer, renew your consecration to me and sing songs of praise to Our Lord.26

★ Little children, I am the Mother of Good Counsel, Mediator, who is trying to persuade you to listen to the call. My message is of faith, love and hope. More than anything, it brings reconciliation between people and nations. It is the only thing that can save this century from war and eternal death.27

In these preceding messages, we see that the apparition is claiming another privilege that only Jesus has. Jesus, not any created being, is able to mediate between God and mankind. Certainly, the humble and obedient Virgin Mary from Nazareth would never ascribe attributes to herself that only Jesus possesses.

Scripture:

The Bible teaches that the requirement for mediation between God and man is that the individual must be both God and man, thereby bridging the gap between an infinite and perfect God and finite and imperfect man. Only Jesus can bridge that gap.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

For through Him [Jesus] we both have access by one Spirit to the Father (Ephesians 2:18).

27 Sims, p. 50. Message given to Maria Esperanza in Betania, Venezuela.
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

...to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant... (Hebrews 12:24).

But now He [Jesus] has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

There are more verses, but these are indisputable. Why does the apparition of Mary claim to mediate between God and mankind? What purpose would she have in making such a claim?

5 – INTERCESSOR:

Apparition of Mary:

Not surprisingly, the apparition of Mary claims that she intercedes to God for sinful man. Here are a few of the numerous messages regarding Mary’s intercession to God on our behalf.

M I am with you and I intercede before God for each one of you because, dear children, each one of you is important in my plan of salvation.28

★ Be thou blessed, O my Lady, Virgin Mary, in that every faithful soul praises the Holy Trinity because thou art its noblest creation, an ever ready intercessor

---

MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN?

on behalf of souls in need and the Advocate and most trusted Protectress of all sinners.29

B My beloved daughter, I, the Mother, love my children and my help reaches those who wish to have it. I intercede for all, because all are in my heart.30

ND I tell you again, I am your mother, your intercessor with my Son. I need prayers from the heart to grant these requests all the people of the nations call to me for. I desire to offer your prayers to my Son.31

★ With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross….32

M I invite you to pray and to give yourselves completely to God. I will give you strength and help you whenever you are in need; ask then, for all that you need, for I will intercede for you in God's presence.33

B Do not let yourselves be seized by fear or discouragement. Have great confidence in the powerful work of intercession and mediation of your heavenly Mother.34

---

29 Raphael Brown, p. 68. Mary revealed this prayer to St. Bridget of Sweden, 14th century.
30 Messages of Our Lady at San Nicolas, p. 198.
34 Mihalik, p. 34: Message number 441i to Father Gobbi.
There are many more messages that claim that Mary is the intercessor between mankind and the Father or the Son. Of course, the Bible does exhort believers to pray for one another (1 Timothy 2:1), but it forbids us from praying to those who have died (Deuteronomy 18:11). Scripture teaches that it is Jesus who has entered heaven and is now interceding on behalf of believers. If Jesus is interceding for us, as the Bible states, why would the apparition of Mary claim to perform a function that only the God-Man could? Let's review these Scriptures.

**Scripture:**

And [Jesus] bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).

Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us (Romans 8:34).

There are additional verses, but these are clear and concise. Search as we might, there is not a single Scripture that teaches that any created being is in heaven acting as our intercessor with God.
6 – ADVOCATE:

Apparition of Mary:

ND Pray for the world and for peace. I love you and I am your Mother. Therefore, children, pray and remember that I am the Mediatrix, I am the Coredemtrix and I am your Advocate before the almighty and powerful throne of God....

B The world is degenerating, so much so, that it was necessary for the Father and the Son to send Me into the world, among all the peoples, in order to be their Advocate and to save them.

ND I promise to facilitate and/or provide the necessary graces for salvation before death to all those who, in times of confusion and of definition of the way towards my most Beloved Son, promulgate my name as Mother of the True Way to the Father.

B When the dogma, the last dogma in Marian history, has been proclaimed, “the Lady of All Nations” will give peace, true peace to the world. The nations, however, must say My prayer in union with the Church. They must know that “the Lady of All Nations” will give peace, true peace to the world.

---

MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN

Nations” has come as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate. So be it!38

Scripture:

The Bible teaches that Jesus is our only Advocate with the Father. When Satan accuses believers in Christ, Jesus steps forward and acts as our defense attorney. Search as we might, the Bible declares that there is only one Advocate and no created being could hold that office – only Jesus.

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. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world (1 John 2:1, 2).

For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24).

Again, only Jesus has the credentials to be our Advocate. Yet, the apparition of Mary contradicts this critical biblical fact.

MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN?

7 – REDEEMER: 

Apparition of Mary:

In the words of the apparition of Mary, we see that she even claims that the Father chose her to co-redeem mankind.

B I stand here as the Co-Redemptrix and Advocate. Everything should be concentrated on that. Repeat this after Me: The new dogma will be the “dogma of the Co-Redemptrix.” Notice, I lay special emphasis on “Co.” I have said that it will arouse much controversy. Once again I tell you that the Church, “Rome,” will carry it through and silence all objections. 

B In the sufferings, both spiritual and bodily, the Lady, the Mother has shared. She has always gone before. As soon as the Father had elected Her, She was the Co-Redemptrix with the Redeemer, who came into the world as the Man-God. Tell that to your theologians.

ND Youth is corrupted by sin and vice. It is sick, but with a sickness that has no remedy, my daughter. Only

---

39 It should be noted that Catholic theologians who are in favor of proclaiming Mary as Co-Redemptrix, are careful to point out that the prefix “co” does not mean equal to Christ, but rather indicates Mary’s singular and unique sharing with her Son in the saving work of redemption. However, this clarification is not evident in the apparition of Mary’s messages, nor do most of the millions of supporters recognize this theological stipulation. (Refer to: Mark I. Miravalle, S.T.D., The Dogma and the Triumph, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1998, p. 115.)

40 Kunzli, p. 49. Message given to Ida Peerdeman on April 29, 1951.

41 Ibid., p. 50. Message given on April 29, 1951.
Mary, who is Coredeemer of mankind, can help souls to be saved in these times.\textsuperscript{42}

\begin{itemize}
\item[B] Until I am acknowledged there where the Most Holy Trinity has willed me to be, I will not be able to exercise my power fully, in the maternal work of coredemption and of the universal mediation of graces….Sons, let yourselves be transformed by my powerful action as Mother, Mediatrix of Graces and Coredempatrix.\textsuperscript{43}
\item[★] I boldly assert that His suffering became my suffering, because His Heart was mine. And just as Adam and Eve sold the world for an apple, so in a certain sense my Son and I redeem the world with one Heart….\textsuperscript{44}
\end{itemize}

Many more messages could be cited. Certainly the humble maidservant of the Lord would never oppose or deny her Redeemer. Let’s review some verses on this subject.

**Scripture:**

…looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (Titus 2:13, 14).

\textsuperscript{43} Gobbi, pp. 264-265. Message given to Father Gobbi, June 14, 1980.
\textsuperscript{44} Petrisko, \textit{Call of the Ages}, p. 247. Message from Mary to St. Bridget, 14\textsuperscript{th} century.
You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood… (Revelation 5:9).

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth (Psalm 31:5).

As for our Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 47:4).

The Bible teaches that there is only one Redeemer. The word “redeem” means to “set free through a payment.” Throughout His Word, God has made it clear that He Himself would redeem mankind. The Bible says that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself on the cross.45 When Jesus died as our substitute, the ransom for our soul was secured. In no way did Mary of Nazareth redeem or co-redeem mankind. Perhaps the apparition of Mary seeks to confuse this eternally important issue.

45 2 Corinthians 5:19
“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).
8 – Sinless:

Apparition of Mary:

The apparition of Mary frequently refers to her Immaculate Heart and sinless nature. Our Lady of Paris appeared in a vision to seeress St. Catherine Laboure in 1830, and uttered these words:

★ “Oh Mary conceived without sin, Pray for us who have recourse to you.”

Not surprisingly, it was this apparition, in part, that encouraged the pope to officially proclaim that Mary was immaculately conceived. The Immaculate Conception dogma declares that the Virgin Mary was conceived without sin and was therefore sinless. This “infallible” dogma was officially proclaimed by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854.

And in 1858, just four years after the “infallible” doctrine stating that Mary was born without original sin was proclaimed, the apparition appeared again, this time to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France. At Lourdes, the apparition confirmed the pope’s decree by making the statement:

★ “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

48 Lord, p. 63.
And today, the apparitions continue to claim that Mary is sinless.

B Beloved sons, today you are gazing upon the immaculate splendor of your heavenly Mother. I am the Immaculate Conception. I am the only creature free from every stain of sin, even the original one. I am all beautiful.  

M I am calling you to Consecration to my Immaculate Heart. I want you to consecrate yourselves as persons, families, and parishes so that all belongs to God through my hands.

M I love you all and I call you to be closer to me and that your love towards my Immaculate Heart be more fervent.

B I gather in the chalice of my Immaculate Heart all your sufferings, the great sorrows of all humanity in the time of its great tribulation and I present them to Jesus as a sign of reparation for all the sins which are committed each day in the world.

Of course the most famous Marian prophecy was pronounced in 1917 by Our Lady of Fatima. It again referred to Mary's sinless nature:

★ “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!”

---

52 Mihalik, p. 35. Message number 576f to Father Gobbi.
53 Lord, p. 150.
Many more quotes could be cited, but it is difficult to deny that the apparition is teaching another doctrine that directly contradicts the Bible.54

**Scripture:**

Jesus Christ is sinless. That fact stands without question. But the Bible also teaches that since the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, all mankind has sinned. We are sinners by nature55 and by choice.56 There are no exceptions. Here is what the Bible declares:

For He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin (1 John 3:5).

**No one is good but One, that is, God** (Matthew 19:17).

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:23, 24).

But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe (Galatians 3:22).

---

54 For a thorough treatment on the apparition of Mary’s influence on Infallible Doctrines concerning Mary’s sinless nature, her assumption and perpetual virginity, please refer to: Timothy K. Kauffman, *Graven Bread*, Huntsville, AL, White Horse Publications, 1994.

55 Psalm 51:5

56 Isaiah 53:6
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

Mary herself believed in Jesus and trusted in Him to wash away her sins. She acknowledged that she needed a Savior when she said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:46, 47).

9 – OMNIPRESENT:

Apparition of Mary:

M I am with you and unceasingly I keep watch over every heart which is given to me.57

★ You will never be alone. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way which will lead you to God.58

B Complete this Novena, obeying my request: Pray, that you may be perfectly aware that Mary, Christ’s Mother, is today among you! As Mother, I am always present to the needs of my children. I want you to know that my watch will remain unaltered.59

B At every moment you must be just as I would have you be; at every moment you must do just what I would have you do. Do not be afraid. I will always be near you.60

M Dear children, I am especially grateful that you are here tonight. Adore unceasingly the Most Blessed

58 Lord, p. 146. Message from Our Lady of Fatima.
Sacrament of the altar. Know that I am always present when the faithful are adoring.\textsuperscript{61}

★ Do not be grieved. I am with all of you even though you do not see me. I am Mother of all of you, sinners.\textsuperscript{62}

Amazingly, the apparition claiming itself to be Mary, even states unequivocally that she is ever present. Yet, God’s infallible Word states unequivocally that only God is ever present.

**Scripture:**

God is Spirit and His Spirit is present everywhere simultaneously. Only God transcends His creation. Here are some Scriptures that confirm God’s omnipresence and establish Jesus’ divinity:

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me (Psalm 139:7-10).

**I [Jesus] am with you always, even to the end of the age** (Matthew 28:20).

I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

\textsuperscript{61} Beyer, July 18\textsuperscript{th} meditation.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever (Psalm 125:2).

These are some of the verses that teach us that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are ever present. The Scripture is explicit on this point. What is also clear is that no created being is omnipresent. Not the angels, the prophets, the apostles, nor even Mary is omnipresent. In the first chapter of the Book of Job, we find that even Satan is limited to being in only one place at one time.63 There is not a single Scripture that would suggest that any of God’s creation is omnipresent.

10 – Divine

Apparition of Mary:

Amazingly, the apparition of Mary even claims qualities that only a god or goddess would possess. Here are a few examples:

★ I gave you six days for working. The seventh I have reserved for myself. But no one will give it to me. This is what causes the weight of my Son’s arm to be so crushing.64

B I am she who is related to the DIVINE TRINITY. I am the Virgin of Revelation.65

ND Trust also in your Mother. I am the Morning Star whom announces the day, the Light which is near, the

---

63 Job 1:6, 7
64 Lord, p. 70. Apparition of Mary to Maximin Graud and Melanie Mathieu, LaSalette, France, 1846.
65 Petrisko, Call of the Ages, p. 11. Apparition of Mary to Bruno Cornacchiola, Tre Fontane, Italy.
Light of God, the Light of Love, the Light of peace, the Light of eternal salvation....I will ascend to heaven to take possession of My throne alongside of My Son.66

★ After placing the most blessed Mary on this exalted and supereminent throne, the Lord declared to the courtiers of heaven all the privileges She should enjoy in virtue of this participation in his majesty....At the same time a voice sounded from the throne saying: “My Beloved, chosen among the creatures, our kingdom is Thine....We give Thee power majesty and sovereignty. Being filled with grace beyond all the rest Thou hast humiliated Thyself in thy own estimation to the lowest place; receive now the supreme dignity deserved by Thee and, as a participation in our Divinity, the dominion over all the creatures of our Omnipotence.”67

★ Praise, therefore, be to God the Sovereign Emperor and Lord, who has exalted thee that thou art also Empress and Lady in the everlasting Kingdom, reigning with Him, world without end. Amen.68

Scripture:

The Bible reveals that there are many false gods, but there is only one true God. Let’s survey the Scriptures.

67 Mary of Agreda, pp. 655-656, para. 777-8. Apparition of Mary to Sister Mary of Agreda, Spain circa 1617.
68 Raphael Brown, p. 68. Mary revealed this prayer to St. Bridget of Sweden, 14th century.
For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God (Psalm 86:10).

Thus says the Lord...I have made the earth, and created man on it. I, My hands, stretched out the heavens, and all their hosts I have commanded (Isaiah 45:11, 12).

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:3).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1, 14).

**I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God** (Isaiah 44:6).

An essential belief of Christianity is that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

**11 – WORTHY OF WORSHIP:**

**Apparition of Mary:**

A disturbing practice occurs at most apparition sites. The apparition of Mary actually encourages her followers to worship her. Many visionaries and seers even claim that they are forced to their knees when the apparition appears! Other visionaries state that the apparition tells them to kneel.
According to Bob and Penny Lord, enthusiastic supporters of the apparition of Mary, the apparition threw the visionary Bernadette at Lourdes, France to her knees!\(^69\) Video footage exists that shows the six young visionaries at Medjugorje simultaneously falling to their knees when the apparition first appears. In addition, the apparition of Mary at Lourdes, France; Guadalupe, Mexico; Beauraing, Belgium; Fatima, Portugal and many other sites, demands that shrines or temples be built in her honor where the faithful may come and venerate her.\(^70\) It should be noted that the apparitions at the four sites mentioned above have received full approval by the Roman Catholic Church. The message is clear at all of the major apparition sites: The apparition of Mary is worthy of worship, praise, and honor.

Furthermore, the apparitions have inspired numerous prayers that the faithful are to recite and obey. One example of prayer to Mary can be found in the popular *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*.

Behold at thy feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help, a wretched sinner who has recourse to thee and confides in thee. O Mother of Mercy, have pity on me. I hear thee called by all the refuge and hope of sinners; be then my refuge and my hope....O Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying.\(^71\)

---

\(^{69}\) Lord, p. 87.
\(^{70}\) Ibid., pp. 22, 26, 54, 55, 87, 130, 146, 169, 172, 214.
Notice at the beginning of this prayer that the wretched sinner is at the feet of Mary. Would the humble Mary of the Bible encourage people to fall at her feet? Wouldn't this violate the second commandment? Here is what the Bible states.
Scripture:

Obviously the Bible teaches that only God is to be worshipped. The first and second commandments forbid believers to worship or serve any other:

You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image – any likeness of anything...you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...
(Exodus 20:3-5).

In the Book of Acts, Peter went to proclaim the gospel to a just man named Cornelius. When Peter arrived at Cornelius’s house, Cornelius fell down at Peter’s feet and worshipped him. But Peter told Cornelius, “Stand up; I myself am also a man.” (Acts 10:24-26).

The Bible repeatedly commands believers to worship God, and Him alone. In the Book of Revelation, the apostle John falls at the feet of a magnificent angel. Immediately the angel rebukes John and says, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (Revelation 22:8, 9).

The angel could not have been clearer – all of creation is to worship God alone. In the Book of Revelation, we are told that there is only One in heaven who is worthy of worship: “the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by
When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, we see that the devil wanted to be worshipped. “[Satan showed Jesus] all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’” (Matthew 4:8-10).

Jesus specifically states that only the Lord is to be worshipped. Of course Jesus allowed His followers to worship Him, thereby establishing that He is God.

By this point in the comparison, we should not be surprised to learn that the apparition of Mary claims almost every characteristic that is uniquely attributed to Jesus Christ. Let’s investigate a few more.

12 – PRINCE OF PEACE:

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He has made peace with God possible for all who come to Him by faith through His atoning work of the cross. Peace is available to fallen man through the cross. God is holy and righteous and cannot wink at sin, but through the Prince of Peace, God’s righteousness is satisfied, while at the same time His ever-enduring mercy triumphs over judgment. Here’s how the Bible puts it:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And

---

72 Matthew 14:28-33
His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, *having made peace through the blood of His cross* (Colossians 1:19, 20).

**For He Himself is our peace**… (Ephesians 2:14).

**MARY: OUR QUEEN OF PEACE?**

The Bible is clear: Jesus, not Mary, has made it possible for us to be reconciled with God. However, the apparition of Mary sees it differently.

**M** “Little Children, do not be afraid because I am with you even when you think there is no way out and that Satan is in control. I am bringing peace to you. I am your Mother and the Queen of Peace.”

Concerning Mary’s message of peace at Medjugorje, Marian expert Dr. Thomas W. Petrisko writes: “So central indeed is peace to her Medjugorje message that Our Lady wants June 25 (the date of her first apparition in 1981 to the definitive six-strong group) to be dedicated to herself as ‘Queen of Peace’.”

Regarding Mary’s promise at Fatima, Petrisko writes: “With the 1984 consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Holy Father and the

---


74 Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 63.
Bishops, the final acts were set in motion for the fulfillment of the promise at Fatima of an Era of Peace.\textsuperscript{75}

Over and over again, Mary states that she wants to be our Queen of Peace.

\textbf{M} “I have come here as Queen of Peace to tell the world that peace is necessary for the salvation of the world. In God, one finds true joy from which true peace is derived.\textsuperscript{76}

Author Emmett Culligan summarized the apparition of Mary’s promise to bring peace with these words:

Our Lady of Fatima promised: “In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph and a period of peace will be granted humanity.” This is an absolute promise without qualification. It is certain to come. What other great news could the Mother of God bring to earth other than Peace on Earth? The first promise of her Son at Bethlehem was Peace on Earth. The coming of Triumphant Peace for the world is truly great news.

Our Mother’s promise of Peace is one of the most profound statements that have been given to mankind since Christ’s Ascension into Heaven. This promise gives the key to what man can expect from the year 1917 to the time of the General Judgment. Most people believe that this promised peace is merely a cessation of war; but it is much more than that. It will be a peace such as the world has never known. It will be

\textsuperscript{75} Thomas W. Petrisko, \textit{The Last Crusade}, McKees Rock, PA, St. Andrews Productions, 1996, pp. 32, 33.

peace for all humanity. It can be nothing less than ABSOLUTE peace that she will give to mankind.77

Queen of Peace has become one of the apparition’s most popular titles. Once again, the apparition of Mary claims qualities that are uniquely Jesus’. As for bringing peace on earth, it is interesting that Jesus stated: “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.” (Luke 12: 51). He went on to explain that people would be divided over Him. Some would believe in Him and receive peace with God through His cleansing blood. Others would not believe in Him and they would perish.

Scripture:

Jesus also said, “in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Ultimately, Jesus will establish lasting peace at His Second Coming. However, the Scriptures are clear that He will reign as King alone.78 **There will be no Queen assisting Him!**

He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth’ (Zechariah 9:10).

13 – **King of Kings:**

Jesus is the King of Kings. The Bible declares that Jesus is above all. He has no equal. Every created thing

---

78 Psalm 2:8; Isaiah 2:4; Jeremiah 23:5; Zechariah 14:8, 9; Revelation 11:15; 19:15
will, at the end of the age, bow before God and declare that Jesus is King and Lord. In the end, creation will only bow down to Christ the King.

[Jesus] is the blessed and only Potentate [Sovereign], the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light... (1 Timothy 6:15, 16).

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

And He [Jesus] has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS... (Revelation 19:16).

MARY: QUEEN OF QUEENS

Amazingly, the apparition of Mary, has claimed to be Queen with the King. The title Queen is a common title that the faithful apply to the apparition of Mary. Below is a representative list of some of the titles the apparition has ascribed to herself, or the faithful have ascribed to the apparition.79

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Queen of Heaven</th>
<th>Queen of Peace</th>
<th>Queen of the Cosmos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queen of the Sea</td>
<td>Queen of Hearts</td>
<td>Queen of the Universe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen of Angels</td>
<td>Queen of the Sun</td>
<td>Queen of the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen of Eternity</td>
<td>Queen of all Saints</td>
<td>Queen of the Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen of Prophets</td>
<td>Queen of Apostles</td>
<td>Queen of Patriarchs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

79 Weglian, p. 117. This book lists over two dozen of her titles as “Queen.”
There are more, but this representative list shows clearly that the apparition has identified herself as “Queen of Queens.” When the apparition of Mary appeared to St. Bridget of Sweden in the fourteenth century, she proclaimed that she was the Queen. And throughout history, including many recent messages, she affirms that she is Queen over all. Here are just two examples.

★ “I am Mary, the Queen of Heaven and the Queen of Angels.”\(^{80}\)

B “The Lady of All Nations, who is the Bride of the Lord, the Queen of the King, who has now received this title from the Lord, She has once again saved the world by Her intercession once more saved it!”\(^{81}\)

---

\(^{80}\) Raphael Brown, p. 63. [bold not in original]

\(^{81}\) Kunzli, pp. 94, 95. Message given on May 31, 1957.
Chapter Ten

EQUALITY WITH CHRIST?

**Comparison Table**

This comparison could go on and on. For instance, the Bible says that Jesus is the new Adam,\(^1\) while the apparition claims to be the new Eve. The Bible states that Jesus ascended bodily,\(^2\) while the apparition claims that Mary was assumed bodily. The Bible states that Jesus alone destroyed the works of the devil at the cross and will crush Satan underfoot shortly,\(^3\) while the apparition claims that Mary will crush the serpent underfoot. The Bible calls Jesus the Morning Star,\(^4\) while Marian advocates and the apparition herself refer to “Mary” as the Morning Star.

It seems that no matter what unique trait the Bible ascribes only to Jesus, the apparition of Mary quickly

\(^1\) 1 Corinthians 15:45  
\(^2\) Ephesians 4:8-10  
\(^3\) 1 John 3:8; Romans 16:20  
\(^4\) Revelation 22:16
ascribes to herself. The following table summarizes some of the claims of the apparition of Mary and compares them to the unique qualities found only in Jesus Christ.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Jesus' unique qualities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Apparitions' claimed qualities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savior</td>
<td>Savior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 4:42; Acts 4:11, 12; Hebrews 7:25; Hosea 13:4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffering Servant</td>
<td>Suffering Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 2:21-24; Hebrews 13:12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atoning work complete</td>
<td>Atoning work continuing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:12-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediator</td>
<td>Mediatrix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6 and 12:24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercessor</td>
<td>Intercessor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 53:12; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; Luke 23:34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate</td>
<td>Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 John 2:1, 2; Hebrews 9:24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redeemer</td>
<td>Co-Redemptrix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 31:5; Titus 2:13, 14; Revelation 5:9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinless</td>
<td>Sinless - The Immaculate Conception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 19:17; 1 John 3:5; Romans 3:23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnipresent</td>
<td>Omnipresent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 139:7-9; Heb. 13:5; Matthew 28:20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine</td>
<td>Divine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 86:10; Isaiah 44:6; John 1:1, 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthy of Worship</td>
<td>Worthy of Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exodus 20:4, 5; Acts 10:24-26; Rev. 22:8, 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inspired Prayers to Mary

The apparitions of Mary, taken as a whole, portray a powerful, glorious Queen who comes in Christ’s name, wielding all His power and attributes. Many apparitions have inspired and even dictated prayers to Mary. Many of these prayers illustrate her supposed supremacy and equality with Jesus Christ. The following prayer to Mary is an example of the many prayers from the faithful which clearly portray a different Mary than the one found in the pages of Scripture.
Come then, to my help, dearest Mother, for I recommend myself to thee. **In thy hands I place my eternal salvation and to thee do I entrust my soul.** Count me among thy most devoted servants; take me under thy protection, and it is enough for me. For, if thou protect me, dear Mother, I fear nothing; not from my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils, because thou art more powerful than all hell together; nor even Jesus, my Judge himself, because by one prayer from thee he will be appeased. But one thing I fear, that in the hour of temptation I may neglect to call on thee and thus perish miserably. Obtain for me, then, the pardon of my sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace always to have recourse to thee, O Mother of Perpetual Help.5

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin and my Mother, Mary, to thee, who art the Mother of my Lord, the Queen of the world, the advocate, the hope, and the refuge of sinners, I have recourse today, I who am the most miserable of all. I render thee my most humble homage, O great Queen, and I thank thee for the graces thou hast obtained for me until now, and in particular for having saved me from hell which I have so often deserved. I love thee, O most amiable Lady; and, for the love which I bear thee. I promise to serve thee always and to do all in my power to make others also love thee. I place in thee all my hopes and **I confide my salvation to thy care.**6

---

5 *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*, Liquori, MO, Liquori Publications, pp. 38, 39. [bold not in original]
6 Ibid., p. 40. [italics not in original]
One of the countless illustrations of the Queen of Heaven.
**TRUE HONOR TO MARY**

The true Mary of the Bible is worthy of our respect and honor. We do not honor her by obeying and listening to an apparition that distorts the truth and confuses the gospel. We do honor her when we follow Jesus and obey His words. While the information contained in this chapter may offend some readers, we must remember that eternal souls are at stake. If we love Jesus and desire to lead souls to Him we must proclaim the truth, no matter how painful. Love without truth is a lie. We would be wise to heed Mary’s last recorded words, “Whatever He [Jesus] says to you, do it.” (John 2:5). Only in this way do we show Mary the respect she deserves.
OUR LADY’S GOSPEL

ONE MORE TEST

The litmus test for any self-proclaimed messenger from heaven is to compare the gospel message given in the Bible with the messenger’s gospel presentation. Certainly, Mary of Nazareth would present the gospel clearly. She knows the everlasting importance of proclaiming the Good News. Does the apparition of Mary present the gospel in clear terms?

Gospel simply means “good news.” Since the time of Adam and Eve and the Fall in the Garden of Eden, mankind has been under the curse. As poor sinners we are under condemnation for our sins. Sin demands death, both a physical death and an eternal death in the Lake of Fire. God hates sin and will not permit any unclean thing into heaven. This is mankind’s terrible state. Certainly we all need some good news, and we have it in Jesus Christ! Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins on the cross. He was our substitute – dying in our place for our sins. He paid the death penalty demanded by our sin. As Isaiah states, God made Jesus’
soul an offering for sin. Every person on earth has the liberty to accept God’s free gift of forgiveness. This is the good news! By putting our trust in Jesus as the one who has paid our sin debt, we can enter heaven!

In our fallen nature, we feel compelled to merit God’s favor. We imagine that we are good enough to deserve salvation. However, the Word of God is clear, no one can earn salvation. We can’t earn a gift. We can only receive it by faith.

I will declare your righteousness and your works, for they will not profit you (Isaiah 57:12).

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified (Galatians 2:16).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us (Titus 3:5).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE APPARITION OF MARY

Let’s now examine the apparition of Mary’s requirements to enter heaven. How does her “gospel” compare with the Bible’s. Here is a message from Our Lady of Kibeho, Rwanda that succinctly states the apparition’s teaching on salvation. This apparition has been approved by the local bishop.

---

1 Isaiah 53:10
We must prepare while there is still time. Those who do well will go to Heaven. If they do evil, they will condemn themselves with no hope of appeal. Do not lose time in doing good and praying. There is not much time and Jesus will come.\textsuperscript{2}

Similarly, the following is a summary of the steps required to obtain eternal life as prescribed by Our Lady of Fatima. This most famous Church approved apparition of Mary at Fatima, lays out quite an elaborate set of rituals required to enter heaven. Our Lady of Fatima’s particular formula for salvation, taken from the book \textit{Our Lady of Fatima’s Peace Plan From Heaven}, is common to most approved apparitions.

This devotion consists in 1) going to Confession, 2) receiving Holy Communion, 3) reciting 5 decades of the Rosary, and 4) spending 15 minutes with Our Lady meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary – all with the intention of making reparation to her.

\textit{The Mediatrix of All Graces has promised, at the hour of death, all graces necessary for salvation to those who faithfully practice this devotion} for the First Saturday of any five consecutive months. (NOTE: The Confession may be made under the usual condition of 8 days before or after Holy Communion, provided that the person is not in the state of mortal sin when he receives Holy Communion.)...

One of the best forms of consecration for the average layman is to wear the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Sister Lucia has said that all Catho-

lies should wear the Brown Scapular as part of the Fatima message....A person who wears this Scapular declares he belongs to Mary. In return, the Mother of God has promised eternal life to those who die wearing this mantle...Wearing the Scapular serves as a constant reminder of one's personal consecration to Mary and of the necessity of imitating her virtues and heeding her requests.3

PIOUS ACTS

Praying the Rosary, wearing the Brown Scapular, receiving the Eucharist, and other devotional acts are the means to obtain eternal life according to Our Lady of Fatima.

Another Church approved apparition, Our Lady of Beauraing in Belgium, exhorted her followers to a slightly different set of good works and ordinances to merit heaven. Calling herself the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven, she told the visionaries to: always be good, build her a chapel, pray always, and sacrifice themselves for her. She also promised that she would convert sinners.4 Exactly how she would convert sinners is not specified. Apparently those who sacrifice themselves completely to her have the best chance at gaining entrance to heaven.

Our Lady of Paris, who appeared to Catherine Labouré in 1830, promised great graces to all who wear, what came to be called, the Miraculous Metal. The ap-

---

parition spoke to the visionary Catherine these words, “Have a Metal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence.”\textsuperscript{5} Tragically, multiplied thousands of Catholics and others have placed their dying trust in this amulet.

The apparition of Mary promises great graces and even eternal life to those who wear the Brown Scapular or the Miraculous Metal.

The apparitions’ list of required works is quite shocking to those who know the Word of God. But for those who have not sought God diligently in His Word, these pious acts seem to be reasonable ways to appease God. And sadly, these Church approved apparitions are the norm rather than the exception. Every apparition that we have examined substitutes the Bible’s true gospel with a false gospel of works.

\textsuperscript{5} Ibid., p. 55.
OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S GOSPEL

Medjugorje represents the most influential apparition of our day. Does Our Lady of Medjugorje present the clear biblical gospel? Consider the following interview between Father Swetozar (S) and Ivanka Ivankovic (I), one of the six visionaries from Medjugorje who has been receiving messages since 1981:

I: The Madonna said that religions are separated in the earth, but the people of all religions are accepted by her Son.

S: Does that mean that all people go to Heaven?

I: It depends on what they deserve.

S: Yes, but many have never heard about Jesus.

I: Jesus knows all about that; I don’t. The Madonna said, basically, religions are similar; but many people have separated themselves, because of religion, and become enemies of each other.6

Can we summarize from the above conversation that the apparition of Mary at Medjugorje teaches that people go to heaven by being good, and that people can actually deserve entrance into heaven? Does she teach that all religions are accepted by Jesus? Let’s review a similar interview between Father Vasic (V) and Mirjana (M), another of the six Medjugorje visionaries.

V: Did you ask about the conditions for a person to enter Heaven?

---

M: No, I didn’t, but, we can probably say what they are.
    God is not looking for great believers but simply for
    those who respect their faith and live peacefully,
    without malice, meanness, falsehood.

V: This is your interpretation, your understanding?

M: Yes. After I talked to the Madonna, I came to that
    conclusion: No one has to perform miracles or do great
    penance; merely live a simple, peaceful life.7

    It seems that the Queen of Peace has never divulged
the true gospel to these visionaries. From this interview,
can we also conclude that “Mary” teaches that the peo-
ple of all religions are accepted by God if they live a
simple, peaceful life without malice, meanness, and
falsehood? Is the apparition of Mary stating that as long
as we respect each other’s faith and live peacefully, we
will enter heaven? Do these two visionaries who have
received hundreds of messages from an apparition un-
derstand the gospel message as presented in the Bible?
Let’s continue with Father Vlasic’s interview with Mir-
jana.

M: The Madonna always stresses that there is one God,
    and that people have enforced unnatural separation.
    One cannot truly believe, be a true Christian, if he
    does not respect other religions as well. You do not
    really believe in God if you make fun of other
    religions.

V: What, then, is the role of Jesus Christ, if the Moslem
    religion is a good religion?

    7 Ibid., p. 58.
M: We did not discuss that. She merely explained, and deplored, the lack of religious unity, “especially in the villages.” She said that everybody’s religion should be respected, and, of course, one’s own.8

Apparently, Our Lady of Medjugorje has revealed to the visionaries that the people of all religions can be saved outside of Jesus Christ as long as they live good lives and respect each other’s religion. According to the Queen of Peace, religious unity is more important then biblical truth or salvation. This is another obvious contradiction to the truth found in God’s inerrant Word.

THE BIBLE’S GOSPEL

The Good News found in the Bible is presented in clear, indisputable language. From beginning to end, God’s Word declares that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus alone. Here is the gospel of Jesus Christ:9

And [Abraham] believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other (Isaiah 45:22).

But the just shall live by his faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent (John 6:29).

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

---

8 Ibid., p. 59.
9 In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Paul defines the gospel as the good news that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and then rose again according to the Scriptures.
I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:30, 31).

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness (Romans 4:5).

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13).
Be Ye Perfect

Be Perfect or Perish

Why is Jesus the only way? Why can’t we earn or merit salvation? Shouldn’t good works and righteous deeds please God?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “…you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48). Jesus was simply restating what God’s law had already commanded: “Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 27:26). The law, written by God Himself on two stony tablets, demands perfection. In order to merit heaven, a person must obey God’s law in its entirety.

You shall be blameless [perfect] before the LORD your God (Deuteronomy 18:13).

Have you been perfect in thought, word, and deed? Jesus explained that if you’ve ever lusted in your heart you are an adulterer at heart (Matthew 5:27, 28). He stated that hatred was equivalent to murder (Matthew 5:21, 22). He explained that every lie ever spoken is
from the evil one (Matthew 5:37). Have you ever lied? Hated? Lusted in your heart? If you answered yes to these three questions, then by your own admission you are a lying, murdering, adulterer at heart. Jesus even said that we would be judged and condemned for a single idle word (Matthew 12:36). If your only sin were that you gossiped or slandered another, you would still be found guilty on the Day of Judgment.
The third commandment states unequivocally that, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7). Have you ever used God’s name or Jesus Christ as a curse word? Have you used the Lord’s name lightly or disrespectfully? If you have, then you have likened your Creator – the One who gave you your breath, your eyes, your ears, sunsets, flowers, food, family, and friends..., you have likened Him to a four-letter curse word. You have taken the Lord’s name in vain. All who blaspheme the Creator’s holy name will be without excuse when they stand before the throne of God.

God is holy and He abhors all sin. Every sin will be judged. Whether your sin is selfishness, pride, envy, drunkenness, idolatry or any other transgression, you will be found guilty on the day that God judges the world in righteousness. The Bible is clear, “The soul who sins shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:4). And remember, God sees every past thought, word, and deed as if it just occurred. Nothing is hidden from His holy eyes.

Furthermore, there is nothing we can do to blot out or erase the past. No good work will appease God. As a just judge, the penalty for our sin must be paid. The penalty is death and eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23).

Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you (Isaiah 59:2).
Breaking the law is like cutting a string with ten knots. You only have to cut one knot for the whole string to be broken. In the same way, you only have to break one law to be guilty of violating God’s entire standard of right and wrong.

GOD’S PERFECT MIRROR

The law is God’s holy mirror. When we gaze at God’s law, we see ourselves from God’s righteous vantage point. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the words of Jesus, reveal just how far each of us falls short of God’s perfection. As a matter of fact, the Bible explains that our hearts are desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). We are by nature liars, thieves, adulterers, murderers, blasphemers, and idolaters at heart (Matthew 15:19). The law simply reveals that we need a heart transplant! No created person is good enough to enter heaven by their own merits or works.

Isaiah tells us that from God’s perspective, “all our righteousnesses [good works] are like filthy rags.”
(Isaiah 64:6). This means that our good deeds are rejected by God. Why? Because God will not be bribed or mocked. He has provided His Son as the only payment for sin. If we attempt to earn heaven, then we are rejecting the finished work of Christ.

By studying the law of God, we grasp our need for the Savior. The law reveals the depths of our depravity (Romans 7:13). Yet, God’s commandments cannot save us. A mirror can’t cleanse, but it is able to reveal our true condition as God sees us. “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20). Ultimately, the law was meant to point us to the Savior:

Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24).

**CHRIST – THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS**

The wonderful news found in the Bible is that Jesus fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law in our stead (Matthew 5:17). He always did those things which pleased the Father (John 8:29). Jesus was perfect in thought, word, and deed.

All humanity is under the curse of sin. However, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:13). Jesus freely offers His righteous robe in exchange for our filthy garment of sin. Jesus purchased our salvation on the cross and offers it as a gift to all who turn from (or give up) trusting in their own goodness and put their
faith and hope in Him. The penalty for our sins has been paid in full. This is why we call it the Good News!

How can we be sure that Jesus is the only Savior? The Bible specifies a number of explicit qualifications that the Messiah must fulfill.

1) He must be fully man to pay for the sins of mankind (1 Corinthians 15:21).

2) He must be fully God to pay the infinite price for mankind’s sins (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19).

3) He must fulfill God’s entire law perfectly (Matthew 5:17).

4) He must fulfill the 300 plus Old Testament prophecies pointing to the Messiah (Luke 18:31).

5) He must shed His blood for the sin of the world (Hebrews 9:22).

6) He must die as our substitute for the sin of the world (Romans 6:23).

7) He must rise from the dead to defeat death and Satan (Psalm 16:10).

The Bible’s requirements exclude all but Christ. No other person, not Mary, the saints, angels, Muhammad, Krishna, Buddha, Confucius, or any other created being fulfilled what only the God-man could.

**Jesus is the Door**

The messages of the apparition of Mary lead followers to believe that there are multiple paths to heaven. This, of course, is well received by the world, but it con-
transcends the clear scriptural teaching that Jesus is the only way. Throughout history man has attempted to reach God through many means. The Bible highlights the most common. These include outward appearances, religion, rituals, good works, keeping the law, and others. Yet, God rejected these means and pointed His people to the coming Lamb of God who would take the sins of the world upon Himself. His substitutionary death alone can satisfy God’s justice.

In the beginning, God and man shared in a loving relationship.

Adam and Eve’s disobedience separated them from the Lord.
Throughout the Bible we see man’s efforts to reach God always fall short.

Nevertheless, in every generation, God has faithfully pointed sinners to His solution, His gift – the Messiah. By trusting in Christ, God freely restores the fellowship with Him that was lost in the Garden of Eden.
In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says that the way to destruction is broad and many enter it, but few go through the narrow gate that leads to eternal life.

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matthew 7:13, 14).

Jesus is the door that leads to heaven. “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9).

Compare Jesus’ words with the following message from Our Lady of San Nicolas, whose messages have been approved by the local Catholic bishop: “My children: I am the door of Heaven and the help on earth.”

Tragically, Jesus predicted that many would try to enter heaven through another “door.” Many would seek to enter heaven through a different way other than Christ.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber (John 10:1).

“Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’

---

and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity’” (Luke 13:23-27).

The only gate that leads to eternal life is Jesus Christ. Yet, the following message from “Mary,” which also carries the Imprimatur of a Catholic cardinal and bishop, claims that Mary is the gate. “I am the Gate which opens upon your salvation because, through it, every one of you must pass to arrive at your personal encounter with the Lord. For this, my Son Jesus has constituted me true Mother of all humanity. Only if you pass through this, my Gate, can you gain entrance into the heavenly garden....”

On the contrary, only by turning to Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only Lord and Savior, will you be saved. If your trust is in any other, you have been led astray. Turn to Him today. “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11, 12).

---

I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH

IF NOT THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THEN WHO?

Through this comparison, we can conclude that the apparition that is appearing around the world, is not the Mary of the Bible. The Mary of the Bible is in heaven, and if she could speak to followers of the apparition, she, like any true follower of Jesus, would proclaim the Word of God. She would present the clear gospel. Mary of Nazareth would not give a message that confuses. Mary knows the eternal significance and importance that is found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, who or what is behind the global apparition phenomenon?

I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH

What created being (or beings) yearns to be equal with God? What created being desires worship and longs for followers? There is one created being who has had, for a very long time, the desire to be equal to God.
This being desires worship. This being craves followers. This being has an agenda and the power and craftiness to pull off such a grand deception. We are referring to none other than Satan himself. Before his fall, Satan’s name was Lucifer, and in the 14th chapter of the Book of Isaiah we are told the reason for Satan’s fall.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Satan wants to be like the Most High! He longs to be exalted. We are given even more insight into Satan’s nature when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness. In Matthew 4:9, Satan says to Jesus: “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Satan’s fallen angels are no different. They too desire a following. They long for the worship that God alone deserves. These fallen angels would also love God’s attributes to be ascribed to them, knowing that this will frustrate God’s plan by deceiving His people. They know this angers God Almighty. They also know, if successful, that this form of idolatry can delude God’s people into believing they are still following the Lord.
Satan tempting Jesus to worship Him (Luke 4:5-8).

**Effective Deception**

Some proponents of the Marian apparitions might protest this line of reasoning. Is it fair to focus only on those messages that contradict Scripture? Shouldn’t we applaud the apparition of Mary for the good, biblical
messages she has sent? Shouldn’t we focus on the transformed lives and the good fruit?

To answer, let’s consider how Satan has tempted in the past. When tempting Jesus, Satan quoted Scripture.¹ Satan knew that he could not deceive Jesus with an outright lie. He knew he must use subtle deception. Likewise, Satan often mixes a subtle lie in with truth. He is the master of deception. And the grandest of all deceptions are those that are mostly true.

While the bulk of the apparitions’ messages seem harmless, even biblical, is it possible that subtle deception mixed with truth might lead many down a pathway that leads to eternal destruction? Satan may encourage good and noble deeds as long as they ultimately compromise our relationship with Jesus and His Word. The Bible states emphatically that God will not share His glory with another: “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.” (Isaiah 42:8).

Satan also knows, in order for a person to be saved, he must put his trust in Jesus, and only Jesus. The gospel is simple, and Satan is out to corrupt it. As the apostle Paul warns:

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

¹ Matthew 4:6
THROUGH THE LENS OF THE BIBLE

Certainly, God could send a message to the world. But that message would never contradict the Word of God. Jesus Himself said, “the Scripture cannot be broken.” (John 10:35). Jesus is the Word of God, and He does not change – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8).

We can conclude from these and many other Scriptures that God would not contradict His own Word. However, Satan and his fallen angels are capable and willing to send messages, show signs and wonders, and attempt to corrupt God’s Word in order to lead souls astray. According to the Bible there are two distinct groups, and only two, that are able to send messages and perform supernatural signs. Either these messages are from God and His heavenly hosts, or they are from Satan and his fallen angels. There are no other options. We are left with only one choice – these messages are from fallen angels. If this assertion is correct, we should find ample evidence in the Bible.

Does the Bible predict impostors and counterfeits in the last days? Is the Queen of Heaven mentioned in the Bible? In the next two chapters we will briefly investigate Bible prophecy in light of the events surrounding the apparition of Mary.

---

2 John 1
ANGELS OF LIGHT – DOCTRINES OF DEMONS

It is a fact that the apparitions appear to seers as radiant, beautiful and glowing in brilliant light. Would we expect Satan to reveal his hideous nature, asking us to sacrifice black cats? Of course not. The Bible says that the devil is the most cunning creature, and that: “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness...” (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15).

This is exactly what the apparitions do. They teach righteousness, prayer and a pious lifestyle only to draw professing Christians away. Could angels of light communicate messages that contain biblical truths along-

1 Genesis 3:1
side messages that contain doctrines of demons? Yes, according to the apostle Paul, who warns of this exact deception occurring in the last days: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Notice that those who give heed to deceiving spirits were once professing believers. They were involved in the visible church. They claimed to be Christian. How else could Satan draw away those in the faith to follow doctrines of demons, other than appearing as an angel of light with a message containing truth? In addition to Paul’s warning, Jesus repeatedly warned of great deception in the last days.

Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am Christ,’ and will deceive many...Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will rise up and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 23, 24, 25).

Deception defines the last days! It is interesting that the word christ means the anointed of God. It doesn’t always mean that the deceiver will claim to be Jesus, only that the deceiver claims to come in Jesus’ authority, and claims to be anointed by God for a particular ministry. Does the apparition of Mary claim to come in Jesus’ name? Might she be among the many false prophets who claim to come in Jesus’ authority? Does
the apparition of Mary claim to be anointed to proclaim messages from God in the last days?

The Queen of Heaven appears to visionaries as a beautiful angel of light - claiming to be anointed by God.
Signs and Wonders

Proponents of the Marian apparitions might object to this line of reasoning. They reason that the apparition's power must be from God. Who but God can heal the sick, predict the future, or make the sun come down from heaven? Once again, our answer is found in Scripture. “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10).

What is amazing about this verse is that the Greek word translated power is *dunamis*. This is the same word used throughout the New Testament to describe Almighty God's power. Here are two examples of how the word *dunamis* is used – “And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power (*dunamis*).” (1 Corinthians 6:14). “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power (*dunamis*) and reigned.” (Revelation 11:17).

In the last days, Satan will be given all power, signs and lying wonders. He will even be allowed the (apparent) power to heal: “And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” (Revelation 13:3). Satan has been given the
power to both afflict with disease and remove the disease. One example of this is found in the Book of Job.\(^2\)

We are given remarkable examples of Satan’s power throughout the Old Testament. In Egypt, for example, after Moses and Aaron turned their rod into a serpent, Pharaoh’s magicians Jannes and Jambres turned their rods into serpents, too!

So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord had commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called his wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods (Exodus 7:10-12).

In the subsequent verses we find that the magicians and sorcerers were also able to create a plague of frogs and turn the Nile to blood.\(^3\) If Satan can duplicate the signs and wonders of God, then miracles, signs, and wonders cannot be used as the arbitrator of truth. Jesus said that an evil generation seeks after a sign.\(^4\) We are to seek after Jesus in His Word. Signs and wonders should follow us, not the other way around.

---

\(^2\) In Job 2:1-7, God permits Satan to afflict Job with painful boils. In Job 2:6, God allows Satan full access to Job’s body, to afflict and to remove the affliction.

\(^3\) Exodus 7:22; 8:7

\(^4\) Matthew 12:39
Miracles by the hand of God are found throughout the Bible. However, the Scriptures also warn that in the last days lying signs and wonders will lead people into a delusion in the name of Christ.

**PROPHECY**

A valid point that proponents of the apparitions make is that only God can predict the future. Therefore, because the apparition of Mary predicted certain events,
it stands to reason that she must be from God. Can Satan predict the future? This is an interesting question, for the Bible declares that God is unique in that He alone knows the end from the beginning.⁵

God alone transcends time. He holds the future in His hands for He alone is sovereign. However, the Bible does state that God will sometimes allow Satan and his ministers to correctly predict the future in order to test the people's faithfulness to God:

If there arises among you a prophet...[who] gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'...you shall not listen to the words of that prophet...for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart... (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

This is quite unsettling. God will, at times, allow a false prophet’s prediction to come to pass in order to test the hearts of His people. This is the exception though. Most false prophets, such as Nostradamus, have hundreds of inaccurate prophecies, while only a few vague prophecies appear to be fulfilled.⁶ Even so, Deuteronomy 13 indicates God may, at times, test His people by allowing a false prophet’s prediction to come to pass.

Will the Lord allow the apparition of Mary to predict future events accurately in order to test the hearts of those who call themselves Christians? The Scripture

⁵ Isaiah 46:9, 10
⁶ Ray Comfort, The Secrets of Nostradamus Exposed, Bellflower, CA, Living Waters Publications, 1996. Some of his prophecies have simply been plagiarized right from the Bible.
leaves that open as a definite possibility. In addition, Satan knows the Bible very well. He and his angels of light are able to plagiarize biblical prophecies. By claiming that they are the source of the revelation, they can counterfeit the Word of God. This deception only works if those who follow these deceiving spirits are not fully aware of biblical prophecies. Do those who follow the apparitions have a strong knowledge of the Bible, and in particular, prophecy, or are they more familiar with the apparitions’ messages?

**Fire from Heaven**

As mentioned in chapter 2 of this book, the Miracle of the Sun has been reported at numerous apparition sites and viewed by literally hundreds of thousands of spectators. Does the Bible anticipate this demonic sign in the last days? Can fallen angels cause the sun to plummet to the earth in the sight of all men? Again the Scripture gives insight. “He [the false prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...” (Revelation 13:13,14). Satan and his minions have both the craftiness and the power to deceive those who don’t know the Word of God.

**Grand Deception**

If the source of the apparition of Mary is not God, then it represents one of Satan’s most enormous counterfeit deceptions ever. Has the world ever experienced such a grandly orchestrated deception? Since the time of Jesus Christ, we would be hard-pressed to find super-
natural events affecting so many. Certainly, the God of the Bible would anticipate and warn His flock of such a massive deception. As previously noted, the Bible states that there will be tremendous deception in the last days, that will cause some who were in the visible church, to depart from the faith.⁷

It is interesting to note that the majority of those who follow the apparition of Mary have a professed faith in Christ. Yet, might these same people who are in the visible church, be giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons? Are God’s people falling into the same trap that the demonic realm has used effectively for millennia?

**QUEEN OF HEAVEN**

In the Church approved apparition in Beauraing, Belgium, in 1932-1933, the apparition of Mary stated: “I am the Immaculate Virgin. I am the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven.”⁸ In Belgium and at many other apparition sites, “Mary” has repeatedly stated that she is the Queen of Heaven.

It comes as a surprise to many Marian supporters that the Queen of Heaven is found in the Bible, not once but several times. She is repeatedly mentioned by the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah identifies the Queen of Heaven as a pagan goddess who has apparently been around for many millennia. Here is a quote from the Book of Jeremiah, pertaining to the Queen of Heaven:

---

⁷ 1 Timothy 4:1
Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger (Jeremiah 7:16-18).

The Queen of Heaven has been worshipped for millennia.

The Queen of Heaven was actually the mother-goddess of the Canaanites also known as Asherah or Ishtar. Is the Queen of Heaven, who was active in deceiving the people of Jeremiah’s day, active today?
Might this false goddess be the wicked spirit that is masquerading as the Virgin Mary?

Satan has a very coordinated, clever army which does his bidding. As the Bible expresses it: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12). These spiritual hosts have been out to deceive God’s people since the Fall.

THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN DESIRES WORSHIP FROM GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE

In reading Jeremiah,⁹ we see that the Queen of Heaven desired worship 2500 years ago. She deceived and seduced the Israelites, thus taking their exclusive focus off God. It is interesting to note that, in Jeremiah’s day, those who worshipped the Queen of Heaven still claimed that they followed the Lord.¹⁰ Not surprisingly, modern day followers of the Queen of Heaven also claim to be followers of the Lord.

In the past, the Queen of Heaven desired worship and, as Solomon states: “there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). If she desired worship during Jeremiah’s day, then we can assume that this same spirit desires worship today. But, why would the apparition of Mary give herself the title Queen of Heaven, when she knows that the Bible states that the Queen of

---

⁹ Jeremiah 7:44
¹⁰ Jeremiah 7:10
Heaven is a pagan goddess? Is it possible that the Queen of Heaven recognizes that most of her followers are not familiar with these Old Testament Scriptures? What role, if any, will the Queen of Heaven play during earth’s final days?

God, through the prophet Jeremiah, repeatedly pleaded with the children of Judah not to worship the false goddess known as the queen of heaven. However, the idolatrous people refused to turn back to God exclusively. Tragically, this resulted in their desolation (Jeremiah 7 and 44).
Chapter Fifteen

THE QUEEN’S DESTINY

PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS

While the prophetic implications surrounding this phenomenon are provocative, this book will not attempt to analyze the numerous Scriptures that may relate. However, in this chapter we will briefly survey a number of the apparition’s most shocking predictions. It appears that the Queen of Heaven is preparing her followers and the world for one of the grandest and most elaborate deceptions ever orchestrated.

THE LADY OF ALL NATIONS

The apparition of Mary is frequently referred to as “Our Lady” by the faithful. There are hundreds and possibly thousands of apparitions given the title “Our Lady.” In Medjugorje, Bosnia, she is called Our Lady of Medjugorje. In Paris, France, she is called Our Lady of Paris. In Fatima, Portugal, she is called Our Lady of Fatima. In Akita, Japan, she is called Our Lady of Akita.
Wherever she appears she is automatically referred to as Our Lady. So it is only fitting that a major apparition claims to be “the Lady of All Nations.” In the global sense, the apparition of Mary truly can be considered the Lady of All Nations, as she is appearing in virtually every nation of the world.

Not surprisingly, the messages from “the Lady of All Nations” carry the Roman Catholic Imprimatur and have been endorsed by numerous priests, bishops, archbishops, and cardinals. Here are some insightful quotes from the apparition appearing in Amsterdam who claims to be “the Lady of All Nations.”

I am the Lady – Mary – Mother of All Nations. You may say, “The Lady of All Nations” or “Mother of All Nations,” who once was Mary. I have come precisely today in order to tell you that I wish to be known as this. Let all the children of men, of all the countries in the world – be one!

Once more I am here. – The Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate is now standing before you. I have chosen this day: on this day the Lady will be crowned. Theologians and apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, listen carefully: I have given you the explanation of the dogma. Work and ask for this dogma. You should petition the Holy Father for this dogma. ...On this date “the Lady of All Nations” will receive Her official title of “Lady of All Nations.”

---

2 Ibid., p. 83. Message given on May 31, 1954, the Feast of Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces. [italics not in original]
When the dogma, the last dogma in Marian history, has been proclaimed, “the Lady of All Nations” will give peace, true peace to the world. The nations, however, must say My prayer in union with the Church. They must know that “the Lady of All Nations” has come as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate. So be it.\(^3\)

Try to understand the reason for My coming on this day. The Lord Jesus Christ has selected this great day for “the Lady of All Nations.” Her mission is to establish unity among Her nations. She is sent to make one great Community of Her nations. To gather all nations into one Community, that is the task set before the world in this present time, which I have heralded repeatedly.\(^4\)

These astonishing messages have been embraced by multitudes who follow “Our Lady’s” agenda. For example, over 6 million individuals have petitioned the pope to declare Mary the Co-Redemptrix!\(^5\) Furthermore, millions of “the Lady of All Nations” prayer cards have been distributed and prayed around the globe.

\(^3\) Ibid., p. 85. Message given on May 31, 1954.
\(^4\) Ibid., p. 89. Message given on May 31, 1955. [italics not in original]
The Lady of All Nations appeared to visionary Ida Peerdeman standing on the earth, before a large cross, with scars in her hands, proclaiming herself the Co-Redemptrix.
Millions of the Lady of All Nations prayer cards have been distributed around the world. The prayer on this card has been translated into over seventy languages and has received numerous imprimaturs!
Thousands gathered at the “Third International Day of Prayer in Honor of the Lady of All Nations,” where Bishop Punt crowned two statues of Mary.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC UNITY

Messages received by Father Gobbi, the head of the Marian Movement of Priests, may be even more shocking. These messages are distributed to over 100,000 member priests, numerous bishops, archbishops, and cardinals, and millions of lay followers throughout the
world. These messages also carry the Catholic Imprimatur.

I am for you the way of unity. When I am accepted by the whole Church, then, as Mother, I will be able to reunite my children in the warmth of one single family.

For this reason, the reunion of all Christians in the Catholic Church will coincide with the triumph of my Immaculate Heart in the world. This reunited Church, in the splendor of a new Pentecost, will have the power to renew all the people of the earth.⁶

A true reunification of Christians is not possible unless it be in the perfection of truth. And truth has been kept intact only in the Catholic Church, which must preserve it, defend it and proclaim it to all without fear.⁷

Numerous messages from the apparition repeatedly state that she will soon reunite all religions under her mantle. How will she accomplish this? Does the Bible anticipate her end-time activities?

**CHASTISEMENT AND STRUGGLE**

In addition to the Queen of Heaven’s predictions of global peace through unification under her and the Catholic church and the soon pronouncement of the Co-Redemptrix dogma, several apparitions anticipate a

---


Message given in Melbourne, Australia on October 27, 1980 to Father Gobbi.

⁷ Ibid., p. 278. [bold not in original]
global punishment and a great struggle before the “Triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart” predicted at Fatima. The following Church approved messages are among the many that predict a future chastisement and struggle.

As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful.8

Rome will lose faith and become the seat of the Antichrist.
The demons of the air together with the Antichrist will perform great wonders on earth and in the atmosphere, and men will become more and more perverted. God will take care of his faithful servants and men of good will. The Gospel will be preached everywhere, and all peoples of all nations will get to know the truth.9

The Queen’s Seal

For those familiar with Bible prophecy, her aforementioned messages are quite provocative. However, we have only scratched the surface. One of the most dis-

---

9 Thomas W. Petrisko, Call of the Ages, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing Company, 1995, p. 120. Message is the alleged 1846 Secret of LaSalette.
turbing prophecies made by the apparition is that she will imprint her mark on the forehead of her followers!

The Star of the Abyss [Satan] will persecute all those who are signed with my seal, but nothing will be able to harm the souls upon whom I myself have impressed my image. By the blood which many of them will have to shed, divine justice will be appeased, and the time of my victory will be hastened… 10

If my Adversary is signing, with his mark, all his followers, the time has come when I also, your heavenly leader, am signing, with my heavenly seal, all those who have consecrated themselves to my Immaculate Heart and have formed part of my army. I am imprinting my seal on your foreheads with the most holy sign of the Cross of my Son Jesus.11

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

These statements are alarming indeed. Yet there are many other bizarre messages that illustrate the mammoth proportions of this deception. For example, the Queen of Heaven also proclaims that she will soon appear in the sky to enlighten the entire world. She also foretells of a giant cross that will illuminate the entire sky, as well as many other heavenly wonders that will soon occur.

Soon, I will come, my children! Soon, I will be in your midst with a great light. I will enlighten the entire

---

11 Ted and Maureen Flynn, Thunder of Justice, Sterling, VA, MaxKol Communications, Inc., 1993, p. 330. Message given by the apparition of Mary to Father Gobbi on September 8, 1989. [bold not in original]
world. Many souls will cry because they did not listen to my call.…

**I will pass above everyone in a cloud and everyone will see me.** What will become of those who insulted me and made a laughing stock of me?…

I will come soon, my sons, to travel through the entire world. I will give a great sign in the sky for those who will still want to be saved. All those who have recourse to me, who have a look of repentance, this will be sufficient to save them.\(^{12}\)

Before the great trial, there will be a sign. We will see in the sky one great red Cross on a day of blue sky without clouds. … The cross will be seen by everyone.\(^{13}\)

There are certain signs in Heaven that you must observe. All light and all glory will soon shine from Heaven as my Son’s Cross will illuminate the World! The World filled with hideous sin is not worthy of this great grace. However, His mercy is always greater than His justice, so He allowed me to temper His justice with His merciful sign!\(^{14}\)


\(^{13}\) Petrisko, p. 237. Message by the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15, 1987 to Brother David Lopez of Texas, given to him while he was in Medjugorje.

\(^{14}\) *Just Love My Jesus*, Philadelphia, PA, Marianne, 1993, p. 84. Message from the Virgin Mary to visionary Marianne in Philadelphia, on Sept. 8, 1986. [bold not in original]
God revealed to the prophet Zechariah a curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth (Zechariah 5). Does this global curse, which regards a “wicked woman” who will eventually end up in Babylon, refer to the last days?

The Mother Precedes Her Son

How will these events unfold? The apparitions are not altogether clear. However, a very common message at apparition sites is that “Mary” will usher in the Second Coming of her Son.

My mission was to be as St. John the Baptist in heralding my Son’s Second Coming, but many of the people think life will continue on and are not ready to receive my Son.15

Today I ask all to throw open the doors to Jesus Christ who is coming. I am the Mother of the Second

Advent and the door which is being opened on the new era.\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{THE EUCHARISTIC JESUS}

Of course, the “Jesus” that the apparition will usher in is not the Jesus of the Bible. She and her proponents explain that “Jesus” will return to earth in his eucharistic form. It is the Eucharistic Jesus whom she will usher in. They will co-reign during her era of peace. Father Martin Lucia, writing in the journal, \textit{Immaculata}, explains that all the Marian apparitions will culminate in the eucharistic reign of Jesus.

The message of all the Marian apparitions, both past and present, is that the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will culminate in the Eucharistic reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Eucharistic Reign will come through perpetual adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.\textsuperscript{17}

According to many apparitions, through “Mary” and the Eucharistic Jesus all the world will become one. That’s right. She will usher in the eucharistic reign of Christ, and then they will both usher in worldwide unity, specifically worldwide religious unity. The following quote is from the apparition of Mary appearing in Rome. At this important apparition site, “Mary” calls herself the “MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST.”

Speak about the Mother of the Eucharist, because the Mother of the Eucharist closes history. The Immaculate Conception opens the History, and the Mother of


\textsuperscript{17} Thomas W. Petrisko, \textit{Mother of the Secret}, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1997, p. 268.
the Eucharist closes it….All the messages come from God and everywhere that I am appearing, I am speaking about the same things, because through the triumph of the Eucharist the Mother wants all the Churches to be reunited, so that there will be only one Church for all the people.\textsuperscript{18}

Catholic author and theologian Peter Kreeft, in his book, \textit{Ecumenical Jihad}, writes these startling words in agreement with the apparition of Mary:

\begin{quote}
No Catholic dogma is so distinctive and so apparently anti-ecumenical as the dogma of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Yet this dogma may be the greatest cause of ecumenism and eventual reunion…

The same with Mary: she – who is a point of division between Catholics and Protestants – she may bring the churches together again….
\end{quote}

The power that will reunite the Church and win the world is Eucharistic adoration.  

THE QUEEN INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE

By now, students of Bible prophecy are likely pondering numerous Scripture passages as to how they might relate to the queen’s predictions. Of course we know the true end-times scenario is found only in the Word of God. Only by studying the Bible, with the Holy Spirit as our teacher, will we come to know the truth.

As Jesus declared to His disciples, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26). Sadly, many Marian followers depend on the apparition to explain and interpret Scripture, rather than the Holy Spirit. This final message from the Queen of Heaven should serve as a warning to all who are following anyone besides Jesus and His Word.

I am the Virgin of Revelation...I will bring you to the full understanding of Sacred Scripture. Above all, I will read to you the pages of its last book, which you are living. In it, everything is already predicted, even that which must still come to pass. The battle to which I am calling you is clearly described, and my great victory is foretold. 

20 Gobbi, pp. 260, 261. Message given to Father Gobbi, April 24, 1980, Rome, Italy. [italics not in original]
There are many biblical allusions to an evil woman who is active in the last days. These biblical prophecies and their relation to the apparition of Mary will be addressed thoroughly in the future book, *The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven*. In this forthcoming book we will endeavor to answer the following questions:

1) Does Revelation chapter 17 and 18 warn of a last days counterfeit church headed by a queen?

2) Who is the Revelation 17 woman whom God labels “THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS?” How might she ascend to her throne and reign over kings and nations?

3) In Zechariah chapter 5, why is a woman, whom the Bible calls “Wickedness,” associated with a global curse?

4) Does her final destination – the land of Shinar (Babylon) – associate her with the woman of Revelation 17 whom God labels “MYSTERY, BABYLON?”

5) Who is the virgin daughter of Babylon mentioned in Isaiah chapter 47 and why is she called “The Lady of Kingdoms?”

6) Is there a connection between “The Lady of Kingdoms” and the apparition who calls herself “The Lady of All Nations?”

7) How might these and other last days prophecies regarding a wicked Woman, Virgin, Lady, Harlot,
Queen relate to the Queen of Heaven’s final reign and destiny?

These and many other questions will be dealt with in the book, *The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven*. In addition, the just published book by Roger Oakland entitled *New Wine and the Babylonian Vine*, also deals with these deceptions and investigates how the apparition of Mary may draw all religions under her mantle. Both books are listed in the back of this book.
Chapter Sixteen

Victory Guaranteed!

Come Out of Her My People

While we can only speculate how these events may unfold, what we can conclude with certainty is that a grand deception of epoch proportion is underway before our very eyes. The stage has been set. The consequences are eternal. And our souls are the prize.

Yet we already know the outcome. The cohort of demons who are impersonating Mary are already judged. Satan and all his minions will suffer the eternal torment of God’s wrath.¹ These evil spirits will experience everlasting anguish in the lake of fire.² They know their destiny and they will do all in their power to bring humanity with them.³ They are deceivers and impostors and they seek to take captive any and all through any means possible. Their goal is to kill and destroy, and to that end they may encourage pious acts as long as they can keep us from receiving Christ as Savior alone.⁴

¹ Revelation 20:10
² Jude 1:6, 7
³ Matthew 8:29
⁴ John 10:10
While we know that the evil spirits will be burned with everlasting fire, we also know that God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.\(^5\) He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.\(^6\) He has patiently endured our rebellion for a long time so that we might escape damnation by turning to His Son.\(^7\) Therefore, His call is for all to “come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins.”\(^8\)

**GOOD NEWS\(^9\)**

So just how can I know that things are right between me and God? How can I know that when I die I will live forever in heaven?

Before we can answer that question, it is needful to recognize some things about God and ourselves.

1) First of all we need to understand that **God is a holy God**. He exists in all His majesty, being the Creator-Owner of the Universe. He is a loving, caring God, but equally He is also a holy lawgiver. His holiness demands that His law be kept perfectly. He can have nothing to do with any lawbreaker. It is right to say that **only perfect people can live with a perfect God**.

2) On the other hand, **we are helpless sinners**. We were born into the world lawbreakers, alienated from God. We are far from perfect; we are sinners.

---

\(^5\) 1 Timothy 2:4  
\(^6\) Ezekiel 18:32  
\(^7\) 2 Peter 3:9  
\(^8\) Revelation 18:4  
\(^9\) Used with permission. © 2002 GoodSeed International.
God’s law says that all sin demands a “death” penalty.

For the wages of sin is death . . . (Romans 6:23).

This “death” penalty is not just physical death, but also something the Bible calls the second death—an eternity of suffering in the Lake of Fire.

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14-15).

As a just judge, God has written out a ticket (certificate of debt) for every person who sins.

Because we are sinners, we are destined to pay this “death” penalty for eternity. We are helpless to save ourselves from these awful consequences of sin. Needless to say, this is not very good news.
But God has not left us in a lurch. He made a way to restore our relationship with Him—a way to escape the second death.

**God provided a substitute.** Jesus, God Himself, came to this earth to live as a man. He was perfect—sinless. Because He had no sin of His own to die for, He could die for someone else’s sin. In His love, He died in our place—taking the eternal consequences of our sin on Himself. Being an infinite God, His sacrifice was an infinite payment. He took care of all sin for all time in one brief moment on a Roman cross 2000 years ago.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

But Jesus did not remain dead. His resurrection was evidence that the “death” payment had been made in full.

But now Christ is risen from the dead. . . (1 Corinthians 15:20).

As a living Savior, He now offers us eternal life with Him in heaven.

That is good news. Now the question is this: What must we do for God so that he will give us this eternal life? Does God require penance, confession, prayer, church attendance, baptism, giving to charity, attending mass? If we promise to change our behavior, will this please God?

The answer is, No. Absolutely NOT! Indeed the Bible tells us that . . .
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us (Titus 3:5).

Well, what if I work real hard at keeping the Ten Commandments? Will God give me eternal life then?

Once again the answer is, No He won’t. The Bible says . . .

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified (made perfect) in His sight (Romans 3:20).

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all (James 2:10).

God’s standard for conduct is absolute perfection. Only perfect people can live with a perfect God. But none of us are perfect. We may live good lives, but we still fall far short of what God requires for a person to live in His holy presence.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

So then, to receive this eternal life, just what does God require?

Here is the answer: **God requires us to trust Him.**

That’s all, nothing more. He just wants us to have faith in Him and His promise. Specifically, God wants us to believe that when Jesus died on the cross, He was dying in *our* place, paying the “death” penalty for *our*
sin. If we believe that, then the Bible says God has given us eternal life. He has promised.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life (John 6:47).

God wants us to rest in the fact that He alone has saved us from the second death. Not only did Jesus pay our sin penalty, but the moment we believe, God clothes us in His perfection, a righteousness that is not our own, but is counted as ours because we trust Him.

[Righteousness] shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead (Romans 4:24).

In His great love for mankind, Jesus paid in full the sin debt of the entire world.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through
faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe (Romans 3:22).

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

Clothed in His righteousness, we are equipped with all the perfection we need to live in the presence of a perfect, sinless God. When we trust Him, we can honestly say that we know that we will enjoy life with God, both now and forever in heaven.

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:11-13).

In summary, these are the questions you face:

1) Do you understand that only perfect people can live with a perfect God?

2) Do you understand that you cannot do anything to make yourself good enough to live with a holy God?

3) As a sinner, do you recognize that you are helpless to save yourself from that eternal second death in the Lake of Fire?
4) Do you understand that Jesus—the eternal God—died on the cross in your place, paying your sin-debt once for all—in one moment of time?

5) If you understand these things, then do you believe that Jesus died in your place?

6) If you have truly and honestly said, “Yes,” to all of the above, then on the basis of your trust in Him, God has counted His perfection as yours. You are now one of those of whom it can be said...

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin (Romans 4:8).

Truly you can say...

I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Psalm 23:6).

REJOICE!

If you have placed your faith in the finished work of Jesus, you have eternal life! Nothing can pluck you from the Father’s loving hand. The eternal weight of your sin has been nailed to the cross.

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand (John 10:28, 29).

How wonderful to know that you have been delivered from eternal darkness into God’s eternal life. Praise the Lord for His indescribable gift. Now that you are saved, read God’s Word regularly that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Attend a
church which believes and teaches the Bible as God’s infallible Word. Your soul is secure in Christ.

**FEAR NOT**

If you are caught in the storm of the Tribulation and realize that you have been deceived, fear not. God has not waited patiently for you this long only to forsake you now. God’s best and perfect will is to save you and bring you to heaven. He will be your God, your Savior, your provider, your all in all.

No matter how bad it gets on earth, if you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ, you will spend eternity in God’s awesome glory. Obey God’s Word and trust Him to fulfill every promise in His perfect timing.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24).
Appendix A

The Queen’s Focus on the Eucharist

The biblical prophetic implications of these events are truly immense. We could argue that no series of supernatural or paranormal episodes in history compare to the reports coming from the Marian manifestations. And while the prophetic investigation is saved for a future book, The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven, there is one aspect that is so significant to the salvation of the world that we feel it necessary to address here. That aspect is the Eucharist. The Queen of Heaven has spent much time and energy conveying its importance in these last days. This is the Jesus that she says she will usher in. But, is this the Jesus of the Bible?

We will first investigate the apparition of Mary’s relationship with the Eucharistic Jesus. Followed by Appendix B, which will review the biblical teaching on this subject.

Peace through Eucharistic Devotion

Throughout the world, the apparition of Mary is emphasizing the importance of the Eucharist. With the increasing number of Marian apparitions, we have witnessed a corresponding increase in eucharistic adora-
tion.¹ This is no surprise to the millions who are devoted to the “Blessed Mother.” Those who follow her messages are aware of an interesting prediction made by Catholic Saint John Bosco in 1862.

¹ Eucharistic Adoration is the worship and prayer offered by Roman Catholics and others to Jesus in the Eucharist, when kneeling in front of the displayed consecrated communion host.
There will be chaos in the Church. Tranquility will not return until the Pope succeeds in anchoring the boat of Peter between the twin pillars of Eucharistic devotion and devotion to Our Lady. This will come about one year before the end of the [20th] century.2

Many believe that this prophecy is near fulfillment. For instance, in more recent years, the apparition has encouraged the formation of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration groups.3 These groups number in the thousands around the world.4 Their sole purpose is to worship, adore, and pray to Jesus in the Eucharist perpetually.

**Eucharistic and Marian Era**

Of course, Marian apparitions have always stressed the great importance of the Eucharist. In particular, the Queen of Heaven has repeatedly stated that the Eucharist, once consecrated by a priest, becomes the literal body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus, and is therefore worthy of worship and adoration. For example, “Mary” focused much attention on her Son’s true presence in the Eucharist in the now famous apparitions to Catherine Laboure at Rue du Bac, Paris in 1830.

Marian theologians consistently agree that the revelations in Paris in 1830 to Catherine Laboure, officially began an era of Mary. That this apparition had a

---

2  Saint John Bosco, 1862. Refer to: members.aol.com/bjw1106/Euchmir.htm  
3  Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is when a church group commits to worship Jesus in the Eucharist around the clock, perpetually. This practice is encouraged by the apparition of Mary and the Roman Catholic Church.  
eucharistic theme is consistent with the increasing number of apparitions that have appeared in the nineteenth, twentieth and now, twenty-first centuries. In fact, nearly every popular apparition today stresses the importance of the Eucharist. “Mary” emphatically encourages all believers to receive the Blessed Sacrament as often as possible in order to receive the needed graces for salvation. She also stresses the important role that the Eucharistic Jesus will have in the last days.

Bleeding host in golden chalice. Eucharistic miracles have been reported at numerous apparition sites. Proponents insist this is God’s way of confirming transubstantiation.

5 The Eucharist has several names, including “The Blessed Sacrament” and “Holy Communion.”
In conjunction with these messages, many “eucharistic miracles” have been reported. These miracles include bleeding and pulsating communion hosts, hosts that do not decompose, hosts that speak, and hosts that transform into the image of a man – presumably Jesus. Tests at several apparition sites confirm that the blood emanating from miraculous hosts is authentic. These miracles are presented as proof by the apparition that Christ is truly present under the appearance of the consecrated communion wafer.

Our Lady of Fatima Emphasizes the Eucharist

Those who espouse the Marian apparitions are united in their belief that the apparitions have, over the centuries, increasingly pointed to the central importance of the Eucharist. For instance, Dr. Thomas W. Petrisko dedicates his book *Mother of the Secret* to exploring this interesting link between key Marian apparitions and Eucharistic prominence. Below is his summary of the Fatima apparitions -

The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal in 1917 to three shepherd children are most remembered for the incredible signs and secrets given there. Yet it must be said that Heaven truly marked the events with a significant thrust to focus the attention of the faithful on the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. In 1916, one year before the Virgin Mary’s first apparition,...the children received an apparition of an angel holding a chalice in his left hand. A Host was suspended above the chalice and some drops of blood from the Host fell into the chalice. Leaving the chalice suspended in the
air, the angel knelt down beside the children and told them to repeat three times the following prayer: “O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for [sins]...”


7  Ibid., pp. 185, 186.

**THE EUCHARIST HOLDS CENTER STAGE IN MEDJUGORJE**

There is undeniably a strong devotion to the Eucharist at the Fatima apparition site. However, the Queen of Heaven’s eucharistic emphasis at Medjugorje is arguably greater. Our Lady of Medjugorje has time after time told visionaries to worship and adore Jesus in the Eucharist and to frequently partake in Holy Communion. Medjugorje visionary Vicka Ivankovic tells us what the “Blessed Mother” explained to her about Christ’s true presence in the Eucharist:

The Blessed Mother says that during each Mass, Jesus comes in person, in tangible form. We can take Jesus, in physical form, into our body...This is our way to accept Jesus into our heart. Jesus comes alive to us through the Eucharist.

Those who have visited Medjugorje or examined Our Lady’s messages are convinced that the apparition teaches that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life. For instance, the late Father Joseph A. Pelletier, A.A., a noted theologian, wrote in his book, *The Queen of Peace Visits Medjugorje*, that the central...
theme of the Medjugorje apparitions is primarily eucharistic:

As more and more information has come forth, it has become increasingly clear that the Eucharist holds center stage in Medjugorje and that from the very start Our Lady spoke to the six seers about the Eucharist and its importance with more frequency than was suspected. This helps to understand why the parish has placed so much emphasis on the Mass and public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament....

Our Lady of Medjugorje Leads to the Eucharist

Father Rene Laurentin in his book, *Is the Virgin Mary Appearing at Medjugorje?*, concurs with Fr. Pelletier about Medjugorje and the Eucharist. Fr. Laurentin writes:

Our Lady of Medjugorje leads to Christ. When she was asked which prayer is the best, she answered: “It is the Mass, and you will never be able to exhaust its greatness. That is why you should be there humbly and prepared.” At Medjugorje the Virgin leads to the Eucharist. The Rosary and the apparition flow into the Mass. Mary has sometimes appeared showing Christ, in His childhood (the first apparition and Christmas 1983) or in His Passion. In showing us Christ, she continues to say, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

---

9 Petrisko, p. 187.
Of course the most important part of the Mass is the sacrifice of the Mass, where Christ is offered in the Eucharist. Not only does Our Lady of Medjugorje encourage the faithful to attend Mass and partake in the Blessed Sacrament frequently, but she also promotes the adoration and worship of the consecrated communion host.

Dear children, I am especially grateful that you are here tonight. Adore unceasingly the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. Know that I am always present when the faithful are adoring.10

Dear children, today I invite you to fall in love with the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Adore Him, little children, in your parishes, and in this way you will be united with the entire world.11

GARABANDAL EMPHASIZES THE EUCHARIST

Messages given by the apparition of Mary who appeared in Garabandal, Spain echo those given at Medjugorje.

We must pay visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Many sacrifices must be made. Much penance must be done. But first of all we must be good... If we do not do this, punishment awaits us....12

---

In his book, *Mother of the Secret*, Dr. Thomas W. Petrisko writes the following regarding the importance of the Eucharist at Garabandal, Spain:

While the alleged supernatural character and prophetic element of the apparitions at Garabandal are noted, its message is interpreted by many experts as being predominantly Eucharistic. This opinion is enhanced by the fact that the visionaries were photographed receiving upon their tongues invisible and then visible communion Hosts from an angel.\(^{13}\)

Ted and Maureen Flynn, in their book, *The Thunder of Justice*, agree that Garabandal has a predominately eucharistic theme:

Another remarkable event of Garabandal emphasized the importance of the Eucharist. An angel appeared bearing a golden chalice. The angel asked the children to think of the One whom they were going to receive. He taught them to recite the Confiteor, after which he gave them Holy Communion. He also taught them to say the Anima Christi in thanksgiving. These direct interventions occurred regularly whenever the priest from the neighboring village of Cosio was unable to come to Garabandal.\(^ {14}\)

**EVERYWHERE "MARY" EMPHASIZES THE EUCHARIST**

Apparitions from the four corners of the globe express this common and central theme. The Eucharist has the power to transform the world. The Eucharist

\(^{13}\) Petrisko, p. 157.

should be worshipped. Eucharistic adoration will bring peace and unity. Messages originating from such diverse places as Amsterdam, Holland; Akita, Japan; Rome, Italy; Naju, Korea; Bayside, New York, and Budapest, Hungary all convey this common idea. What follows are a sampling of the numerous messages from apparitions emphasizing the great importance of the Eucharist.

Our Lady has been appearing in private to Marisa Rossi in Rome. In June 1993 She asked...that Her messages about the Eucharist be made public.... Our Lady says: “I am THE MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST” and She wants to spread renewed and strong devotion, all over the world, for this great Sacrament.15

During Consecration I suddenly saw a light coming from the chalice... When I went to Holy Communion and returned to my place, the Sacred Host began to move on my tongue and I heard the voice of the Lady say, “You have now met the Lord.”16

You must firmly believe that Jesus is truly present in the Host as Man and God! You must believe that you really meet Him, and, more than that, unite with Him in the Eucharist.17

My Son will always be there in the Eucharist. A duly ordained and consecrated hand of a legal representa-

---

tive, your priest, will always be able to bring to you My Son's Body and Blood in the Eucharist....He comes to you physically and spiritually...  

Do you say well the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist? Then let us pray it together. “Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom.”

In these days you will hear of many Eucharistic Phenomena taking place. You will be renewed in your total reverence for my Divine Son in the Blessed Sacrament, and soon the time will come when the Tabernacle is returned to its rightful and proper place in the church.

I have manifested the images of the Holy Eucharist in various ways so that all my children may understand the importance of the Holy Eucharist. Hurriedly become blazing flames of love, reparation and adoration toward the Lord Who is in the Blessed Sacrament.

---


The vast majority of books on “Mary” highlight her relationship with the Eucharistic Jesus. Even in countries that are not primarily Catholic, eucharistic miracles, like Marian apparitions, have increased substantially.

**THE EUCHARISTIC REIGN OF JESUS**

Furthermore, the apparition of Mary explains that the culmination of her apparitions will usher in the Eucharistic Reign of Jesus. To Father Gobbi, the head of the Marian Movement of Priests, she proclaims that the Eucharistic Jesus will soon transform humanity!

Today I ask all to throw open the doors to Jesus Christ who is coming. I am the Mother of the Second Advent and the door which is being opened on the new era. This new era will coincide with the greatest triumph of the Eucharistic Reign of Jesus. For this, I invite you, in this extraordinary year, to make flour-
lish everywhere the cult of adoration, of reparation and of love for the Most Holy Eucharist....Let the Eucharist become the center of your prayer, of your life....  

In fact, the coming of the glorious reign of Christ will coincide with the greatest splendor of his Eucharistic reign among you. The Eucharistic Jesus will release all his power of love, which will transform souls, the Church and all humanity.  

The glorious reign of Christ will coincide with the triumph of the Eucharistic reign of Christ. ...Jesus will be made manifest above all in the mystery of his eucharistic presence.

**ESTABLISHING THE LINK**

Marian experts agree that the triumph of “Mary’s” Immaculate heart, prophesied at Fatima, will be directly linked to perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Martin Lucia, writing in the journal, *Immaculata*, explains that all the Marian apparitions will victoriously culminate in the eucharistic reign of Jesus.

The message of all the Marian apparitions, both past and present, is that the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will culminate in the Eucharistic reign

---

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Eucharistic Reign will come through perpetual adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.  

According to the pope, the Eucharist is the secret of his day. He calls the Eucharist the summit of Catholic faith.

Not surprisingly, the pope himself alludes to this consummation of apparitions in his encyclical, *Mother of the Redeemer*:

The piety of the Christian people has always very rightly sensed a profound link between devotion to the Blessed Virgin and worship of the eucharist: This is a fact that can be seen in the liturgy of both the West and the East, in the traditions of the religious

---

families, in the modern movements of spirituality, including those for youth, and in the pastoral practice of the Marian shrines. Mary guides the faithful to the eucharist.26

Eucharistic Miracles

Of course, the humble Mary of the Bible never once referred to the Eucharist. Nor did she ever instruct Christ’s followers to worship the Eucharist. However, this survey of messages given by the “Mother of the Eucharist” around the world, shows that the apparition that claims to be Mary consistently directs followers to concentrate on Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist. And as if to corroborate “Mary’s” messages, at many of these apparition sites, eucharistic miracles, such as bleeding communion hosts have occurred.

For example, in Betania, Venezuela, the location of a popular Marian apparition, a bleeding communion host was analyzed chemically. The analyzed sample was found to be human blood. Here is a summary of the Betania eucharistic miracle as recorded in the book, Cenacle Formation Manual and Prayer Book. This book is distributed by the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy, and chronicles many eucharistic miracles:

All the miracles listed occurred several hundred years ago. But the miracle that occurred during Mass in Betania, Venezuela took place on the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1991. A Consecrated Host,

truly the flesh of Our Lord, began to bleed. A subsequent medical team concluded that the material extruded from the Host was blood of human origin. The local bishop declared it a sign of transubstantiation saying, “God is trying to manifest to us that our faith in the consecrated Host is authentic.”

Many other extraordinary events have occurred in Betania, including numerous alleged apparitions of the Blessed Mother witnessed by several thousand people, multiple physical and spiritual healings, and a mystic named Maria Esperanza who has the gifts of stigmata, bilocation, and levitation during prayer. The bishop himself has witnessed the phenomena and wrote in a pastoral letter that after careful study, he has declared the apparitions authentic and of supernatural character.27

Many more examples could be cited. For example, in Stich, Germany a bleeding host that stained the altar cloth was chemically analyzed at the Polyclinical Institute of the University of Zurich. No one at the institute was made aware of the source of the stains. The stains were analyzed by four different methods of chemical identification and in each case the findings were the same – the stains were human blood.28

Mary is often portrayed as the Mother of the Eucharist or as Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

APPARITIONS OF JESUS

If “Mary’s” apparitions don’t convince the skeptic, and if miracles aren’t enough to persuade the cynic, then there is an even stronger validation offered by the faithful. Apparitions of “Jesus” himself are appearing.
Yes, apparitions of “Jesus” have also been reported worldwide, albeit at a much lower frequency, and they too give attention to the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

At St. Andrew’s Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, after Communion, I could see the Host in the monstrance and then it was quickly covered over. Jesus said: “My dear people, today you celebrate My institution of My Blessed Sacrament by My Presence coming into the bread and wine at the Mass. Believe, My faithful, that I am truly present in the consecrated bread and wine. You have witnessed many miracles of My Real Blood coming forth from the Host as evidence to those unbelievers. I tell you, at every Mass you witness My miracle in the Transubstantiation when the bread and wine are made into My Body and Blood. Take advantage of this time to adore Me in exposition of My Host, for a time is coming when this privilege will be taken away. I recommend to all of you to encourage your priests to have Perpetual Adoration of My Host. I bring many graces to those who can visit Me and give Me praise and adoration.”

Many of the miracles have been proven to be Real Blood by the scientists. Even in the face of reality and technical proof, there are still many who do not believe in My Real Presence. This denial of My Presence is the worst of insults and a disrespect for My Gift of the Eucharist. This is why those same people, who reject My Presence, do not feel it necessary to confess their sins. Those, who teach against My Real

---

Presence, and put down these miracles, are the real blasphemers... Those, who do not love My Blessed Sacrament, are the lukewarm that I will vomit from My mouth.30

WHY THE EUCHARIST?

There are many more eucharistic messages and reported miracles. But the question we must ask is why? Why does the apparition of Mary encourage the faithful to worship and adore the consecrated host? Her many messages on the Eucharist have spurred the formation of multiplied thousands of eucharistic prayer groups and perpetual eucharistic adoration groups throughout the world. Was this her goal? Obviously yes. But might she have a much greater goal in mind?

In this book, we have demonstrated from God’s inerrant Word that the apparition of Mary is a demonic impostor. She, or more accurately it, is not the Mary of the Bible, but rather a satanic counterfeit. Therefore, would a demon endeavor to lead the world to worship and trust the true Jesus of the Bible? Or is it more likely that these impostors would direct the people of the world to worship “another Jesus” or a false christ?

Proponents of the apparitions point out that “Mary” is simply confirming what the Catholic Church has taught for centuries. Namely that once a Catholic priest has consecrated the wafer of bread during Communion, that the wafer turns into the literal and real body, blood,

30 Ibid., Volume XI, p. 8. [bold not in original]
Therefore, the communion host is no longer bread, but Jesus, under the appearance of bread, and is therefore worthy of adoration and worship. That most Marian apparitions’ messages are in line with the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church is obvious. But, are her messages concerning the Eucharist in line with the Bible?

\[31\text{This process is called transubstantiation and is described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1373-1377 and 1413, on pages 383-385 and page 395.}\]
Appendix B

The Eucharist – A Biblical Review

The Eucharist Holds Center Stage

The Eucharist is the focus of Roman Catholic faith. It is the central component of the Mass. It is the sacrament of sacraments. Without question, the Church of Rome regards the doctrine of the Eucharist and Christ’s real presence to be of utmost importance. Failure to acknowledge this truth is considered grave sacrilege by Rome. The official Catechism of the Catholic Church leaves no doubt on this point.

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and oriented toward it.¹

The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist.²

Sacrilege is a grave sin especially when committed against the Eucharist, for in this sacrament the true Body of Christ is made substantially present for us.³

² Ibid., para. 2181, p. 583.
³ Ibid., para. 2120, p. 570.
CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

The Catholic Church teaches that once a Catholic priest has consecrated the wafer of bread during Communion, that the wafer turns into the literal and real body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the communion host is no longer bread, but Jesus, under the appearance of bread, and is therefore worthy of adoration and worship. The Catholic Catechism states succinctly—

In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.”

The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.

Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

We have documented what the Roman Catholic Church teaches concerning the Eucharist. We have also

---

1 This process is called transubstantiation and is described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1373-1377 and 1413, on pages 383-385 and page 395.
2 Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 1374, p. 383.
3 Ibid., para. 1380, pp. 385, 386.
shown that the apparition of Mary is its greatest proponent. But what does the Bible teach? The Bible encourages believers to study the “whole counsel” of God’s Word and to “test all things; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Every believer is to “be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15). To obey God’s command to test all things, we will search the Scriptures to determine what the Bible teaches concerning the Lord’s Supper.

The Last Supper was celebrated by first century Christians in obedience to Jesus’ words “do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19). This observance was established by the Lord at the Last Supper when He symbolically offered Himself as the Paschal Lamb of atonement. His actual death the next day fulfilled the prophecy. Only Paul uses the phrase Lord’s Supper although it is alluded to in Revelation 19:9, where we are told that believers will celebrate the “marriage supper of the Lamb.” Church fathers began to call the occasion the Eucharist meaning thanksgiving from the blessing pronounced over the bread and wine after about A.D. 100. Christians have celebrated the Lord’s Supper regularly as a sign of the new covenant sealed by Christ’s death and resurrection. Today, the Eucharist means far more than simply thanksgiving.

---

8 Acts 20:27
9 1 Corinthians 11:20
This is My Body

So what exactly did Jesus ordain during the Last Supper? Here is the Bible’s description of the events surrounding the Lord’s Supper. At the Last Supper “[Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'” (Luke 22: 19, 20).

This is strong language indeed and not to be taken lightly for “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness…” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Furthermore, proponents of the Catholic Eucharist point to Jesus’ words recorded in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. Though this chapter does not deal with the Last Supper, Jesus’ words certainly appear to relate to the Communion meal:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.” (John 6: 51-55).
Repeatedly Jesus stated that His flesh is food and His blood drink. Taken together, these verses certainly seem to affirm that Jesus – who is the “bread of life” – is truly present in the consecrated host. But, before putting the matter to rest, we must investigate the whole counsel of God.11

METAPHORS AND SIMILES

Throughout the Bible, context determines meaning. Bible-believing Christians know to take the Bible literally unless the context demands a symbolic interpretation. Before exploring Jesus’ words in John chapter 6 and elsewhere, let’s review a few examples of symbolism in the Scriptures. All scholars would agree that the following verses are metaphorical. An explanation follows each verse.

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good (Ps 34:8).
(Try and experience God’s promises to find if they are true.)

“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).
(For those who receive the gift of salvation, Christ’s Spirit shall dwell in their souls assuring them of everlasting life.)

Moreover He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Is-

11 Scriptural instructions concerning Communion can be found in the following verses: Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:7-23; John 13:1-17, 26 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.
rael." So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll (Ezekiel 3:1, 2).
(Receive into your heart, internalize, and obey God’s Word.)

It is apparent from searching the entire council of God that the Lord often uses metaphors and symbolic language to paint images for the reader. When the Bible says God hides us under His wings, we know that God is not a bird with feathers. However, the Bible should always be interpreted literally unless the context demands a symbolic explanation. So what does the context of John’s Gospel and the other Gospels demand?

**JOHN CHAPTER 6**

If we read the entire sixth chapter of John’s Gospel, we not only get the context, but also some startling insights into what Jesus meant when He said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. John chapter 6, begins with the account of Jesus feeding five thousand, followed by the account of Jesus walking on water. Starting in verse 22, we find that on the following day, people were seeking Jesus for the wrong reasons, which we understand from Jesus’ words in verses 26 and 27: “you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life.”

These verses begin to frame the context of the verses that follow, specifically, that Jesus emphasized the need for them to seek eternal life. Jesus goes on to explain to them how to obtain eternal life, and in verse 28, when
the people ask Jesus “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus replies (verse 29) “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Here Jesus specifies that there is only one work that pleases God, namely, belief in Jesus. Jesus re-emphasizes this in verse 35 “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” Notice the imperative is to “come to Me” and “believe in Me.” Jesus repeats the thrust of His message in verse 40 where He states - “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**The Bread of Life**

Jesus could not be more clear - by coming to Him and trusting in Him we will receive eternal life. At this point in the narrative, the Jews complained about Him because He said: “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” (verse 41). Jesus responds to their murmuring in verses 42 through 58, where he states that He is indeed the “living bread” and that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood to obtain eternal life. However, let’s remember the context of this statement. First, Jesus contrasts Himself with the manna that rained down on their fathers and sustained them for their journey, but their fathers are now dead. While Jesus offers Himself as the living bread, which, if they eat, will cause them to live forever.
Jesus is not the perishable manna that their descendants ate in the wilderness, He is the eternal bread of life that lives forever. Only by partaking in His everlasting life can we hope to live with Him forever. This contrast strengthens His main message, which is recorded in verse 47 where Jesus says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” Notice, Jesus said that as soon as we believe in Him we have, present tense, eternal life. It is not something we aim at or hope we might attain in the future, but rather, something we receive immediately upon believing.

When Jesus said these words, He was in the synagogue in Capernaum (verse 59), and He had neither bread nor wine. Therefore Jesus was either commanding cannibalism or He was speaking figuratively. If He was speaking literally, then He would be directly contradicting God the Father: “you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” (Genesis 9:4). Therefore, because Jesus Himself said, “the Scripture cannot be broken.” (John 10:35), He must be speaking metaphorically. And that is exactly how He explains His own words in the subsequent verses.

THE FLESH PROFITS NOTHING

After this, in verse 60, we find that many of His disciples said - “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” Jesus was aware of their complaints and He responded in verses 61 through 64 saying - “Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
But there are some of you who do not believe.” Wait a minute, the flesh profits nothing! I thought Jesus said we must eat His flesh? Yet, if the flesh profits nothing, Jesus must be speaking in spiritual terms. And that is exactly what He says - “The words that I speak to you are spirit.”

Jesus uses the exact same Greek word for flesh (sarx) as He did in the preceding verses. Therefore we must conclude that eating His literal flesh profits nothing! If the Lord Himself sets the context of the dialogue, we would do well to hear Him. He said that the words that He speaks are spirit and that the flesh profits nothing.

If that isn’t clear enough, Peter’s words allow no room for doubt. Immediately following the dialogue with the Jews, in which some disciples went away, Jesus said to the twelve apostles - “Do you also want to go away?” (verse 67). Peter’s response is profound. His reply to Jesus is recorded in verse 68 - “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Amazing! Peter did not say we have come to believe that we must eat Your flesh to live. He said that we know You are the Christ, and we have come to believe in You as the Christ.

This is the confession of faith that leads to eternal life, not eating Jesus’ flesh and drinking His blood. It also agrees with the totality of Scripture. Here is a brief sampling:
If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10: 9).

What must I do to be saved?...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved (Acts 16: 30, 31).

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life (John 3: 36).

**Spiritual Sense**

In John chapter 6, Jesus clearly contrasted the temporary benefits of the physical manna with the eternal benefits of life in the Spirit. This theme is repeated throughout the Word of God. All through the Bible, the limited and temporary benefits of the flesh are contrasted with the infinite and eternal benefits of the spirit. Consuming manna, even manna from heaven, has limited value. However, receiving Christ’s life, by placing our trust and hope in Him, has infinite value. Romans chapter 8 explains this truth:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ...For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ...So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Romans 8:1, 5, 6, 8, 9).
JESUS’ SEVEN "I AM" STATEMENTS

In addition to Jesus’ teaching in John chapter 6, we get additional insight into His message by reading John’s entire Gospel, and we begin to fully understand what Jesus meant when He said “I am the bread of life.” In John’s Gospel, Jesus makes seven “I am” statements. These seven are listed below.

John 6:35  I am the bread of life
John 8:12  I am the light of the world
John 10:9  I am the door
John 10:11 I am the good shepherd
John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:6  I am the way, the truth, and the life
John 15:5  I am the vine

Believers should love these seven “I am” statements. Not only is Jesus claiming to be God, but He is defining who God is. Back in the Book of Exodus, Moses asks God what His name is. God responds to Moses by saying, “My name is I AM”. God is the self-existent One. This I AM in the Hebrew is the name of God, the YHWH where we get “Yahweh” and “Jehovah.”

And in John’s Gospel, Jesus expounds and explains who God is. If your soul is hungering, Jesus would say: I am the bread of life. If you’re seeking illumination and understanding, Jesus would say: I am the light of the world. Are you looking for the entrance into abundant life? Jesus would say: I am the door. Do you need guidance and protection? Jesus would say: I am the good

12 Exodus 3:11-15
shepherd. Are you seeking eternal life? Jesus would say: I am the resurrection and the life. Jesus knows your needs better than you do. Whatever your need, Jesus would say: I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am the vine. If you abide in Me, I will supply all your needs.

What Jesus is saying in John chapter 6 and throughout the Gospel of John is: I am all you need. I created you and I know and understand what you need to be fully satisfied and it is Me. Jesus is our all in all. No matter what we think we need, Jesus, alone can supply our true need. By studying the entire Gospel of John, we see clearly that Jesus is not proclaiming Himself to be literal bread, any more than He is proclaiming Himself to be a literal vine or gate. Rather, He is affirming that as our God and Creator, He, and He alone, is all we need. Understanding the whole counsel of God is crucial.

**JOHN CHAPTER 6: UNRELATED TO THE LAST SUPPER**

Before leaving chapter 6 of John’s Gospel, we must realize that this chapter does not deal directly with the Last Supper, or with the doctrine of the Eucharist. That’s worth repeating, John chapter 6 has nothing to do with the Last Supper! And while proponents of transubstantiation often refer to these verses to support their doctrine, nowhere in this chapter does Jesus give the disciples instruction on how to celebrate Communion, nor is the Last Supper described here.

John deals with the Last Supper starting in chapter 13, but chapter 6 is a separate subject. So even if Jesus meant that we need to literally eat the meat of His body
to obtain eternal life, He does not ordain a procedure to follow concerning the Communion meal, and He certainly does not tell His disciples to institute a priesthood that will consecrate bread and turn it into His literal flesh. Nor does He teach here, or anywhere in Scripture, to worship His body and blood under the appearance of bread. The Gospel accounts do record Jesus' words at the Last Supper, so let’s investigate them.

**John Chapter 13**

In the thirteenth chapter of John’s Gospel, the events of the Last Supper are given. In verses 2 and 4 we read - “And supper being ended...[Jesus] rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.” So we see that by this time in John’s account Jesus had already blessed the bread, broke it and said “This is My body which is given for you.” (Luke 22:19).

What is interesting in John’s account of the Last Supper, is that after Jesus blessed the bread and said “This is My body,” He referred to the blessed and consecrated bread as mere bread (in verse 18 and verse 26). Verse 26 states: “Jesus answered, ‘It is he whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.” Did Jesus lose track of what He was doing? Did He misspeak? No! According to Jesus’ own words, the bread remained bread even after being blessed.
Satan Entered Judas

Furthermore, what took place immediately after Judas Iscariot received the blessed bread is very informative. In verse 27 we read – “Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him [Judas].” The Word of God tells us that Satan entered Judas right after receiving the bread.

So that no one misses the significance of what just transpired, God’s Word reiterates in verse 30: “Having received the piece of bread, he [Judas] went out immediately. And it was night.” The Last Supper was completed. Judas partook of the blessed and broken bread. And immediately Satan entered him. This of course would be impossible if the blessed bread were truly the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ.

Every believer knows that Satan cannot dwell where Christ is. The apostle Paul makes this clear:

What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

Christ cannot dwell with Belial – the Devil. Yet, Satan entered Judas immediately after he partook of the blessed bread.
After Judas Partook of Communion

Some Bible translations, translate John 13:2 as “during supper” rather than “supper being ended.” Is it possible Judas received the bread before it was blessed by Jesus? The answer is clear: Matthew, Mark, and Luke all agree that Judas partook of the blessed bread with the other apostles.

For example, in Mark’s Gospel we read – “In the evening He came with the twelve. Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.’ ...And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body’” (Mark 14:17, 18, 22). Notice that is was evening when all twelve received the blessed bread. Also remember that John 13:27-30 states that Judas received the bread, followed by Satan entering him, then Judas went out immediately, and it was night. In other words, all twelve disciples ate the blessed bread in the evening and then Satan entered Judas and he went out. And it was now night.

In Luke’s Gospel it is equally apparent that Judas partook of the Last Supper prior to being possessed and betraying Jesus: “When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. ...And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, the hand of
My betrayer is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing” (Luke 22:14, 19-23).

Matthew 26:20-26 also places Judas at the Communion meal prior to being possessed by Satan and betraying Jesus.

By examining all three Gospel narratives it becomes crystal clear that Judas received the blessed bread just prior to Satan entering him.

MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE

Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25, and Luke 22:7-23 give parallel accounts of what took place on the night before Jesus was crucified. In Luke 22:15-19 Jesus said to His disciples -

“With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

What is notable is what Jesus didn’t say. Never did He say that the blessed bread became His literal body, blood, soul, and divinity. This is worth repeating - never in any of the Gospel narratives, or for that matter, no-
where in the entire Bible does Jesus teach that the blessed bread changes into His literal body, blood, soul and divinity. What He does say is - “do this in remembrance of Me.” For we know that on the very next day, Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. His body was indeed broken and His blood was poured out for our sins. Three days later, He rose bodily and ascended to the Father.

**Jesus’ One Body is in Heaven**

We are told in Mark 16:19 that “[Jesus] was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” Jesus ascended bodily to be at the right hand of the Father. Peter says it this way: “[Jesus] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God.” (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus’ one and only glorified body is in heaven. This makes sense when we remember that He said “do this in remembrance of Me.” If Jesus’ body, blood, soul and divinity is with us in the Eucharist, the words “do this in remembrance of Me” would make no sense. A memorial service is not held for someone who is in attendance, but rather for someone who has departed.

Now, of course, Jesus is God and “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24). Jesus is with us spiritually and He is omnipresent (present everywhere), so He is with all of us right now - wherever we may be. But His glorified body is in heaven. “After He [Jesus] had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever
those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:12-14). It is clear that Jesus’ body is in heaven and we are to remember what He did for us on the cross by celebrating Communion.

**The Acts of the Early Church**

The early church celebrated Communion frequently and their actions are recorded in the Book of Acts. Let’s look at how the apostles and disciples celebrated Communion after Jesus’ ascension. In the Book of Acts we read:

> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:42).

> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness (Acts 2:46).

> And when he [Paul] had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves (Acts 27:35, 36).

The Lord’s apostles, the very same ones that were present at the Last Supper, broke bread daily, celebrating Communion, and not once did they refer to the bread as the literal body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus. Even on Sunday, which is the day that the Lord rose, they referred to Communion as mere bread. In a key verse in the Book of Acts, we read: “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread…” (Acts 20:7).
Notice that the disciples broke bread on Sunday in remembrance of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Search as we might, there is no hint in the entire Book of Acts that the disciples considered the Communion service as anything but a memorial service. This does not lessen its importance, rather it emphasizes that the reason for the Communion celebration is to remember the completed work of the cross and that Jesus is now in heaven as our triumphant King!

**GOD DOES NOT DWELL IN TEMPLES MADE WITH HANDS**

What is interesting in the Book of Acts is the repeated, emphatic statement made by the disciples that God does not dwell in temples! “**However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands...**” (Acts 7:48).

[Paul said] Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything (Acts 17:22-25).

This truth is also echoed in the Book of Hebrews: “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands...but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” (Hebrews 9:24).
A Eucharistic tabernacle in the inner room of a Catholic church. Remarkably, Jesus warned that if anyone says that He is in the “inner rooms” or “secret chambers,” not to believe it (Matthew 24:26).

Amazing! The Eucharistic Tabernacle is a “holy place” made with human hands! Yet, the Bible states that Christ is not there but in heaven. In addition, the Greek word for temple is naos, which can also be translated as shrine or a place of worship. God says He doesn’t dwell there, yet the Catholic Church insists that Jesus is present in all the tabernacles of the world. The communion host is made with men’s hands, yet, the Bible states that God is NOT worshipped with men’s hands (Acts 17:25). The Scriptures clearly teach us that Jesus’ body is in heaven and that Communion is meant as a memorial of the finished work of the cross.
Abstain from Blood

Furthermore, the apostles also commanded believers to abstain from blood. In the Book of Acts, we find that the apostles and elders came together to consider certain Jewish customs that had crept into the early church. Their decision, stated by James, is as follows:

Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood (Acts 15:19, 20).

If the original apostles and disciples repeatedly commanded new believers to abstain from blood (see also Acts 15:29; 21:25), why does the Roman Catholic Church encourage followers to eat Jesus’ body and blood? If the consecrated communion host becomes Jesus’ literal body, BLOOD, soul, and divinity, then partaking in Communion goes against the Holy Spirit’s command to abstain from blood. This is a direct contradiction.

1 Corinthians 11

Some proponents of the Eucharist argue that 1 Corinthians 11 supports transubstantiation. They refer to verse 29 that states - “For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” A thorough read of 1 Corinthians 11, reveals that the Corinthians were not making the proper distinction between Communion and common meals. Not discerning the Lord’s body meant...
not discerning in the bread and wine the symbols of Christ's body and blood, but partaking of them irreverently, as if it were a common feast.

It is evident that this was the leading offense of the Corinthians. Those who were eating and drinking in an unworthy manner were getting drunk and selfishly eating before others in the body of Christ. Paul states this as the problem in verses 20 and 21. There is no indication in chapter 11 of 1 Corinthians that Paul believed in or taught transubstantiation.

What is very provocative, in verses 26 and 28 of chapter 11, is that Paul refers to the blessed bread as mere bread after it had been blessed. Paul states in verse 26 - “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”

Additionally, if Jesus is really physically present in the Eucharist, why would Paul state that we are to celebrate the Lord's Supper “till He comes”? This would only make sense if the Lord's Supper is in memory of the finished work of Calvary. And that is exactly what Jesus ordained when He said “do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19). Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Of course, Jesus did not become a literal lamb when He died for the sins of the world, anymore than a wafer turns into the literal body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus during Communion.

**Finished Work**

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this Catholic doctrine is that Christ is being re-sacrificed daily by
thousands of Catholic priests. And that by receiving the Eucharist a Catholic can obtain forgiveness of sins. In other words, the Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharist is a sacrificial offering able to atone for sins. Therefore, Christ is ever suffering and dying each time a priest consecrates the wafer. Here is how the Catechism explains it:

As sacrifice, the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God.\(^{13}\)

Every time this mystery is celebrated, "the work of our redemption is carried on."\(^{14}\)

The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it *re-presents* (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross.\(^{15}\)

This teaching directly contradicts the Word of God. When Jesus died on the cross He proclaimed - "It is finished!" (John 19:30). The Greek word used is *tetelestai*. It was a Greek accounting term that meant paid in full. The work for our salvation is complete! Christ purchased our redemption once and for all on the cross. Jesus is not being perpetually sacrificed in the Eucharist as the Catholic Church teaches. Partaking in the Eucharist does not appease God, nor does it atone for sin. If you are a Catholic, then the following verses can be transforming and revolutionary if you will simply take God at His Word.

\(^{13}\) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, para. 1414, p. 395.

\(^{14}\) Ibid., para. 1405, p. 393.

\(^{15}\) Ibid., para. 1366, p. 380.
For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another - He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation (Hebrews 9:24-28).

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ...there is no longer an offering for sin (Hebrews 10:11-14, 18).

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God (Romans 6:10).

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).
Eternal Consequences

Clearly, the Catholic doctrine of the Eucharist is contrary to God’s Word. But just how serious is this doctrinal error? Is it serious enough to determine one’s eternal destiny? Ironically, the following quote from former Protestant Peter Kreeft, now a strong proponent of the Catholic Eucharist, accurately expresses the significance and consequence of submitting to this belief:

What a point of division the Eucharist is! One of the two sides is very, very wrong. I said before that if Protestants are right, Catholics are making the terrible mistake of idolatrously adoring bread and wine as God. But if Catholics are right, Protestants are making the just-as-terrible mistake of refusing to adore Christ where He is and are missing out on the most ontologically real union with Christ that is possible in this life, in Holy Communion.¹⁶

Consider the repercussions of what Kreeft has written. If Catholics are wrong in their belief in and worship of the Eucharist, then they are guilty of idolatry. Therefore, they are directly violating the second commandment (Exodus 20:4, 5).

It is imperative that we believe in and direct all worship toward the true Jesus of the Bible. Jesus warned that there would be many false christs. That being the case, shouldn’t all professing Christians search the Scriptures diligently to determine the truth? This is God’s desire - “And you will seek Me and find

Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

**Summary**

If transubstantiation is true, then Jesus’ body must be in hundreds of thousands of tabernacles simultaneously. Yet, the Word of God states unequivocally that Jesus has only one body: “and that He [Jesus] might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross…” (Ephesians 2:16), and “a body you have prepared for Me [Jesus].” (Hebrews 10:5).

Finally, at the risk of being redundant, it must be pointed out that nowhere in the Bible does the Holy Spirit teach that the blessed bread becomes the literal body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. PropONENTS of transubstantiation cannot show a single, clear, biblical teaching to support their doctrine.

One final quote, taken from *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* recounts how Mrs. Prest of Cornwall was accused of denying transubstantiation. Her final words to the Catholic bishop prior to being burned at the stake are very illuminating.

[Can you] deny your creed which says that Christ doth perpetually sit at the right hand of His Father, both body and soul, until He comes again; or whether He be there in heaven our Advocate, and to make prayer for us unto God His Father? If He be so, He is not here on earth in a piece of bread. If He be not here, and if He do not dwell in temples made with hands, but in heaven, what! Shall we seek Him here?
If He did not offer His body once for all, why make you a new offering? If with one offering He made all perfect, why do you with a false offering make all imperfect? If He be to be worshipped in spirit and in truth, why do you worship a piece of bread? If He be eaten and drunken in faith and truth, if His flesh is not profitable to be among us, why do you say you make His flesh and blood, and say it is profitable for body and soul? Alas! I am a poor woman, but rather than to do as you do, I would live no longer.17

Tragically the impostors that are posing as Mary and Jesus are pointing people to a false Christ. This is no surprise to those who have read the Bible. Jesus warned that the last days would be defined by deception in His name.18 Our prayer is that you will seek the Lord in His word with all your heart. Only then will you meet the true Christ.

**Scripture Summary of the Lord’s Supper**

There are many other Scriptures that refute transubstantiation. For further study, refer to the following Scriptures and subsequent explanation.

- “For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). At the Last Supper Jesus said: “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). See also: Exodus 12:1-4; 13:6-10. As the Jews celebrated Passover in remembrance of their deliverance from the bondage of slavery, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in remem-

---

brance of our deliverance from the bondage of sin. Jesus is our Passover Lamb.

- Jesus said: “He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me” (John 13:18). Jesus referred to the Communion elements as mere bread after being blessed.


- “When [Jesus] had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body’... For as often as you eat this bread...” (1 Corinthians 11:24-26). Paul refers to the bread as mere bread after it was blessed.

- “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19). The Communion celebration is in remembrance of the finished work of the cross.

- “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). The words “till He comes” pre-supposes that the Lord has ascended on high.

- “Jesus Christ...has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God...” (1 Peter 3:21, 22). See also: Matthew 26:64; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 9:24, 25; 12:2. Many Scripture verses state that Jesus’ one and only body is in heaven.

- “a body you have prepared for Me” (Hebrews 10:5). Transubstantiation contradicts the biblical doctrine of the incarnation and ascension.

- “[Jesus] who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens...” (Ephesians 4:10). See also Ephesians 2:16. Jesus has only one body, and it is in heaven. Jesus’ body is not in thousands of tabernacles around the world.

- “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are
life” (John 6:63). In John 6, Jesus frames the context with this revealing statement.

- “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved” (John 10:9). No one believes that Jesus is a literal wooden door, when He is obviously speaking figuratively. Why should His words “I am the bread of life” be any different?

- “the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands....” (Acts 7:48). See also: 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24. Jesus, who is God, does not dwell in a temple, shrine, or tabernacle. He is in heaven.

- “abstain from...blood” (Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25). See also: Leviticus 3:17; 7:26, 27. The apostles commanded believers to abstain from blood. If the Eucharist becomes Jesus’ body and blood, we have a contradiction.

- “You shall not make for yourself a carved image - any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath...you shall not bow down to them nor serve [worship] them” (Exodus 20:4, 5). Eucharistic adoration violates the second commandment. We are never to worship or bow before anything but God Himself.

- “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But [Jesus], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God....For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified...there is no longer an offering for sin” (Hebrews 10:11-18). The Eucharist is not a perpetual sacrifice, nor does it atone for or make reparation for sins. Jesus’ one sacrifice on the cross atoned for all sin. As Jesus said on the cross “It is finished” which, in the Greek, means “paid in full.”
Photo credits in order:

1) Cover design by John Shaffer.

2) Back cover photo purchased from PictureQuest © 2002.

3) Photos of Zeitoun, Egypt apparitions used by permission of Dr. Maged Kamel.

4) Photos of Fatima and Lourdes by Mark Haville.

5) Photos of the Mother of the Eucharist used by permission of Bishop Claudio Gatti.

6) Bible illustrations by Gustave Doré (Public Domain).

7) Photos of the pope and Father Gobbi used by permission of The Marian Movement of Priests in Saint Francis, Maine.

8) Photo of the Queen of Heaven in the Vatican by Hose Oscar Salinas.


10) Coronation illustration by Albrecht Dürer (Public Domain).

11) Photos of Queen of Heaven by Dr. Ken Lawson.

12) Various Gospel illustration in chapters 12 and 16 used by permission and excerpted from the book by John R. Cross, *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus*, Olds, Alberta, Canada, GoodSeed International,


14) Images of The Lady of All Nations used under Fair Use Laws. Source: “Family of Mary Coredemtrix,” in Amsterdam.

15) Photo of Eucharistic tabernacle by author.

16 Cover design for “The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven” by John Shaffer.

17) All other images or photos are used in accordance with Fair Use Laws or are available in the public domain. Refer to US Copyright Act, chapter 17, section 107.
Visit apparition sites around the globe. Witness for yourself the millions of pilgrims eager to encounter the Queen of Heaven. Enlightening and often shocking footage reveals the magnitude and significance of these phenomena. This feature video examines these alleged “Messages From Heaven” and compares them to the Word of God. Essential viewing for anyone who exalts Mary as Queen. Includes guest appearances by Chuck Smith, Dave Hunt, Roger Oakland, Chuck Missler, Raul Ries, and others.
According to the Book of Revelation, a woman will reign over the nations in the final days. The Apostle John marveled when he saw the woman who says in her heart, “I sit as queen.” The Prophet Isaiah also foresaw a woman who is called, “The Lady of Kingdoms”. Ironically, Isaiah predicts that her true identity would remain concealed until the very end. Who is this Queen? How could she encompass nations and kingdoms? This witnessing booklet will help uncover this mystery.
Roger Oakland surveys numerous current spiritual trends and explains how they can be understood in light of the Bible. From signs and wonders to the serpent power, from apparitions of “Mary” to a Second Pentecost, from Islam to Rome, New Wine and The Babylonian Vine points us back to the Word of God as the only foundation for truth and the key to helping us understand our times.

Also available in video and audio pack.
The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven

The impact of the apparitions of Mary on tens of millions around the globe cannot be overstated. Yet, the Queen of Heaven has declared that her greatest victory is yet future. How do her predictions relate to what the Bible has revealed will take place at the end of the age? Does the Word of God specify the events surrounding the Marian manifestations? The Coming Reign of The Queen of Heaven examines numerous Scriptures in light of the apparitional phenomena and seeks to expose the Queen’s agenda and destiny. A thorough and shocking investigation of the final global counterfeit religion as seen through the lens of God’s Word.

These and other biblical resources available from:

Eternal Productions at www.eternal-productions.org or by calling 877-370-7770.

Understand The Times at www.understandthetimes.org or by calling 800-689-1888