

Mary, The Mother of our Lord.

The tragedy in seeking to understand the teachings about Mary, is that we smart Christians want to start with Mary. There is a hymn that we often sang during days when we focus on Mary, it sings,

“virgin-born we bow before thee thee,
blessed is the womb that bore thee,
Mary, maid and mother mild,
blessed was she in her Child.”

Because we do not ordinarily understand what we read, especially if it is in a more classical form, such as hymn/poetry, we lose and miss so much nourishment. Needless to say, I despised this hymn because I felt this verse alone, took the attention of Jesus and placed it on Mary. I was wrong in my interpretation. In truth, there is no great man, that has done or can do anything, that has not been or that will ever not be born of a woman.

It was expected that the early Church gave reverence to The Mother of our Lord by establishing days to remember her, and worship God through her.

The question you may ask is, “for what reason?” We can turn our attention to Scripture. Luke 1:48 “...from now on, all generations shall call me blessed...(Magnificat)”.

Mary is mentioned primarily in Luke 1:26f, also known as the Annunciation.

Mary is mentioned in Acts 1:14, those who devoted themselves to prayer after Jesus ascended into heaven.

Mary appears to Elizabeth Luke 1:39ff, Luke 2:1, the birth of Jesus, Matthew 2:1f, the flight to Egypt; the Passover visit to Jerusalem Luke 2:41; The marriage at Cana in Galilee, John 2:1f; Mark 3:31 she attempts to see Jesus; and John at the station of the cross or scene of the crucifixion is entrusted to her, as she is entrusted to him.

We are certain that Mary is there at his birth, and there at the cross during his death. Thus is the power of a mother's love, and yet, that love is weak compared to God's.

Galatians 4:4—born of a woman are relatable to Job 14:1 and Matthew 11:11 as it pertains to definition, it seems to be speaking to one's humanity.

This is significant, because the scripture constantly speaks of Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man. Mary is the obedient vessel that makes it possible for our savior to be born among us. Very God and Very man. The early Church referred to her as Theotikos—Mother of God. She was the vessel. The Early Christians therefore adored her, as the Angel gave her honor.

There are some who deny the virgin birth saying that Jesus' humanity would be in question, while others see Mary's acceptance of her role as the passage through which God becomes Man.

Pray for us o holy mother of God

The part attributed to Mary that is most concerning for many Christians, is the issue of Mary praying for us since she had been dead these many years. Yet Mk 12:26 and Mathew 22:32 helps us with a wider perspective on the living and the dead.

While God is God of the Living and not the dead, the assumption is that this rejects those who have died as being counted in this number. However, what it does is redefines existence. In God, all are alive.

The Bible tells us in one verse that there is one mediator 1 Timothy 2:5-6. The Bible speaks also to Saints praying for us or on our behalf. Rev 5:8, and 8:3-4 speaks about the incense representing the prayers of the Saints.

The truth is, those who are dead are dead to us, but living unto God. We believe, through the Word, that they pray for us even now. We ask them to continue.

What do we learn?

We learn that Mary was venerated by the Angel

We learn that Mary was the Mother of our Lord

Mary is the vessel through which God becomes human

Mary was obedient, and as such, is an example of what we should do

Mary helps to expose the lack of attention and respect that women are owed.

Mary was at his birth, and at his death.

Mary is important enough to leave in the entrusted care of John.

The hymn above is really not talking about Mary. It is really about Jesus, even when we speak about Mary.

Mary, though dead to this world, lives in the nearer presence. Her along with the other saints are alive and pray for us according to Revelation.

Mary because like the new Eve, even as Jesus is the New Adam. This via, obedience.

There is nothing wrong with venerating those who have shown great examples. A part of our down grading in this life, is our inability to see value in our perspective contexts and nature.

Mary and the saints can and are praying for us even now around the throne of God. We believe that death is not the end of existence, except it is the end of physical existence.

Mary is to be revered and respected, but never worshipped. There can be a thin line between the two, but there is a noticeable difference. God is the object of our prayer, and there are many ways by which we come to Him and through whom we come to Him.