



Mary

Catholic Truth League
Friday Apologetics
2007 Anno Domini

As Catholics, our beliefs about Mary are at the heart of our faith. We believe that our Marian doctrines and our devotion to her are firmly based on Sacred Scripture as well as Sacred Tradition. Yet these same doctrines are a major dividing line between Catholics and non-Catholics, who generally believe that by giving too much attention to Mary, we are taking away from the honor due to Christ. However, by honoring Mary, we are also honoring God, the source of her grace and privileges. Why would we not honor the "most blessed among women" and "mother of (our) Lord," as Elizabeth did? (Lk 1:42-1:43)

Quick Scripture

Gen 3:15 – enmity between woman and devil; her offspring will strike devil's head
CCC 128-130 – OT typology
Lk 1:42 – most blessed among women
Lk 1:48 – Mary: "all generations will call me blessed"
1 Cor 15:25 – Christ reigns **until** he has put all his enemies under his feet
2 Kings 2:11 – Elijah assumed with his body

Common Objections:

- 1.
2. Mary did not remain ever-virgin; the Bible speaks of Jesus' brothers (Mt 13:55), and Mt 1:24-25 tells us that Joseph did not have relations with Mary **until** she bore Jesus.
3. The Dogma of the Assumption has no scriptural basis, and it contradicts 1 Cor 15, where Paul tells us that the body must be glorified at the end of time before entering heaven.

Catholic Response:

- 1.
2. The word "brother" was used in many ways in biblical times. For example, in Gen 14:14, Abraham's nephew Lot is called his brother, and fellow Christians are called brothers in Acts 21:7. Also, the word "until" does not necessarily imply a later change in condition, as we can see in many examples from the Bible (Mt 28:20, 1 Cor 15:25).
3. The Bible also states, however, that Elijah was assumed into heaven with his body (2 Kings 2:11) as was Enoch (Gen 5:24), and many Old Testament saints whose bodies were resurrected after Jesus' death (Mt 27:53). So the Assumption is not unprecedented and God could certainly grant this privilege to His earthly mother. Additionally, no city or church has ever claimed to have relics of Mary's body. In the early Church, relics of saints were highly prized and guarded, and cities argued over who had the true remains of various saints, yet it was widely accepted that there were no relics of Mary. Also, writings of early Christians exhibit a general belief in the Assumption.