

Mother Mary – Three things:

Ref A: references and quotes from: *Beginning Apologetics 6 – How to Explain and Defend Mary (Catholic Answers Special Edition)* Fr. Frank Chacon & Jim Burnham, San Juan Catholic Seminars; 2003; Farmington, NM 87499-5253
ISBN: 1-930084-21-8; www.catholicapologetics.com

First things first - Typology: **MARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT ARK OF THE COVENANT!**

- The Old Testament **Ark of the Covenant** (Ex 26:33, 40:20) (which carried the 10 Commandments...or The **WRITTEN WORD** of God) **prefigured** Mary who carried Jesus – also known as...THE **LIVING WORD** of God
- God took care to keep the Ark free from all defect, corruption & profanation because it carried His written WORD; even more so would He preserve Mary the bearer of His Living WORD
- Rev 11-12: at the victory over the powers of darkness, John sees a vision of the Ark of the Covenant in heaven & then a 'woman clothed with the sun'. This vision shows Mary is in heaven – body & soul. [Ref A p.25]

Old Testament Ark	Mary
A cloud of glory covered the Tabernacle and Ark (Ex 40:34-35; Num 9:15)	"And the angel said to her: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you '" (Lk 1:35)
Ark spent 3 months in the house of Obbededom the Gittite (2 Sam 6:11)	Mary spent 3 months in the house of Zechariah & Elizabeth (Lk 1:26, 40)
King David asked: "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" (2 Sam 6:9)	Elizabeth asked Mary, "why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)
David leaped & danced before the Lord when the Ark arrived in Jerusalem (2 Sam 6:14-16)	John the Baptist leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived (Lk 1:44)

[Ref A p.22]

1. Immaculate Conception: [Ref A p.19-20]

- 8 Dec 1854 Pope Pius IX infallibly defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: "*The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the first moment of her conception, by a unique **gift** of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the **merits of Jesus Christ** the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin.*"
 - Note: Mary still needed Jesus Christ as Saviour: as we are SAVED through the remission of sin by the merits of Jesus, Mary was PRESERVED from sin; 'proactive redemption'
 - Think of a pit in the ground representing sin; we've fallen in the pit and require a Saviour to pull us out. But in Mary's case, she was SAVED from falling in the hole in the first place! She still needed a Saviour – her son, Jesus Christ.
- But "all have sinned...." (Rom 3:23)
 - St. Paul doesn't mean "all" in an absolute sense – every single person...as this would include Jesus, Adam & Eve before the Fall etc. Similarly see Rom 3:9-10;
 - St Paul is quoting Psalm 14 – David is lamenting widespread rebellion in Isreal; David is using the *collective* sense of 'all' to mean *large proportions* of a group as opposed to the *distributive* sense which means *each & every* individual; (note how David distinguishes 'all evildoers' from 'my people' and the 'generation of the righteous'...evidently 'all' does not mean 'every one')

2. Perpetual Virginity: [Ref A p.15-18]

- Mary was a Virgin before, during & after birth of Jesus & forever (Ever Virgin) (miraculously preserved virginity)
- "Mary was to have perfect spiritual *intactness* – sinlessness. God wanted Mary's *body* to reflect this intactness."
- God PRESERVED her from all sin to fulfill the role of Mother of God, spouse of Holy Spirit, mother of Church & leader in battle against evil
- Bible teaches that our bodies mirror our spiritual condition (thus she was kept from corruption – rotting/decaying – after death) (Assumption)
 - Since we were kicked out of Garden (the Fall), destined to death & decay; in heaven we will be spiritually perfect & our risen bodies will be perfect as well. Mary is an example of what was intended for us all had we not sinned. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we have been restored & thus can look forward to the day when our risen bodies will be perfect as Mary's body is in heaven.

- References to Jesus' brothers (Matt 13:55):
 - Hebrew word for "brother" = sibling or relative, friend, associate (Acts 21:7, Acts 22:1, Gen 14:14, Gen 11:26-28); *brothers* James & Joseph sons of another Mary (Matt 27:56 & Mk 15:40 vs Jn 19:25); 'brothers' of Jesus were never called the sons of Mary; younger brothers in Jewish culture never admonish elder brother. See Jn 7:3-4 & Mk 3:21. These could not have been younger children of Mary
- Sexual relations with husband Joseph?: (Matt 1:24-25) "...and took unto him his wife; and he knew her not **till she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he called his name Jesus**"
 - "till" or "until" doesn't necessarily imply a later change of condition; (see 1 Cor 15:25 "*Christ must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet*") Clearly this doesn't mean that Christ will cease to reign after this point – see Lk 1:32-33)
 - **firstborn** – implication more children follow: Firstborn is LEGAL term meaning special privilege or rank – see Psalm 89:27 where David is 'firstborn' yet he's Jesse's 8th son; Col 1:15 – Jesus is first-born of all creation
- Jesus entrusts his Mother Mary to Apostle John, son of Zebedee, at the foot of the cross – would not happen if other siblings existed (Jn 19:26-27); recall Jesus condemned Pharisees for dispensing people from responsibility of caring for their parents & thus if he had siblings, they would have the responsibility to care for Mary (Matt 15);
- Church Fathers AND Protestant Reformers defended Mary's Perpetual Virginity: (St. Athanasius, St. Jerome, St Augustine & St. Ambrose as well as Luther, Calvin & Zwingli)

3. Assumption into Heaven (Bodily Assumption): [Ref A p.24-26]

- 1 Nov 1950 Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption: "*Mary, the immaculate perpetually Virgin Mother of God, after the completion of her earthly life, was assumed body & soul into the glory of heaven.*" (Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*)
- her body & soul taken into heaven & glorified; did not undergo corruption of decay
- assumption = drawn up; vice Christ's *Ascension* by His own power
- Elijah assumed into heaven with his body without dying (2 Kings 2:11); Enoch assumed without dying (Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5); after death of Jesus many Old Testament saints resurrected & their bodies accompanied their souls into heaven (Matt 27:53); Church teaches Jesus would do the same for His Mother
- Early Church Fathers and writers teach of Mary's Assumption, also called The Falling Asleep of Mary (4th Century)..."*the apostles carried the couch, and laid down her precious and holy body in Gethsemane in a new tomb. And behold, a perfume of sweet savour came forth out of the sepulcher of our Lady and mother of God; and for three days the voices of invisible angels were heard glorifying Christ our God, who had been born of her. And when the third day was ended, the voices were no longer heard; and from that time forth all knew that her spotless and precious body had been transferred to paradise.*". (Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson, editors, *Ante Nicene Fathers* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), Vol 8, p. 591)
- Also written of by St. Gregory of Tours in Eight Books of Miracles (yrs 575-593) & by St. John Damascene (died in 749)
- No relics exist of Mary;