

St Mary in the Bible

Objectives

- St Mary was in the plan of God from the beginning of creation through the prophecies and symbols of the Old Testament
- St Mary the Mother of God in the New Testament

References

- Holy Bible & the Psalmody Book
- The fullness of time by HG Anba Moussa
- St Mary in the Orthodox understanding by Father Tadros Malaty

Scriptural Verse

- The Holy Spirit will come , upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35)

Lesson Guidelines

Prophecies concerning St. Mary

- Her Son bruised Satan: “And I will put enmity between ... your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Gen. 3: 15)
- The Escape to Egypt: Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud (symbol of St Mary), and will come into Egypt (Isaiah 19: 1)
- Her Purity: “The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold” (Psalm 45: 13) -The gold symbolizes purity
- A Virgin Mother: “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7: 14)
- Her Everlasting Virginity: “Then said the Lord unto me; this gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.” (Ezekiel 44: 1-2)
- Her Saying “All generation will call me blessed”: “I will make your name to be remembered in all generations: therefore the people shall praise you forever and ever.” (Psalm 45:17)
- Her Suffering: “And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother;... Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Luke 2: 34-35)

Symbols for St. Mary in the Old Testament

- Eve:(Gen 3:20) “And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living” like St Mary, the mother of those who live in Christ like St John (John 19:16)
- Sarah, Deborah, Judith & Esther are all figures for St. Mary in bringing salvation.
- Jacob’s ladder that was set up on the earth and its top reached to heaven (Genesis 28: 12 & 17) like St Mary who is the connection between heaven and earth

- The throne of God carried by the Cherubim (Isaiah 6:1) symbolized St Mary who was the throne of God for 9 months in her womb then carried Him on her arms
- The Burning Bush (Ex 3:2) was like St Mary who was able to carry the Divine ember and remained virgin and humble
- The rod of Aaron (Numbers 17: 7-8) that blossomed without seed like St Mary who conceived and gave birth without knowing a man
- The gate of Ezekiel (Ezek. 43:4&7) that faces the east by which entered the Lord, symbolized St Mary the real path, leading up to heavens.
- Stone cut without hands (Daniel 2: 34) like St Mary who gave birth to the invisible and remained a Virgin, not touch by any man
- The Tabernacle (Exodus 25: 8) like St Mary the true sanctuary for the dwelling of the Lord. Almost everything inside the tabernacle, made of Gold resembled St Mary the pure
 - * The holy of holies: She was the dwelling of the Lord
 - * The censor of incense; She carried the live coal
 - * The pot of manna; she carried the true bread of life
 - * The ark of covenant: she carried the word of God (Tablets), the bread of life (Manna) and was overshadowed by the angels (Golden Cherubim)
 - * The two tablets; She carried the word of God
 - * The lamp stand; She carried the true light
 - * The table of the show bread: She carried the bread of Life

St Mary in the New Testament

St Mary, “the Beginning of Joy” marked the fullness of the time and proclaimed the truth that was a shadow in the Old Testament (Galatians 4:4)

- The Archangel Gabriel greeted her as the highly favoured one and the blessed among women and announced her with the joyful news (Luke 1:28-38)
- St Mary accepted the will of God and submitted herself as a maidservant of the Lord and became worthy to be the mother of God (Luke 1:38)
- St Mary humbly went into the hill country with haste to serve Elizabeth (Luke 1:39)
- Her greeting gave joy to the babe and filled Elizabeth with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41)
- She praised and magnified the Lord. Her Praise declared her humbleness and her high Spiritual level as she was waiting for the promise to Abraham (Luke 1:46-55)
- St Mary went with St Joseph for the census from Galilee to Bethlehem, city of David. The days were completed for her and she gave birth there in a manger (Luke 2:7)
- St Mary saw and heard about the miracles that were around The Glorious birth and kept all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19)
- St Mary humbly fulfilled the Law of Moses; she circumcised her child after eighth days and waited for her purification to present the child to the temple (Luke 2:22)
- St Mary met Simon the elder and Anna the prophetess and marvelled about the things which were spoken of Him (Luke 2:33)
- The holy family went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover (Luke 2:41)

- At twelve years old Jesus stayed to teach and answer questions of the teachers. St Mary and St Joseph were looking for Him anxiously (Luke 2: 46-48). She did not understand the statement about His Father's business but kept all things in her heart (Luke 2;51)
- St Mary interceded in the wedding of Cana of Galilee (John 2:5)
- St Mary was seeking to see the Lord Jesus. (Mat. 12:47; Mark 3:32; Luke 8:20)
- St Mary assisted the crucifixion of her son and was standing under the cross and became the mother of us all in the person of St John the beloved (John 19: 26-27)
- St Mary was with the disciples in the upper room and was baptized by the Holy Spirit with them in the day of the Pentecost (Acts 1:14)

Conclusion

Incarnation was in God's mind as a thought, a will and a plan that has been postponed to the fullness of the time when He sent forth His Son born of a woman under the law (Gal.4:4). The presence of a pure saint and virgin who can accept humbly to be the mother of the Lord was crucial in this Divine Plan. Only St Mary fulfilled the requirement.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Discuss St Mary's need for salvation despite that the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the Highest overshadowed her and she gave birth to the Son of God (Luke 1:35)
 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
 - St Mary said: "My Spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47)