

Mary: The Bible & the Mother of God - Class 2

Outline

I. Jesus inaugurates a New Exodus

- A. Transfiguration—Moses, Elijah, and Jesus speak of his exodus or "departure, which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem" (Luke 9:30-31)
 - a. Paschal Mystery – Jesus' passion, death & Resurrection
- B. New Exodus needs a New Ark



II. Old Testament Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25, 40)

- A. Ark is the dwelling place of God on earth
- B. Sacred container—Ten Commandments (God's Word), staff of Aaron, and manna
- C. Acacia wood—durable, precious, signifies permanence, incorruptible
- D. Covered with pure gold, free from impurities
- E. Veiled with blue cloth
 - e. *When the camp is to set out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen, and cover the ark of the testimony with it; then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin, and spread over that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles. (Num 4:5-6)*
- F. Place where the glory cloud came down from Heaven; glory cloud departed during the Babylonian Exile

And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the river Chebar. And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them. When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in them. Then the glory of the LORD went forth from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight as they went forth, with the wheels beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the house of the LORD; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. (Ez 10:15-19)

- G. Hidden by Jeremiah in the mountains east of the Jordan River (2 Maccabees 2:4-8)

III. Mary as the New Ark

- A. Annunciation—return of the glory cloud when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary
- B. Visitation
 - 1. David takes the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6)
 - 2. Visitation (Luke 1) echoes - "overshadow," "arose," "exclaims," "leaped," "three months"
 - 3. Mary takes the place of the Ark

David brings the Ark into Jerusalem (2 Sm 6)	Visitation (Lk 1:39-47)
“And David <i>arose & went ... from Ba’ale-judah</i> ” (2 Sm 6:2)	“Mary <i>arose & went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah</i> ” (Lk 1:39)
“King David <i>leaping & dancing before the Lord</i> ” (2 Sm 6:16)	“The babe <i>leaped in her womb</i> ” (Lk 1:41)
“So David & all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord <i>with shouting</i> ” (2 Sm 6:15)	“She <i>exclaimed with a loud cry</i> ” (Lk 1:42)
“How can the ark of the Lord <i>come to me?</i> ” (2 Sm 6:9)	“Why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should <i>come to me?</i> ” (Lk 1:43)

C. John sees the Ark—woman clothed with the sun

1. *Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a violent hailstorm. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.* (Rev 11:19-12:2)

IV. Implications

A. Annunciation—Mary, the New Ark, carries God's presence (Athanasius, Jacob of Syroge)

B. Assumption—Fitting that the New Ark is present in the new temple in Heaven

a. Prefigurements to the Assumption

- i. Elijah goes to Heaven in a whirlwind
- ii. *And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.* (2 Kgs 2:11-12)
- iii. Enoch
- iv. *When Jared had lived a hundred and sixty-two years he became the father of Enoch. Thus all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after the birth of Methuselah three hundred years, and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.* (Gn 5:18, 20-24)
- v. Moses because he shows up at the Transfiguration

C. Mary is the living Ark of the Covenant

In the prayer, *Hail Mary*, the greeting of the angel Gabriel opens this prayer. It is God himself who, through his angel as intermediary, greets Mary. Our prayer dares to take up this greeting to Mary with the regard God had for the lowliness of his humble servant and to exult in the joy he finds in her. Full of grace, the Lord is with thee: These two phrases of the angel's greeting shed light on one another. Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her. the grace with which she is filled is the presence of him who is the source of all grace. “Rejoice . . . O Daughter of Jerusalem . . . the Lord your God is in your midst.” Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the ark of the covenant, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells. She is “the dwelling of God . . . with men.” (CCC 2676)

D. Good news for mankind