

Mary: The Bible & the Mother of God – Class 6



- I. "Birth pangs"—the Kingdom of God comes into the world through suffering
 - A. "She cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery" (Revelation 12:2)
 - B. "This is but the beginning of the birth pangs" (Mark 13:7-8)
- II. Old Testament
 - A. Miraculous birth of messiah: "Before her pain came upon her" (Isaiah 66:7-8)
 - 1. Targums interpret this as regarding the birth of the king/messiah
 - 2. Birth pangs are a result of the Fall
 - 3. No more birth pangs in the world to come
 - B. Messiah will come through suffering: "She who is in travail" (Micah 5:2-3)
 - 1. Talmud recounts rabbinic sayings that the messiah would not come until a time of tribulation was fulfilled
 - 2. Time of intense and unexpected suffering like birth pangs of a woman in labor
- III. New Testament
 - A. Anguish (Revelation 12), Greek bazaniz6—torturous suffering
 - B. Satan wants to devour the child (and us)
 - C. Birth pangs in Revelation 12 is an apocalyptic account of what happened at Calvary
 - D. "So you have sorrow now" (John 16:21-22)
 - E. The woman's labor / Jesus's Crucifixion
 - 1. Childbirth: Woman's "hour"—Passion: Jesus's "hour"
 - 2. Labor Pains: She has "sorrow"—Death: brings "sorrow"
 - 3. Delivery: She has "joy"—Resurrection: brings "joy"
 - F. Cross is the hour of Jesus's Passion and also the hour of Mary's anguish through which she becomes the mother of John (and our mother)
- IV. Virgin Birth
 - A. Tradition that Mary didn't have birth pangs is anchored in Isaiah 66
 - B. This belief represented by quotations throughout Church history
 - C. Several reasons for the Virgin Birth:
 - 1. Reveals Jesus's divinity
 - 2. Supports Mary's identity as the New Eve