



THE FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS VS. THE BIBLE

The Catholic Church has four major dogmas about Mary that have been developed by theologians over the centuries and declared infallible. But do these dogmas contradict the Bible?

THE MOTHER OF GOD

Mary was God's mother and continues to be Christ's mother in heaven.

The Bible nowhere calls Mary "the mother of God." She is referred to three times as "the mother of Jesus" (John 2:1, 3; Acts 1:14). When given the chance to give special privileges to Mary and His brothers, Jesus instead emphasized that all who truly follow Him are His family (Matthew 12:47-49).

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

Mary remained a virgin her entire life.

The Bible is clear that Mary was a virgin when the angel revealed that she would bear the Messiah (Luke 1:34). But it is also clear that she had normal marital relations with her husband after Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:25). Joseph and Mary actually had *at least* six additional children after Jesus (Matthew 12:47; Mark 6:3). Having sexual relations with her husband did not make Mary any less of a righteous woman (Hebrews 13:4).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary was preserved from original sin at her conception and remained sinless her entire life.

Though the Bible doesn't detail any of Mary's personal sins, it never says she was preserved from sin at her conception or throughout her life. She was "blessed" and was a "maidservant" of God (Luke 1:48)—but she also expressed her personal need for a "Savior" (verse 47). If she had never sinned, she would have had no need for a Savior (Matthew 1:21). The Bible declares that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). Though Mary was a humble servant of God, she was not perfect—no one can claim to be sinless (1 John 1:8-10).

ASSUMPTION

Mary's body and soul were taken to heaven before she died. Upon arrival in heaven, she was crowned the queen of heaven and exalted above all of the saints and angels.

Though the Bible describes Jesus' ascension (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9), it makes no mention of Mary ascending to heaven. Jesus Christ is the only person who has ascended into the third heaven (John 3:13). Many scriptures describe Jesus now being seated "at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22)—but none mention Mary there. God's servants (including Mary) will be resurrected to eternal life at Christ's return. They will be "glorified together" "at His coming" (Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 15:23; see also 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).