

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church**  
**Bible Sharing Program 2023-24**  
**Session #11: The Woman, the Dragon, and the Male Child**  
**(Rev 12)**

BSP04 = 2004-05 BSP notes SN = Special notes  
 CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures  
 CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible  
 CSSN = Catholic Scripture Study notes  
 LS = Dr. Hahn's Lamb's Supper  
 NAB = New American Bible

A	<p><b><u>Mary as the Ark Appearing in the Sky Clothed in Glory</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the seventh trumpet, the long-lost Ark of the Covenant suddenly reappears; she is “a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars”. This woman is Mary, the Mother of God, who will give birth to the Messiah, a male child who is “destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod”. =&gt; Mary is the new Ark whose glorified and incorruptible body appears in the sky. (Ref. <a href="#">CMCC BSP Esp 3 – Mary, the New Ark of the Covenant</a>)</li> <li>Luke affirms that Mary is truly the New Ark of the Covenant.</li> <li>The woman in Rev 12, symbolises the faithful people of God of the Old and New Testaments, ushers the Messiah into the world. Both explanations are scriptural, resonating with each other.</li> </ul>	<p>11:19-12:2</p> <p>CCSS P 206-8</p> <p>12:5</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>CCSS p 206 Rm 16:20</p>	<p>Ps 2:9; Ex 25:10-22 2S6:12ff Jos 6, 2M2:4-8</p> <p>Gen 3:15 Is 66:7-11, 62:4-5</p>
B	<p><b><u>The Huge Red Dragon Going After the Woman</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Horns” and “Diadems” represent authority and kingly rule; the numbers 7 and 10 signify completeness; its “red” colour reveals its violent nature. OT background of imagery.</li> <li>“Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky” - signifies Satan’s leading astray a third of the angels; another interpretation alludes to Daniel where the stars represent some of God’s faithful people killed by the beast who arises at the end of history. “... to devour her child” echoes what has been foretold in the Protevangelium (Genesis 3:15).</li> <li>The woman who “fled into the desert” recalls Israel’s time in the wilderness, a type of the Church’s earthly pilgrimage. “Twelve hundred and sixty days” = 3.5 years, represents the duration of the Church’s trials.</li> </ul>	<p>12:3-6</p> <p>12:3</p> <p>12:4</p> <p>12:9</p> <p>12:6 CCSS</p>	<p>Ps 74:13-14 Is 27:1 Gen 3:15</p> <p>Dan 8:9-12, 12:3 Gen 3:15</p> <p>Daniel 7:25</p>

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C	<p><b><u>War in Heaven</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● God’s plans for humanity and all creation, including the Son of God becoming human, His suffering, resurrection, and ascension, upset the huge dragon and its companions. The dragon and its companions, defeated by the Archangel Gabriel and other angels, are all thrown down to earth.</li> <li>● When were the devil and his angels “thrown down to earth”? Before creation, end of history, the fulfilment of salvation by the Messiah.</li> <li>● The song of victory highlights the ideology of “Inaugurated eschatology”; the belief that there are both “already” and “not yet” aspects to the Kingdom of God.</li> </ul>	<p>12:7-12</p> <p>12:7-9</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>12:10-12 CCSS</p>	
D	<p><b><u>The Dragon’s Pursuit of the Woman and Her Offspring</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The woman figure in Revelation represents both Mary and the Church - two different characters yet belonging to the same mystery, one cannot be separated from the other; the former represents the lived experience of the Church. The scripture can be interpreted by both.</li> <li>● “The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the current” - this flood of lies, spewed from the mouth of Satan, is as voluminous as flood water; humanity is overwhelmed by it. “The earth ... opened its mouth and swallowed the flood” =&gt; Immaculate Conception of Mary. According to John, the ones worthy to be called descendants of the Woman are “those who keep God’s commandments and bear witness to Jesus”.</li> </ul>	<p>12:13-18</p> <p>SN2 LG 65</p> <p>12:16-17 Mt 16:18 CCC 2853</p>	<p>Ps 18:5, 69:2</p>

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**Special Notes:**

1. What are Luke's explanations of Mary as the New Ark of the Covenant ?

TABERNACLE / ARK	MARY
Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord <b>filled</b> the tabernacle. (episkiazo) (Ex 40:35)	The Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will <b>overshadow</b> you. (episkiazo) (Lk 1:35)
David and all the people with him <b>set out</b> , ... They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. (2Sam 6:2-3)	In those days Mary <b>set out</b> and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country. (Lk 1:39)
David feared the LORD that day and said, " <b>How can the ark of the LORD come to me?</b> " (2Sam 6:9)	And how does this happen to me, that <b>the mother of my Lord should come to me?</b> ( LK 1:45)
David <b>danced</b> before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with <b>shouting</b> , and with the sound of the trumpet. (Sam 6:14-15)	When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child <b>leapt</b> in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and <b>exclaimed with a loud cry</b> , 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Lk 1:41-42)
The ark of the Lord <b>remained</b> in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite <b>for three months</b> ; and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. (2Sam 6:11)	And Mary <b>remained with her for about three months</b> and then returned to her home. (Lk 1:56)

*Ref: CSB p107; S. Hahn, Hail Holy Queen, pp.63-65.*

**CONCLUSION:** Luke reveals Jesus as the New Moses [fasting for 40 days and 40 nights (Ex 34:28, Lk 4:1-2); manna and multiplication of bread (Ex 16:1-31, Lk 9:10-17); offering the New Israel (the Church) Holy Communion, Covenant (Ex 24:1-8, Lk 22:20)]. While Moses brings the Ark, the New Moses brings the New Ark that is Mary, the Mother of God.

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2. Revelation 12 describes simultaneously Mary and the Church

The whole of Mariology had first been thought out and given shape by the Fathers as ecclesiology: The Church is virgin and mother; she has been immaculately conceived and carries the burden of history ; she suffers and yet has already been received into heaven...That is true of the apocalyptic woman who appears in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation: it will not do for this woman to be understood exclusively and individualistically as Mary, because in her we are seeing the whole People of God, suffering and yet fruitful through their suffering, the old and the new Israel together (J. Ratzinger, *The Ecclesiology of the Constitution Lumen Gentium in Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith*, edited by Otto Horn/Pfnur, pp 150-2.)

When the entire text (of 12:1-6) is taken into account the woman is seen to be faithful Israel, personified as daughter Zion [Is 62:11], who gives birth to the Messiah. At the same time, the woman is the literal mother of the Messiah, Mary of Nazareth...This vision illustrates Revelation's symbolic way of communicating, the multiple levels of meaning in its images, and the book's nonlinear chronology, since the story that this vision tells begins before the birth of Christ. (CCSS p.210)