

## DOES MARY REIGN IN HEAVEN AS QUEEN?

Catholics think Mary the mother of Jesus was taken to Heaven body and soul.

There is no evidence that the assumption was believed in the early Church. It first appears in apocryphal gospels and among heretics centuries after the Church started. Ott said: "Even though these are apocryphal they bear witness to the faith of the generation in which they were written despite their legendary clothing" (Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, p. 210). He would say that as a Catholic propagandist. Also Ott (Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, p. 208) says, "The first Church author to speak of the bodily ascension of Mary, in association with an apocryphal transitus B.V.M. is St. Gregory of Tours ([d.] 594)."

Some say like Hector Avalos that,

If we regarded as "apocryphal" anything not approved by a group in power, then all the New Testament is "apocryphal" for traditional Judaism, and so we can't use anything in there as historical evidence. Indeed, "apocryphal" is a meaningless and self-serving classification for determining historicity.

It is true that some good documents can be dismissed because they don't take the party line but that is not the same thing as anonymous gospels appearing years after the alleged occurrences and having absurd stories.

Catholics seem to reason that as Moses and Elijah supposedly were taken body and soul to Heaven that Mary probably was too. That does not necessarily follow. And why are these men not regarded as Kings of Heaven?

And we read in Matthew that saints and prophets were raised at the time Jesus had died. This leads some to think that Mary was raised too when she died. Possible but she was not said to be a saint and she definitely was not a prophet.

In Jude 9 we read: "But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'" Is this thinking of a situation where Satan wanted the body and Michael sent him off and thus took the body to Heaven? What was Satan going to do with the body? Raise it? The angel leaves the judgement to God thus hinting that this was an argument rather than a battle. Satan was obviously claiming valid ownership of the body. And Michael thought he had a point otherwise there was no need for a dispute.

The very early gospel, the Gospel of Thomas refutes the veneration of Mary and her assumption thus, "Saying 114, "Simon Peter said to them, 'Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of life.' Jesus said, 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven.'" The text is about Magdalene but it shows that those believers would not have seen any reason to honour Jesus' mother. The text says women become male by becoming pure spirit. They must die in order to become disembodied souls like man can. If Mary rose again that would mean that she was excluded from eternal life. It is significant that Jesus said it to Peter who Roman Catholicism regards as the first pope.

Revelation 12:1-6 probably prompted the notion of Mary as Queen. It does not have to be about her to trigger ideas like that.

- [1] And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;
- [2] she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery.
- [3] And another portent appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads.
- [4] His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth;
- [5] she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,
- [6] and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

She is not said to be Queen of Heaven though. Her crown of twelve stars would mean Queen of Israel.

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The Catholics teach that Mary was taken up into Heaven to be crowned Queen. She is now the Queen of Heaven. But God wants us to love him alone and to love others in so far as it is useful to him so Mary must do that when she is in Heaven. He does not need a Queen. When God's will is all she is interested in and he is boss then she is not a real queen at all. To be queen means to have authority and she has none. She is like many of the queens in history who were married to kings who ruled making them mock queens only even these ladies had more power than she had. So, if Mary is a real Queen she is the real God or at least a part-time God or a half-God.

