



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes



Original band member Dan Waterman returns.

Messenger Project is happy to report that **Dan Waterman** will soon be returning to add his trademark guitar solos. *The Last Words of David* and *I and the Father* are fine examples of the range and beauty of Dan's style of guitar work. We anticipate making musical masterpieces for God's glory! We continue to thank God for all of his blessings toward our project and look forward to completing our latest compilation of songs.

Albertson's Altruism

Messenger Project would like to thank Albertson's grocery store for approving 100 fund-raising cards to our nonprofit corporation. When the cards are swiped at the checkout line, Albertson's donates a percentage of the sales to Messenger Project. The trick is getting people to remember to use the card when they shop!

Contributions Wanted

If you would like to participate in the Messenger Project Newsletter, please email your contribution to lio@pacbell.net. Artwork (.jpg or .gif), poetry, prayers, musings, ideas and arguments are welcome!

Mary, Mother of Jesus

The Bible doesn't say much about Jesus' mother, the blessed virgin Mary. She is mentioned in Luke 1:26 (the Annunciation), when an angel tells Mary that she will conceive the savior of the world. In Luke 1:48 (the Magnificat), Mary declares that "all generations will call me blessed." Luke also reports Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist), Jesus' birth/presentation to the Temple and her Passover visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. Matthew reports Mary's flight to Egypt with the baby Jesus under King Herod's reign. Mark tells us of Mary's attempt to see Jesus while he was teaching. John tells of Mary's request for more wine at the marriage at Cana in Galilee and her being at the foot of the cross when Jesus entrusted Mary to the disciple John. The last mention of Mary is in Acts 1:14 when she is praying with the disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

Although the Bible portrays Mary with a human character, she has developed and expanded through the centuries into a much greater symbol, particularly in the Catholic Church.

Virgin Mother. Isaiah foretold that a virgin would conceive a child who would be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive the "Son of the Most High" and was "highly favored" by God to bear his Son. This miracle is one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith that wasn't challenged until the rise of rationalism in the 18th century and liberal Protestants in the 19th century.

Second Eve. The Church Father Irenaeus compared Mary to Eve at about the end of the 2nd. Century. He wrote: "for Adam had necessarily to be restored in Christ, that mortality be absorbed in immortality, and Eve in Mary, that a virgin, become the advocate of a virgin, should undo and

destroy virginal disobedience by virginal obedience.

Irenaeus was pointing out that women participated in the fall and redemption of man and Mary had an active part in our salvation by giving birth to Jesus.

Mother of God. The title Theotokos (God-bearer) seems to have come from Alexandria, Egypt, sometime in the 3rd or 4th Century. Nestorius, the patriarch of Constantinople, objected because Jesus was human and divine. He suggested Christotokos (Christ-bearer). His argument was condemned at the council of Ephesus in 431. Theotokos was approved. It is as Mother of God that Mary is also termed **Mediatrix** by Roman Catholics, who believe that Mary mediates between Christ and mankind, as she did when she asked Jesus for wine at the wedding feast at Cana (Jn 2:3).

Ever Virgin received dogmatic status at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. The growth of self-discipline in the church supported the view that Mary was a virgin her entire life. This title hasn't been widely accepted because the Bible mentions that Jesus had brothers. But brothers sometimes meant "kinsmen" in Jewish society and Joseph could have had sons from a previous marriage, so it's possible.

Immaculate. In 1854, Pope Pius IX defined Mary as not only pure in her life, but "at the first instant of her conception was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, by the singular grace and privilege granted her by Almighty God, through the merits of Christ Jesus, Savior of mankind."

Assumed into heaven. In 1950 Pope Pius XII declared "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was run, was assumed in body and soul to heavenly glory." The doctrine left open the speculation whether she died or not. No account of Mary's death is universally accepted, but paintings of her "dormition" or "falling asleep" in Ephesus were common and logical, since John was exiled there and was appointed to be Mary's "son" at the crucifixion.