

## The Four Dogmas of the Virgin Mary

*In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.* Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion, Feast of the Dormition, August 15th

1. **The perpetual virginity of Mary:** The perpetual virginity of Mary of Nazareth is expressed in 3 parts: in her virginal conception of Christ; in giving birth to Christ, and her continuing virginity after His birth:

- *virginitas ante partum*: virginity before birth [CCC#396; 510]
- *virginitas in partu*: virginity during birth [CCC#510]
- *virginitas post partum*: virginity after birth [CCC# 510]

The usage of this triple formula to express the fullness of this mystery of faith became standard with St. Augustan [354-430AD], St. Peter Chrysologus [c. 400-450AD], and Pope St. Leo the Great [440-461AD]. See CCC # 496-507; 964. CCC499: *The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ's birth "did not diminish his mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it." And so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as Aeiparthenos, the "Ever-virgin."*

[Note: The so called "brothers" of Jesus mentioned in Scripture are His kinsmen. In Hebrew there was no designation for siblings, or half-brothers, or step-brothers. The Greek word used to designate Jesus' brothers *adelphos* is the same word used for kinsmen, brothers like St. James and John Zebedee, and all "brothers" in the faith].

2. **Mary the Mother of God:** That Mary was the mother of Jesus who is God was defined as dogma at the very city where Mary had lived for several years—at the Council of Ephesus in 431AD. CCC# 495: *Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord," In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity, Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God (Theotokos).* Also #509.
3. **Immaculate Conception of Mary:** That Mary of Nazareth was conceived without original sin was defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854. See CCC# 491-492; 508. CCC# 508: *From among the descendants of Eve, God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. "Full of grace," Mary is "the most excellent fruit of redemptions" (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.*
4. **Assumption of Mary into heaven:** That Mary's body did not experience corruption but was assumed into heaven was defined as dogma by Pope Pius XII in 1950. See

CCC# 966; 974. CCC# 974: *The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body.*

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## YAHWEH'S EIGHT COVENANTS

*But Yahweh's faithful love for those who fear him is from eternity and for ever; and his saving justice to their children's children; as long as they keep his covenant, and carefully obey his precepts. Palms 103:17-18*

COVENANT	SIGN	SCRIPTURE
1. Adam -fertility -dominion over the earth	Tree of Life	Genesis 1:28-30; Genesis 2:15-17; Hosea 6:7: <i>But they, like Adam, transgressed the covenant; there they betrayed Me.</i>
2. Noah and the earth -The earth will never be destroyed by flood waters again (water will become a sign of salvation)	Rainbow	Genesis 6:18; 9:9-17; Sirach 44:17-18.
3. Abraham = 3-fold, (continues with Isaac, Jacob & descendants) -land, nation (descendants) & world wide blessing	Circumcision On the 8 <sup>th</sup> day	Genesis 12:3; 15:1-18; 17: 1-27; 18:18 & 22:13-18; 26:3-5; 28:10-14; Exodus 2:24; Psalm 105:8-11; Sirach 44:19-20
4. Moses & Israel -Sinai Covenant establishing divine liturgy & covenant sacraments	Ark of the Covenant Tabernacle 10 Commandments	Exodus 19-24; 34:10, 27, 28; Deuteronomy 5:2-3; 29:12.
5. Aaron & Sons -perpetual ministerial priesthood of the Levites	Salt	Exodus 40:15; Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; Sirach 45:7; Jeremiah 33:21.
6. Phinehas -perpetual priesthood in Covenant of Peace (prefigures Christ)	Seamless robe & miter	Numbers 25:11-15; Sirach 45:24.
7. David & descendants -dynasty and throne forever secure	Throne/ Temple	2 Samuel 7:11-17; 23:5; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Psalm 89:3-4; Sirach 45:25.
8. Jesus ( <i>Yah'shua</i> = <i>Yahweh saves or I save</i> ) also written Yehosua = Joshua. He is the fulfillment of all the covenantal promises	The Cross, the true "Tree of Life" and the Eucharistic cup	Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 12:24; Rev 2:7.
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\* There are more Scripture passages referring to Yahweh's 8 Covenants than those listed in the chart. Some additional Scripture references for the various covenants are listed below:

-Adam: Most English Bible translations include in their footnotes that Hosea 6:7 can be translated "They have broken the covenant like Adam..." The word "adam" can mean the first man "Adam", or "man", or even "ground" or "earth"]. The Jewish Tanach translates Hoses 6:6-7: *For I desire kindness, not sacrifice; and knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings. But they, like Adam, transgressed the covenant; there they betrayed Me.*

In Genesis 6:18: the Hebrew word "quwm" can also be translated "restore", "continue", or "maintain" which is why most scholars assume the first covenant was established with Adam and then continued with Noah. If there was no covenant there would be no covenant obligations or violations of the covenant.

-Noah: Genesis 6:18; 9:9, 11, 12 (twice), 13, 15, 16, 17; Sirach 44:17-18; Isaiah 24:5

-Abraham (and descendants): Genesis 15:18; 17:2, 4, 7 (twice), 9, 10 (twice); 17:11, 13 (twice), 14, 19 (twice), 22:13-18; 28:13-14; 31:44; Exodus 2:24; 6:2-5; Leviticus 26: 42-45; 2 Kings 13:23; 17:15, 35, 38; 18:12; 23:2, 3 (three times), 21; 1 Chronicles 16:15-17; Sirach 44:19-23; Psalm 105:9; Acts 3:25; 7:8

-Mosaic Covenant with Israel: Exodus 19:5; 24:7, 8; 31:16; 34:10, 27, 28; Leviticus 24:8-9; 26:9, 15, 25, 42 (3 times), 44, 45; Deuteronomy 4:13, 23, 31; 5:2-3; 7:9,12; 8:18; 9:9, 11, 15; 17:2; 29:1, 9, 12 (twice), 14, 21, 25 (twice); 31:16, 20; 33:9; Joshua 7:11, 15; 23:16; Judges 2:1, 20; 1 Kings 8:9, 21, 23; 19:10-11; 2 Chronicles 6:11, 14; 34:30, 31 (twice), 32; Psalm 105:8-11; 106:45; Isaiah 42:6; 54:10

-Aaron and sons: Exodus 40:15; Leviticus 2:13; 18:19; Numbers 18:19; Nehemiah 13:25; Sirach 45:7, 15; Jeremiah 33:21; Malachi 2:4-9

-Phinehas: Numbers 25:11-13; Sirach 45:24; Psalm 106:30-31 (an example of righteousness for the ages)

-David: 2 Samuel 7:11-17; 23:5; 23:5; 1 Kings 2:4; 11:9-20; Sirach 45:25; 47:11; 2 Chronicles 7:18; 13:5; 21:7; Psalm 89:3, 28, 34, 132: 1-18; Psalm 132; Jeremiah 33:21; Acts 2:30.

-Jesus: Isaiah 59:20-21 [Romans 11:26-27]; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6-14; Galatians 4:24; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6-13; 9:15-20; 10:14-29 (quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34); 12:24; 13:20.

Covenants involve oath-swearing: Genesis 21:23-24 (Abimelech and Abraham); 22:16; Exodus 17:16; Deut. 6:13; 7:7-11; 13:18-19 (17-18); 29:11-14 (12-15); Joshua 2:17 (Rahab's covenant with Israelite soldiers); 1 Sam 20:17 (covenant between Jonathan and

David); 24:21-22 (David and Saul); 2 Sam. 3:9; 2 Chronicles 15:12-15; Nehemiah 10:30 (29); Psalm 89:3; 105:8-9; 110:4; Sir. 44:21 (22); Luke 1:73; Acts 2:30; Hebrews 6:13; Latin word *sacramentum* = oath

**Conditional covenants: (“if” cause)** Blessings for obedience; curses for disobedience

- Adamic: blessings = Gen. 1:28-30; conditions: Gen. 2:15-17; curse: Gen. 3:15-19
- Abrahamic: conditional for Abraham’s descendants: Gen 17:19-22 (only through Isaac)
- Davidic: conditional for descendants = 1 Kings 2:3-4; 1 Kings 2:4; 11:11-20
- Sinai: Deut. 13:18-19; Covenant treaty = book of Deut.; covenant lawsuit in Hosea; covenant blessings = Deut. 28:1-14; covenant curses = 28:25-69.
- New covenant: (Covenant treaty: Book of Revelation covenant lawsuit); Blessings = Matt. 5:1-12 & curses Matt. 23:13-30; 25:31-46. Conditional covenant with baptized believers.

**Non-conditional covenants:**

- Noachide: Sir 44:17-18
- Abrahamic: Gen 12:1-3
- Aaronic: for lineal descent but conditional on individuals: Sir 44:7 (8), 15 (19)
- Phinehas’ covenant of peace: Num 25:13; Sir 45:24; by linear descent; same restrictions as above on individuals
- Davidic: 2 Sam. 7:14; 1Ch 17:14; 2 Ch 3:1; Sir. 45:25 (by linear descent); 47:11 (13); restrictions on individuals
- New Covenant: Hebrews 7:21-28 (God’s covenant with Christ is non-conditional and eternal)