

### **How do we know that Mary who is truly "our mother" was assumed into heaven?**

The following passage shows us Mary, Ark of the New Covenant, is truly the mother of all Christians (even those who refuse to acknowledge her as their mother). This passage also shows us a vision of Mary, queen of heaven, and hints at her Assumption. This gift of suffering no corruption in the grave and of being "caught up" into heaven while still alive is perfectly in accordance with scripture. Similar assumptions happened to Enoch (Gen. 5:24; and Heb 11:5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 11-12), and is promised to some Christians in the future: 1 Thes. 4:13-17).

Revelations 12:1-8: "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; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another portent appeared in heaven; behold a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. 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; 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, 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. Now war arose in Heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in Heaven."

### **We Catholics say that the brethren of Jesus were really cousins, and that there is really no Greek word for "cousin"---but then how could the angel Gabriel tell Mary "your cousin Elizabeth also has conceived"?**

First of all, we do not say that the brethren of Jesus were necessarily cousins. Another possibility, and the first explanation found in early Christian tradition, is that they were stepbrothers, children of Joseph from an earlier marriage. Secondly, there is a Greek word for "cousin" (anepsios). The language that lacks such a word is Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples mostly used in their every day conversations. Third, although Greek does have a word St. Luke uses to translate Gabriel's statement to Mary is not in fact the one for "cousin" but "relative" or "kin" (Sungenis) as "cousin". By translating sungenis as "cousin", your Bible translation says more than the sacred writer implied. All we know for sure is that Elizabeth and Mary were related somehow.