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Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother Of God In The Word Of God



Synopsis

A fresh and enlightening new perspective on Mary, Mother of God, and her central importance in the Christian faith, from the author of the highly successful *The Lamb's Supper*. In *The Lamb's Supper*, Catholic scholar and apologist Scott Hahn explored the relationship between the Book of Revelation and the Roman Catholic Mass, deftly clarifying the most subtle of theological points with analogies and anecdotes from everyday life. In *Hail, Holy Queen*, he employs the same accessible, entertaining style to demonstrate Mary's essential role in Christianity's redemptive message. Most Christians know that the life of Jesus is foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament. Through a close examination of the Bible, as well as the work of both Catholic and Protestant scholars and clergy, Hahn brings to light the small but significant details showing that just as Jesus is the "New Adam," so Mary is the "New Eve." He unveils the Marian mystery at the heart of the Book of Revelation and reveals how it is foretold in the very first pages of the Book of Genesis and in the story of King David's monarchy, which speaks of a privileged place for the mother of the king. Building on these scriptural and historical foundations, Hahn presents a new look at the Marian doctrines: Her Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity, Assumption, and Coronation. As he guides modern-day readers through passages filled with mysteries and poetry, Hahn helps them rediscover the ancient art and science of reading the Scriptures and gain a more profound understanding of their truthfulness and relevance to faith and the practice of religion in the contemporary world.

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Customer Reviews

Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God is theologian Scott Hahn's follow-up to his bestselling *The Lamb's Supper*. Like the previous book, *Hail, Holy Queen* melds autobiographical reflections, scriptural interpretation, and historical anecdotes in an accessible style to clarify some sophisticated points of Catholic theology. From the book's first sentence ("For all my newfound piety, I was still fifteen years old, and all too conscious of 'cool'"), the author's assured voice will capture the reader's interest. Readers outside Catholicism who are mystified by the centrality of Mary in Catholic devotion, and Catholics who wish to become more knowledgeable and reflective about a central aspect of their faith, will be especially drawn to *Hail, Holy Queen*. Among the book's most interesting claims is Hahn's contention that Marian devotion has shaped common ideas about motherhood. Hahn's teenage consciousness of cool made him ashamed of his mother. That kind of shame, he argues, helps to shape many Christians' ideas about Mary. And yet, citing John's Gospel, Hahn writes, "As He hung dying on the cross, in His last will and testament, Jesus left us a mother." *Hail, Holy Queen* charts a course from shame to respect and love. --Michael Joseph Gross

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Roman Catholics have long had a reputation for their devotion to the woman known as the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Hahn, a convert to Catholicism, is uniquely qualified to both explain and justify the practice. A former Protestant minister who once condemned Marian piety as idolatrous, Hahn's theological writings (*Rome Sweet Home*; *The Lamb's Supper*) now illuminate his adopted faith for many a cradle Catholic. His treatment of the woman many consider the mother of God is accessible theology, written in the style of one who is skilled in making lofty ideas understandable and interesting. Using the Bible and scholarly sources, Hahn asserts that Mary was given by Christ to be the mother of all Christians, and that those who do not accept her as part of their family are woefully bereft. He goes on to trace the Church's high regard for Mary to the early days of Christianity, when, he writes, Mary was regarded as the "new Eve" and was identified with the "ark of the new covenant." Hahn also deals carefully with the Catholic Church's teaching on Mary's immaculate conception and assumption into heaven, and answers the objections of those who, as he once did, regard devotion to Mary as akin to goddess worship. Although he writes mainly to enlighten fellow Catholics about the basis for the Church's great reverence for Mary, Hahn's well-researched work will be instructive to anyone interested in the history of the Church's teaching on this subject.

(Apr.)Forecast: Hahn's most recent book, *The Lamb's Supper*, has sold more than 60,000 copies for Doubleday. Given the widespread interest in Mary among Catholics, this title should do even better. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Good overview, but not as profound or enlightening as I hoped. I think this book is meant as an introduction to Marian doctrine and as such, was a little off the mark for me. I was looking for a deeper dive into the meaning and significance of the various Marian doctrines in order to help me deepen my devotion to Our Lady. There was some good stuff, to be sure, but I felt like I was only getting the appetizers to a larger meal! I also didn't much care for the pop-culture references of the sub-chapters such as "The Mediatrix is the Message", but again, I think this was intended for a different audience than me. In the end, however, I have to give Dr. Hahn heaps of credit for combining personal, academic, and theological approaches to the subject of Mary in a way that for many people, I believe, will be highly satisfying and help them to deepen their understanding and devotion of the Mother of Our Lord.

This is an excellent book. It was recommended to me especially because I have "mother issues" and needed a non-sentimental access to Mary. Filled with sound theology, clearly and humbly presented.

Anyone who's Catholic knows that for most of us laypeople, there's a lot to absorb and take in to really be educated on the Church's doctrine. Up to this point, I knew only a small amount of things about why we honored the BVM in the way we do. I always assumed that it was fairly cut and dry - she surrendered totally and completely to God's will, even when she likely knew that it would cause her grief and who knows what else back 2000 years ago, and as a result of her total and complete surrender, we should likewise follow Jesus everywhere and through all things. Luke 1:28 - And coming to her, he said, *Ἄννα ἡ ἐν χάριτι τοῦ κυρίου* "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you. *Ἄννα ἡ ἐν χάριτι τοῦ κυρίου* Verse 29 goes on to say, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." Think about that - GREATLY TROUBLED. That means she PROBABLY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE. If she did, why would she be troubled? If she wasn't troubled, why would Luke make mention of it in the Gospel? She would already know what was about to happen, and would have been waiting for that critical moment in time to take place. Verse 30: "Then the angel said to her, *Ἄννα ἡ ἐν χάριτι τοῦ κυρίου* "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor

with God."Verse 38: "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. "I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD. MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. The definition of "handmaid" is "female servant". She is a servant, a follower, humbled before her God. Just as you. Just as me. Just as anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest lesson here - at least in my opinion - is that how many times does God call us to do things and we grumble, complain, and say "do I really HAVE to God?" *kicks at the dirt* "it's just soooooo hard what you're asking me to do... ugh..." *kicks at the dirt and looks up at the heavens with one eye* - and yet here was someone who was willing to sacrifice probably EVERYTHING at that time - even the man she loved - for the will of God. That, my friends, is the lesson (in my opinion, and I'm no scholar) that the Church teaches us to model our lives after. Never once did Mary question WHY. A lot of my Protestant friends quote the Scriptures where Jesus said "all those who follow the will of my Father are my brothers and sisters" - and I don't think this detracts from the role that the BVM played and continues to play. Nowhere in the Bible did Mary ever go around acting as though she was high and mighty because she bore the Son of God. She was all about humility and as a PERSON, she GAVE HERSELF FREELY TO THE WILL OF GOD. Her focus remained on Jesus, even until his death (and resurrection). For me, while this book is probably twice as long as it really needs to be, it has a lot of excellent information, and while it's a slow start, after I got about halfway through it, I had to finish reading it till the end. It's simple enough for someone as dumb as me to understand, yet high level enough to adequately defend Catholics' veneration of the BVM. I turned off my Kindle thinking wow... I learned so much just now... and I have a deeper understanding of just how intertwined and interconnected God's great plan is. When I venerate the BVM and pray the Rosary, I have a deeper understanding now and appreciation for how God really works. Marian devotion doesn't detract from God. I am Catholic in part because of my grandmother, who through her example showed me what it is to truly put others before yourself, love God above all else, and love one another. My honor and love for her doesn't detract from my love for God. In fact, it draws me closer to Him because she was an example that I yearn to be like and follow. Thus is the role of the BVM. She leads us to her Son, the source of all salvation.

As Always Dr. Hahn's books speaks to the heart. They are written in layman's language that can be understood by all. I've read almost all of Dr. Hahn's book and whole hearted recommend them all. I needed this particular book for a class, and took a chance that could deliver the goods. I got the book the very next day. I buy every thing through . They never disappoint.

This is one of my favorite books on the Blessed Mother. It is not a theological or apologetic sourcebook; although it is explanatory in nature it's much more devotional and can be used effectively in one's prayer and meditation. Even so, many scripture verses are provided, references to the fathers and the councils are also to be found in large number. Maybe I like this book so much because Dr. Hahn seems to agree with me that Marian devotion and Marian theology cannot be separated. You have to know a woman to love her (theology), you have to love a woman to want to know her better (devotion). Knowledge of Mary is theological in nature because of her close relation to God the blessed Trinity. This relation is one of deep love - Bishop Sheen named his popular book on Mary "The world's first Love" - so don't expect a thorough treatment of Our Lady from a "purely theological" viewpoint. Dr. Hahn includes his own very humbling experiences in this book to demonstrate how the Lord whom he had served as a Protestant was literally dying to introduce him to his mother: "Behold thy Mother." This book makes a great gift, especially for those ignorant OR truly curious about the Church and it's teachings about Mary.

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