

The Woman: Take-Home 1

Session 1: Daughter Zion

What We Found

Typology is the New Testament's own way of reading the Old: St. Paul calls Adam 'a type of the one who was to come' (Romans 5:14), and St. Peter calls the flood a type of baptism (1 Peter 3:21). When the Church reads Mary through Israel's story, she is imitating the apostles.

Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) sings in the cadences of Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2:1–10). Mary places herself in the long line of Israel's mothers whose children came by God's promise and power.

The angel's greeting, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' (Luke 1:28), where the Greek word for 'Hail' (chaire) literally means 'Rejoice,' echoes the prophets' summons to the Daughter of Zion: 'Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion... The LORD, your God, is in your midst' (Zephaniah 3:14, 17). What was promised to Israel as a whole gathers to a point in one daughter of Israel.

Voices of the Church

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. AUGUSTINE

"The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old is unveiled in the New."

Questions on the Heptateuch, Book 2, q. 73

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas teaches, in substance, that God, the author of history, can make not only words but events and persons signify what is to come; typology rests on the literal sense and never replaces it.

Summa Theologiae I, q. 1, a. 10 (summary)

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. IRENAEUS OF LYONS

St. Irenaeus teaches, in substance, that Christ recapitulates the whole human story, passing back through what Adam and Israel lived and healing it from inside.

Against Heresies III, 18, 1.7; III, 21, 10; cf. V, 21 (summary)

MY GUESS: SEAL IT AND HOLD IT

At the wedding at Cana, Jesus addresses his mother with one surprising word: 'Woman' (John 2:4). Why do you think he calls her that? Write your best guess.

Write your guess below, fold this section over, and do not revisit it. We will open our guesses together later in the study.

Live It This Week

- Pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) aloud once a day this week; each day sit with a different line.
- Read one barren-mother story (Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, or Hannah) and note what it teaches Israel to expect from God.
- Write your sealed guess tonight, while the question is fresh.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Luke 1:49 (RSV2CE)

Before next session: Read Romans 5:12–21 slowly, twice.

Catechism references: CCC 128–130; 116; 489