

Mary, the New Eve (Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15th)

1 Corinthians 15:20-27—The New Adam and the New Creation

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* ²³ *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.* ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put *all his enemies under his feet.* ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ *“For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”* (1 Cor 15:27)

1. Adam: “as by a man came death” (15:21)
2. Christ: “by a man has also come the resurrection of the dead” (15:21)
3. In Adam: “all die” = mystical body of Adam (15:22)
4. In Christ: “all be made alive” = mystical body of Christ (15:22)
5. First-Fruits: Christ is the “first fruits” of the bodily resurrection (15:23)
6. Under His Feet: “all his enemies under his feet” (15:25)

The Lord God said to the serpent...
I will put enmity between you and *the woman*,
and between your seed and *her seed*;
he shall strike your head,
and you shall strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:14-15)

The Living Tradition

Irenaeus of Lyons: *[T]he knot of Eve’s disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary.* For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did the virgin Mary set free through faith. (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 3.22.4 [2nd century A.D])

Jerome of Stridon: Death came through Eve, but life has come through Mary. (Jerome, *Letters* 22.21 [4th-5th century A.D.]; trans. Scaff, *NPNF2*, 6:30).

Benedict XVI: ...Mary, Mother of God, full of grace, fully docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, *already lives in God’s Heaven with her whole being, body and soul.*” (Benedict XVI, “Homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption,” August 15, 2011).

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (August 15th)

1. Why does the Church choose a passage about the New Adam and the Resurrection of *Christ* for the Solemnity of the Assumption of *Mary*?

For Further Reading

1. Brant Pitre. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary. Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah.* New York, N.Y.: Image, 2018.