



# **Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God**

*Scott Hahn*

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*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*

## Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God Details

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# From Reader Review Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God for online ebook

## Aaron Meyer says

This book really hits the nail on the head with regards to Marian adoration. Essential to getting a grip on the Catholic understanding of her position in the Church and God's Plan. Really made me think. I particularly found the chapter on biblical typology useful. Everybody should read this book and after they are finished honestly ask themselves where does Mary fit in in their lives.

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## Gigi says

Not surprising that Scott Hahn, as only he can do, not only explains the reasons for the Catholic faith's devotion to the Mother of God, but why it IS so important: simply because God chose her to be our Mother!

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## Katie says

This title is a pretty solid overview of Marian doctrine that has always been upheld by the Church, and how it is based on Scripture. I liked the parallels that Hahn drew, especially from the Old and New Testaments to demonstrate types of Mary in the Old and how Our Lady is the fulfillment of these types in the New Testament. I found the "Ark of the Covenant" parallel particularly interesting.

Hahn also does a good job explaining in pretty simple language and theology how Marian doctrines are all either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture, but never opposed to. It's important for the non-Catholic reader to remember that Catholic doctrines are not based on Scripture alone, but rather the Word of God alone, as it's been revealed in both Scripture and Tradition.

I recommend this title to all Christians who would like to learn more about their Spiritual Mother, and the Blessed Mother's unique role in salvation history.

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## Karina says

The cover of this book is so beautiful. It's a detail from Botticelli's *Virgin and Child with Five Angels* (*Madonna del Magnificat*). I'd like a print of this painting :)

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I like this book the most of all the other Scott Hahn's books I've read so far. Maybe I'm just getting used to his style? It's as he describes someone else's writing "compact but rich".

This book is much better with the chapter headings than Lord, Have Mercy; the *subsections* in chapter are still bizarre at times, but you can get the feel of what the *chapters* are about, especially because there's a

subtitle for each chapter. Examples:

## INTRODUCTION

Every Mother's Son: Confessions of a Marian Prodigal

(Pretty much self-explanatory; this was about the author who as a Protestant was dead-set against the Marian devotions as practiced by Catholics)

## CHAPTER 1

My Type of Mother: The Loving Logic of Mary's Maternity

(I don't remember what this chapter was about; it's was sort of introductory, I think)

## CHAPTER 2

Christmas's Eve: Mary's Motherhood Is Eden Revisited

(This chapter shows the ways in which Mary is the New Eve)

## CHAPTER 3

Venerators of the Lost Ark: Israel and the Bearer of the New Covenant

(This chapter explains why Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant)

## CHAPTER 4

Power Behind the Throne: The Queen Mother and the Davidic King

(I haven't gotten to this chapter yet, but you can sort of see how it goes)

I love the way Scott Hahn explains the scriptures, drawing from both the Old and the New Testament. It's very detailed. He also referred to the Church Fathers a lot in this book, which I also like.

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## **Julia says**

Hahn explores the Types of Mary in the Old Testament to shed light on her role in the New. I wish his explanation of the dogmas was a little more positive than simply refuting arguments against her perpetual virginity or the Assumption, but it makes sense with the intended audience of the book for it to be more bent toward "faith seeking understanding." And he did make some convincing arguments.

Chapter 6 also helped a lot in understanding the concepts of glory and merit in a Catholic paradigm juxtaposed with the Protestant understanding. Mary seems to be a focal point for these divisions in soteriology.

On a devotional note, I am thankful for Hahn's exhortation to use these arguments to love - both Mary and Christ - and not simply to shore up debating points. I too often find myself reading for hypothetical arguments' sake and that strategy doesn't help my holiness as much as reading to grow in faith, hope, and love would.

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## **Candis says**

I made the mistake of reading this at the same time I was reading Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus of Nazareth is so

intellectual that it made Hail Holy Queen seemed downright simplistic. But it is still a very good book, especially for anyone interested in knowing more about Mary.

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### **Graceanne Bowe says**

I read the entire book on a flight between Boston and Vegas...I just couldn't put it down. Scott Hahn is truly a brilliant theologian and gifted writer and teacher. His writing reveals his patience with the "novice" to Marian doctrine, yet he is not afraid to dive deeply into theological, Biblical, and ecclesial concepts. It is a rare writer who can strike the right balance between simplicity/clarity and depth...offering the reader simple explanations without "dumbing down" the text, yet getting into the complexities without confusing the reader. Scott Hahn certainly belongs in that elite category. Highly recommend this to Catholics and other Christians who want to learn more about Mariology or to anyone who simply wants to understand better what Catholics believe about Mary and why.

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### **Peter Davids says**

This is not as deeply moving as Hahn's *Rome Sweet Home*, but it does contain his personal journey with Mary. It is a popular book, so do not expect the explanation level of, for example, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It also has some errors of biblical fact, so it was apparently quickly written. None of these affect the argument, but they did irritate me as a biblical scholar. That being said, the basic arguments are here: the typological argument from the OT, the use of Mary in Rev 12 (that I have seen for years), the theological argument (e.g. For the immaculate conception), and the church historical argument (very early veneration of Mary, including in Protestant favorites like Augustine). Hahn is personal about his journey. Hahn is convincing to those who are open to his hermeneutics. Hahn is also clear about the difference between veneration and worship, a distinction missed by many, including some Catholics. All in all this is a good book to read if one wants an easy, personal read about a topic that is controversial outside of the Catholic Church. This is especially true if one comes from a conservative evangelical background, for that is Hahn's background and he answers well the questions that he had as a Presbyterian becoming Catholic.

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### **Carlie says**

I liked this book on Mary pretty well. I am still hoping to find something more provocative and compelling but there were things here that intrigued me. I think the idea of Mary as a type of The Ark of the Covenant is cool and believable and the idea of her perpetual virginity being related to a possible sect she had sworn allegiance to is an interesting thought.

There are a couple of fresh ideas and supports for Marian doctrine and the writing is alright. While some of his ideas were interesting I would still like to see a more engaging style and a more hefty body of research and references about how the story of Mary can pieces together.

I did come away with the nagging feeling that we are missing something big in the Protestant tradition by ignoring Mary and downplaying her to lowly girl. I like his idea that the woman who comforted Jesus and nurtured him deserves some deeper place and respect from us. If she is good enough to be his mother and to raise and care for him then what do WE owe her?

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## **Fr. Ryan Humphries says**

Hahn is - for all of his education credentials - a bit of a pop spirituality guy. He has the unenviable task\ vocation of presenting biblical theology to the theologically untrained. It's a near impossible task. The scientific\ theological study of scripture is hard. You need serious technical skills as well as an attitude of humility which only comes from years of study. Trying to present very high level theological insights (like typology) to someone without theological training is like trying to explain the various kinds of cancers to someone without any medical training. You get a sense - but not an understanding. In Hail, Holy Queen, Hahn makes a real effort that finds traction mostly because he prepares the reader by saying what they say at AA: "Take what you need and leave the rest." He tells us that we're not going to get everything that the ideas in the book offer and that's ok... He's right, of course. This book gives a lot of insights and info but it does so without strictly requiring vocabulary or complete understanding of other concepts.

It's undoubtedly worth a read for the theologically trained and the layman alike. It's a great, easy read and it has some real gems. Heck, just the citations make it worth it for me as a priest. I can grab his bibliography and footnotes and have a full parish mission half done!

Also, and Hahn mentions this, Hail Holy Queen is a great book to give to a friend (Catholic or not) who is interested in a better understanding of the BVM. (This book will find a great hearing among sincere Bible Protestants.)

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## **alexandra says**

Scott Hahn is great at helping with typical Protestant concerns about the Catholic's view of Mary. I'd recommend this book to anyone who is confused with Catholic Marian doctrine, that and Saint Bernard's writings.

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## **Jack says**

--A good, basic primer on Marian devotion and why Marian devotion does not equal Marian idolatry. I would describe this book as more of an inspirational starting point and an informative read for those who are not familiar with the basis of Marian devotion. It is not intended to be a comprehensive scholarly work.

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## **Richard says**

Theologian and apologist Scott Hahn has written this little book in an effort to show how Marian dogma and devotion is not only logical but emotionally and spiritually necessary to fill in what are perceived as gaps in the Protestant understanding of Mary.

As a former Presbyterian (and a virulently anti-Catholic one to boot), Hahn knows all the Protestant objections to Mariology. Such as, "Isn't praying to Mary idolatry?" Or "Doesn't calling her Co-Mediatrix

contradict the Scripture verse which says that Christ is the only Mediator?" Or "Isn't the Rosary an example of 'vain repetition' against which Jesus Himself warns us?" Or (perhaps the most frequent one), "Show me in the Bible where it talks about *that* doctrine!"

Hahn tries to answer these and other objections. He does a fairly good job, and yet sometimes while reading, I felt bewildered by all the argumentation he was throwing at me the reader. Where a dogma such as the Immaculate Conception or the Assumption is not directly supported by the New Testament narrative he invokes typology, the Church Fathers and the history of Catholic tradition. As an ecumenically-minded Protestant, I can't accept all his arguments, but I give him points for his efforts and his sincerity.

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## **Nicola Mansfield says**

Reason for Reading: Personal edification.

When I started my conversion process to Catholicism, I immediately felt the welcoming, warmth and peace of our Mother, the Blessed Virgin. Marian theology is something I really wanted to fully understand and this book is truly wonderful in describing Mary's place in the Bible, in the Church and in every Christian's life.

Hahn explains biblically why Mary is honoured by Catholics, and her central importance in the Christian Life (not just Catholic). First he goes through who Mary really *is*, then shows the parallels between the Old Testament and the New where references to and promises of Mary are made, he also explains Mary's role in Revelations. Using passages from the bible and quotes from early church writers we see how Mary was essential to Jesus' message. Scott Hahn calls Mary "the test" of Christianity. Jesus gave us his Mother!! What more proof do we need that He loves us? And how could we *not* honour her if we love Him.

Hahn has a wonderful narrative voice. He can speak clearly in layman's terms and often adds humour to make his book not only informative and inspirational but fun to read. The book does go pretty deep theologically and I did find myself reading passages twice or thrice to comprehend, but I am still new to studying theology. I had a lovely chat with our church Deacon about what I had learnt and had a few questions for him but it was wonderful to share the big lightbulb moments that went off in my head with him as I came to some realizations of Truth while reading the book. When reading this book (and possibly any book on Mary) one of the most powerful forces one realizes is just how much the Church respects women as a whole. One can see this every time one attends a Mass but when reading about the role of Mary, Mother, Bride and Queen in any Church teaching it is simply beautiful to find a place in today's world that still respects and honours women as women. An extremely enlightening book. No Catholic should go without reading it and Protestants with an inquiring mind will find it interesting to learn what Catholic beliefs really are from this ex-Presbyterian minister author.

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## **David S. T. says**

If I remember correctly from Rome Sweet Home, Scott Hahn has a Masters in Theology from a Protestant college and then eventually converted to Catholicism. One of the questions I have from a Protestant perspective is the Mariology of the Catholic Church, sure I'll admit that often Protestants don't give her the respect she deserves, but at the same time I don't understand all of the attention Catholics give her, so to help with my questions I went to this book. For a book written by someone who used to preach about the

problems with the Catholic Church and has a masters degree, I figured I would find some sound arguments to the questions I had, sadly I was mistaken.

For example one issue I had was on page 66 he mentions the greek word “adelphos” and says this “literally means ‘from the same womb’. From John and Irenaeus through Ephrem and Augustine, the early Christians believed that womb belonged to Mary.” He goes on to say that this means all Christians are from the same womb as Mary therefore she is the Mother of the Christians and the Church. Okay, but later when discussing the perpetual virginity of Mary he says that the “brothers” of Christ could mean cousins or close relative and therefore not technically as literal from the same womb (according to him the greek didn’t have a word for cousins”. The problem I have with this is that with a quick internet search the word translated brothers in those passages is the same “adelphos” mentioned above, so literally this should mean from the same womb, or does it mean cousins, does it change based on the point you’re trying to prove? He conveniently leaves the greek word out in this instance. Okay so the word can mean either then it’s possible that the brotherhood of Christ means we are close relatives or cousins or possibly that the brothers of Christ are from the same womb.

Okay, maybe I’m being too picky, but from discussing Mary with a Catholic I know, I had as much information in 15 minutes than Hahn presented in 180 pages and the friend could discuss it better. Really I probably expected too much, the obvious audience of this book has to be Catholics who already accept Mary dogma and not so much as a defense to Protestant questioning the subject. To better understand this, I’ll have to look elsewhere.

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