

The Virgin
Mary
IN THE LIGHT
OF THE
WORD OF GOD

Praise for *The Virgin Mary*

READERS of books about Mary, the blessed mother of Jesus, have seen much that confuses, but here is a relevant study that clarifies her role and significance.

This book by Dr. Mikhail and Dr. Farag is to be read alongside F. J. Moloney's *Mary, Woman and Mother* and Jaroslav Pelikan's *Mary Through the Centuries*. I highly recommend this work as a balanced and Biblical portrait.

Dr. James Massey

Dean Emeritus of Anderson University School of Theology

"One of the 25 most influential preachers of the past 50 years." —*Christianity Today*

IN this outstanding book, the author Dr. Mikhail and his contributor Dr. Farag have examined the intercessory functions, miracles, and titles ascribed to blessed Mary the mother of Jesus, and they set forth a brilliant defense and description from Scripture of the ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For all who work in the Muslim world, this book is a must-read. It clarifies misunderstandings about the triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—while giving due and proper honor to Mary.

Dr. Don M^cCurry

Author, and worldwide speaker; active in international missionary training programs in Colorado and Spain.
Former Professor, Fuller Theological Seminary

WITH so few informative books focused on the mother of our Lord, it is encouraging that leading Christian scholars have put in countless hours to reveal the true Biblical perspective.

Sister Ruth Brewer
San Diego, California

WE warmly welcome this book, which applies the searchlight of the Bible to the facts about the role of Mary. Today's seekers and believers will benefit from the clear presentation in this excellent book.

Dr. Bill Jackson
Borden, Indiana

USING the sword of the Spirit and the balm of the Gospel, Dr. Mikhail and Dr. Farag illuminate Mary and present deep Biblical concepts with clarity in easy-to-read English.

Rev. Neil Cullan McKinlay
Presbyterian Church of Australia and Army Chaplain
Queensland, Australia

The Virgin
Mary
**IN THE LIGHT
OF THE
WORD OF GOD**

DR. LABIB MIKHAIL

Translation and Contributions

DR. NASSER S. FARAG



Ventura, California

2011

The Virgin Mary In the Light of The Word of God

by Dr. Labib Mikhail

First Edition, Arabic, 2006

Second Edition, Spanish, 2009

Third Edition, English, 2011

Translated and Contributions by Dr. Nasser S. Farag

Published by Nordskog Publishing Inc.

Copyright © 2011 by Labib Mikhail

International Standard Book Number: 978-0-9827074-9-4

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011923120

Manuscript and Theology Editor, Ronald W. Kirk

Proofreaders, Nola Grunden and Kimberley Woods

Design and Production by Desta Garrett, Managing Editor

Cover Painting, "Joy of the Harvest" by Simon Dewey

Courtesy Altus Fine Art, altusfineart.com

The author is solely responsible for all the information and references taken from the Arabic language prayer book, theology books, and articles of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible and noted NKJV except where otherwise indicated. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture noted as NIV is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Biblica.

Scripture noted as NASB is taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission (www.Lockman.org).

Printed in the United States of America.

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise — without prior written permission from the publisher.

For information:



Nordskog Publishing, Inc.

2716 Sailor Avenue, Ventura, California 93001, USA

1-805-642-2070 • 1-805-276-5129 • www.NordskogPublishing.com



Christian Small Publishers Association

Dedication

There are two liberties in life.

One is from the slavery of sin.

Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:34,36)

The second freedom is that from human philosophies and religions and, ultimately, from the civil state, as well as from humanistic traditions within the Christian church. Such external tyrannies impede the Gospel work and the cause of Christ.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

To those who have received both stages of freedom, or are longing to receive them...

I dedicate this book.

Rev. Dr. Labib Mikhail



A Word of Tribute from the Author

Salib Farag was a humble Christian layman whom the Lord put in my way when I was 16 years old attending a traditional church in my home country of Egypt. Having been brought up to believe and practice the devotion to and adoration of the blessed virgin Mary, I had accepted that without question.

In a process that is too lengthy to detail here, Brother Salib helped me start on a journey in which I came to know personally Jesus Christ as my only Savior and Mediator, and to spend my life studying and teaching the Word of God. This book is an outgrowth of my determined effort to know what the Scriptures reveal about *Jesus* and His blessed mother, the virgin *Mary*.

Brother Salib had also made a similar journey of faith. He was one of the first printers/publishers of Christian literature in the Arab world, printing, among other things, many of my early writings in the Arabic language.

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

After Brother Salib's departure to be with the Lord, I have come to consider his son, Nasser, as my adopted spiritual son in the Lord. Nasser, who has served as a missionary for forty-five years in Africa and Latin America and as a professor of missions in the U.S., contacted me after reading this book in Arabic. He shared that the book's message was urgently needed in Africa and Latin America where nominal Christianity is at times only a thin veneer overlying deeply embedded native pagan beliefs and practices. He asked if he might translate it into English and Spanish and adapt it for use where needed throughout the world.

After prayer together, we completed the Spanish in 2009, and now the English edition as an additional witness to clarify the place of blessed Mary as taught in the Bible *for the Glory of GOD in CHRIST.*

Dr. Labib Mikhail
January, 2011

Contents

<i>Dedication</i>	v
<i>A Word of Tribute</i> from the Author	vii
<i>Foreword</i> by Dr. Nasser S. Farag	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
ONE <i>Blessed Are You Among Women</i>	3
TWO <i>The Agony of Doubt and the Comfort of Certainty</i>	15
THREE <i>Scenes Surrounding the Birth of Jesus</i>	21
FOUR <i>Look, Your Mother and Your Brothers</i>	27
FIVE <i>My Brothers, My Sisters, and My Mother</i>	33
SIX <i>Woman, What Have I To Do with You?</i>	37
SEVEN <i>Can Blessed Mary Be Another Mediator?</i>	43
EIGHT <i>Was Blessed Mary Assumed Bodily into Heaven?</i>	59
NINE <i>Titles Given to Blessed Mary</i>	71
TEN <i>Prayers to Blessed Mary</i>	89
ELEVEN <i>Rumored Appearances of Blessed Mary</i>	101
TWELVE <i>Miracles of Blessed Mary</i>	119
CONCLUSION	127
<i>Lexicon of Leading Ideas</i> compiled by Ronald W. Kirk	129
<i>Bibliography</i>	141
SONG: <i>Mary, Did You Know</i>	145
<i>About the Author</i> , Dr. Labib Mikhail	147
<i>About the Translator/Contributor</i> , Dr. Nasser S. Farag	149
<i>The Publisher's Word</i> by Gerald C. Nordskog	151



Foreword

AN URGENT CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY

Father, Son, and Mother Mary—The Triune God!

What? Who believes this?

Why? Where? When?

How did it affect religious history?

Whom does it affect today?

YES, some Christian cults at the time in which the prophet of Islam lived—A.D. 570–625—had these unscriptural beliefs concerning the nature of Jesus, the Son of God, and the mother of Jesus, God in the flesh.

It is true that some so-called Christians who were not familiar with the Scriptures and were deceived by Satan went into a cultic belief that the Trinity consisted of Father God, Mother Mary, and their Son, Jesus. Islam rightly rejected this as their Quran states, “He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. How can He have children when He has no wife?” (Surah 6:101, *The Quran Translation* by M.H. Shakir).

Their belief is that God dictated the Quran to their

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

prophet through the angel Gabriel, the *same* angel who spoke to the virgin Mary and told her of Jesus' miraculous birth. While the Quran supports the virgin birth of Jesus (whom they call the Prophet Isa), it also teaches that God (Allah) is a solitary person, who cannot be three persons in One.

Their logical conclusion, based on their belief that both Mary (whom they call Maryam) and Jesus (whom they call Isa) were 100 percent human, was that Christians were, therefore, insulting the One and Only True God by adding them alongside *Him*.

The traditional churches have always asserted that this is a distortion of their teachings. Nevertheless, their doctrine of elevating and praying to blessed Mary as the “Mother of God,” and as an interceder and mediator, has caused confusion. It unintentionally feeds into a generalization that Christianity is an apostate religion believing in three gods. In the Quran we find this verse:

And when Allah will say: O Isa son of Maryam!
Did you say to men, Take me and my mother
for two gods besides Allah, he will say: Glory
be to Thee, it did not befit me that I should
say what I had no right to [say]. (Surah 5:116, Shakir)

Muslims conclude and judge Christianity by the Quranic argument that *God is not born and does not give birth* (Surah 112:3, Shakir).

Foreword

Because they also believe that children are automatic adherents to the religion of their father, they consider every so-called Christian or one who comes from a so-called Christian father to be a Christian. They do not *distinguish* between someone baptized as a child but who now rarely attends church and someone who has personally received and accepted the grace of Christ's salvation and has a living faith.

Many members of their religion notice multitudes of those whom they consider to be true Christians praying to blessed Mary or to God/Christ through Mary, and kneeling to her statue in adoration. It is easy to see how they justify their belief that Christianity is a pagan religion that worships two human beings (Mary/Maryam and her son, Jesus/Isa) in addition to God/Allah. They believe that they, not Christians, are following God's words when He commanded:

You shall have no other gods before Me You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything . . . you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I . . . am a jealous God. (Exodus 20:3–5)

Islam teaches that Jesus was born by the Spirit of God, but is still merely a human prophet empowered by God's Spirit. To them He is not God in the flesh. This conclusion

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

has helped convince and move some away from a belief in traditional Christianity to a belief in Islam. This has been evident over the past fourteen centuries, especially in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Today, many from this religion (especially Arabs and Asians) are moving to Europe and the Americas (North and Latin), where they find good educational, business, and employment opportunities. They are increasing rapidly in these areas, not only through immigration but also through marriage to nominal Christians and through high birth rates. This becomes obvious in large cities like London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Los Angeles, Sao Paulo, and Mexico City.

As we served in Latin America, we, along with everyone else including the followers of Islam, noticed the multitudes of so-called Christians who never attend church and whose lives do not portray a personal relationship with the Almighty God. Yet at the same time, they would spend tremendous time, energy, and money participating in specific feasts, festivals, and religious parades that clearly elevate Mary as an object of worship. Some would even crawl for hundreds of yards on their knees by the Basilica in Mexico City to reach and to show devotion to a special icon of blessed Mary.

In our ministry's evangelical center for missions on a Caribbean lagoon, we invited over 100 youth from a traditional church that we thought would be open to the

Foreword

Gospel. We were happy to share the facility with them and to, hopefully, share Christ as well. To our disappointment, we and our team were not allowed to share the Gospel in the ministry's Casa para Cristo (House for Christ). On the contrary we were asked to join in what we assumed was the birthday party of one of their members. To our shock, we found written on the huge (3 ft. by 5 ft.) birthday cake, these words: "To Jesus through Mary" and "To Mary through Jesus." Thus, they were elevating blessed Mary as equal to or above Jesus.

In Africa, we noticed that some of the old ancestor-worship practices were still being included in the funerals and burial practices conducted by priests of traditional churches. It seems that these practices originally entered the church because the missionaries from an outside culture were unaware of their anti-Biblical meanings. Nevertheless, when their meanings become clear, there is no excuse for Christians to continue them.

Instead of labeling these people and churches as pagans and idol worshipers (as many evangelical ministers in Latin America do), we must do what Dr. Mikhail is doing, which is to teach the Word of God, which is the *Sword of the Spirit* (Ephesians 6:17). We need to reach out in love to our brothers and sisters from the traditional churches.

Our prayer is that all Christians will recognize the necessity of focusing on the Lordship of the unique and

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

supreme Incarnate Son of God, our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us first proclaim Him in our own hearts, then to others, as the *only* Savior and Mediator between God and man (Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5). If we do this, not only does God save us unto eternal life, but He hampers Satan from using us as *obstacles*. We then help free non-believers to understand the essentials of the Christian faith. In fact, our stand of loyalty to the teachings of the Bible in contrast to loyalty to the teachings of men could be a stepping-stone toward leading many others, even from other belief systems, to live for Him.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Labib Mikhail for allowing me to translate his Arabic book into English and Spanish, and for allowing me to make additions, deletions, and adaptations that address the situation of pertinent Catholic beliefs about blessed Mary as I experienced them in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa south of the Sahara. Thus this message virtually becomes relevant to Christians worldwide, including concerned evangelicals.

Dr. Nasser S. Farag
Translator and Contributor
English Edition

Introduction

LET me first express that I believe that God blessed the virgin Mary. As the angel Gabriel told her: “[B]lessed are you among women!” (Luke 1:28). This was his greeting when he came to announce that she would become pregnant and give birth to a son, Jesus. It is also true that the virgin Mary is a blessed woman for all peoples throughout time, in the sense that all generations have called her “blessed.” This was her testimony:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:46–48)

And the *reason* for her blessing was,

For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Luke 1:49)

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

The Bible records this honor of being blessed, but does not give Mary the other titles that were later given her by the traditional churches. Therefore, my reason for writing this book is to give the reader who is searching for the truth the clear picture that the Holy Scriptures give about blessed Mary. I am urging the honest person to actively search for the truth by examining what the Bible says, regardless of what he has learned from other teachings and traditions. Follow the example of the Jews of Berea to whom Paul preached: “[T]hey received the word with all readiness, *and searched the Scriptures daily* to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed” (Acts 17:11–12, *emphasis added*).

This is my hope and prayer from my heart and soul—that this book will become a reason for blessing and guidance for every reader.

Rev. Dr. Labib Mikhail

January, 2011, U.S.A.

CHAPTER ONE

Blessed Are You Among Women

HUNDREDS of years before the time of Mary, the prophet Isaiah predicted that a virgin would give birth to a son. He said,

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Therefore, the Apostle Matthew declared that this prophecy was literally fulfilled when the Angel Gabriel hundreds of years later announced to the virgin Mary that she would become pregnant and give birth to a son who was to be named Jesus. He said:

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:22–23)

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Matthew gave the interpretation to the name *Immanuel* as “God with us,” and so he pronounced by this fact the virgin birth. When the New Testament explains an Old Testament prophecy, *it verifies the truth!*

Now let us read together what the evangelist Luke recorded after he carefully followed what had taken place with the virgin Mary at the time of her pregnancy with Jesus. God sent the angel Gabriel to the elderly priest Zacharias, pronouncing to him that his elderly barren wife Elizabeth would give birth to a son who was to be named John. This son would prepare the people to receive the Lord whom they were anticipating. John was the one in whom Isaiah’s prophecy would be fulfilled.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 40:3,5)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent,

ONE: *“Blessed Are You Among Women”*

for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is He who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’” (Matthew 3:1–3)

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “The

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:26–37)

In this sacred scene, Eternity met time and the Spiritual world met with man!

In the sixth month after Elizabeth conceived their son John, who became known as the Baptizer, the angel Gabriel came to the virgin Mary who was betrothed to a man from King David’s lineage whose name was Joseph. He greeted her with the words:

“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” (Luke 1:28)

Some people have objected to the phrase “blessed are you,” and prefer the statement “full of blessing”; but in reality, there is no difference. After all, all blessings are from God. The angel Gabriel said to the virgin Mary, *you are blessed among women*.

Without any doubt, the virgin Mary was the most blessed woman whom God chose by His grace from all women in the world in which to conceive this Son

ONE: “*Blessed Are You Among Women*”

who was to save the world. This is what the Apostle Paul said:

But when the fullness of the time had come,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born
under the law. (Galatians 4:4)

What a Godly blessing it was to be *that* woman!

Mary was troubled by Gabriel’s words and wondered what did this mean. Without doubt, *this situation caused her fear and trembling*. The angel continued his words to remove her anxiety:

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30–33)

Gabriel’s words pronounced the true nature of the child to whom the virgin Mary was to give birth. He is *The Son of the Highest*, and this king would rule forever with no one ever able to end his rule. What a fulfillment this would be of Daniel’s prophecy in Daniel 7:13–14!

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.

At this point, it seems that Mary's mind was preparing a rational question. She was a virgin untouched by any man, so her question to the angel was, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34). This question leaves no doubt that she had had no sexual contact with any man.

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

By these words, Gabriel pronounced to Mary that *the pregnancy would be by the Holy Spirit* and that God's power would protect her all through her pregnancy, and that the child to be born from her would be *His* Son, planned and arranged by God.

ONE: “*Blessed Are You Among Women*”

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:
“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a
body You have prepared for Me.” (Hebrews 10:5)

The angel informed Mary that her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant with a son in her old age because “with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Mary, responding with such a powerful assurance of faith that it removed fear from her heart concerning what people would say when they would see her pregnant before marriage, said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Note that the word “handmaid” means *a servant* or *slave*. This was how the blessed virgin Mary accepted her role, in complete submission to God’s will.

Mary quickly traveled to visit Elizabeth and as she entered the priest Zacharias’ home the babe inside Elizabeth started moving (Luke 1:41-45). How could this happen? Does the fetus express feelings while still inside the womb? Remember that Gabriel had told Zacharias what the babe John would be:

But the angel said to him, . . . “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.” (Luke 1:15)

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

Here is the first blessing received by the virgin Mary as expressed by Elizabeth in her greeting—through the Holy Spirit:

Then she spoke with a loud voice saying, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” (Luke 1:42–45)

All generations of true believers agree that Mary is blessed among women because she was the vessel that God the Father used to prepare the body of His Son, Jesus Christ, who would complete by His death on the cross God’s plan for man’s salvation. The virgin Mary is blessed among women because she believed in the possibility of this most unprecedented event in all human history... that a virgin girl can give birth without being touched by a man.

Now let us look at the specific words of Elizabeth that have caused a lot of controversy... “But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:43). The traditional churches have built on these words of Elizabeth the teaching that Mary is the *Mother of*

ONE: “*Blessed Are You Among Women*”

*God.*¹ So what was the intention of the Holy Spirit when these words were recorded in Scripture?

It is logical that any mother precedes her son as far as time is concerned; but is that the case as far as the relation between Mary and Jesus? Did Mary precede Jesus as far as time? Certainly not! In fact, Christ was eternal with God the Father before creation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Why then did the Holy Spirit record the words of Elizabeth? The reason is to confirm that the child who was to be born of Mary is God the Son incarnated. It is against all logic to try to make Mary, who was created in time the Mother of the Eternal Son of God. Jesus is divine: Mary is human.

For nine months, Mary’s body housed the child, Jesus, who in truth was the Lord of both Mary and Elizabeth. Humanly, Mary’s womb nurtured the full humanity of her Lord, but she cannot be called the mother of His godly nature, which was eternally existent as the Second Person

1 Iris H. ElMasry, *Introduction to the Coptic Church* (Cairo, Egypt: Dar El Alam El Arabi, 1977), 49, and Most Rev. John Francis Noll, D.D., LL.D. and Rev. Lester J. Fallon, C.M., S.T.D., *Father Smith Instructs Jackson* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor Press, 1960), 206.

See also: The Chalcedonian Creed AD 451, which orthodox Protestants accept; Mary as “the Mother of God” is sometimes translated as “the God-bearer.”

The Virgin Mary – In the Light of the Word of God

of the Triune God. In that respect, *He was her creator who preceded her before the world was made* (Colossians 1:16). The divine baby Jesus, the Second Person in the Triune Godhead, is the Creator of His earthly mother, the virgin Mary, as John confirmed:

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:3)

Christ was with the Father from the beginning and was sent by God in the fullness of time as Paul said:

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

The Apostle Paul in this verse mentions blessed Mary as “a woman,” without any special prestigious label such as those given her by some traditional churches. According to this bright light of revelation, we again ask, “Why, then, did the Holy Spirit put these words on the lips of Elizabeth?” The answer is that the Holy Spirit intended that the words of Elizabeth clearly distinguish between the child in her own womb and the *One* who was in the womb of the virgin Mary, who was the Messiah.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah

ONE: *“Blessed Are You Among Women”*

the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” (Luke 3:4–6)

John was a mere human being filled with the Holy Spirit. In contrast, Jesus is God in the flesh; He is God’s salvation. Jesus is the one of whom David spoke in Psalm 27:1 and 35:3:

The LORD is my light and my salvation.
Say to my soul, “I am your salvation.”

This unique agent of God’s salvation was the Son of God and also the Son of Man incarnated in human flesh through the blessed virgin Mary.