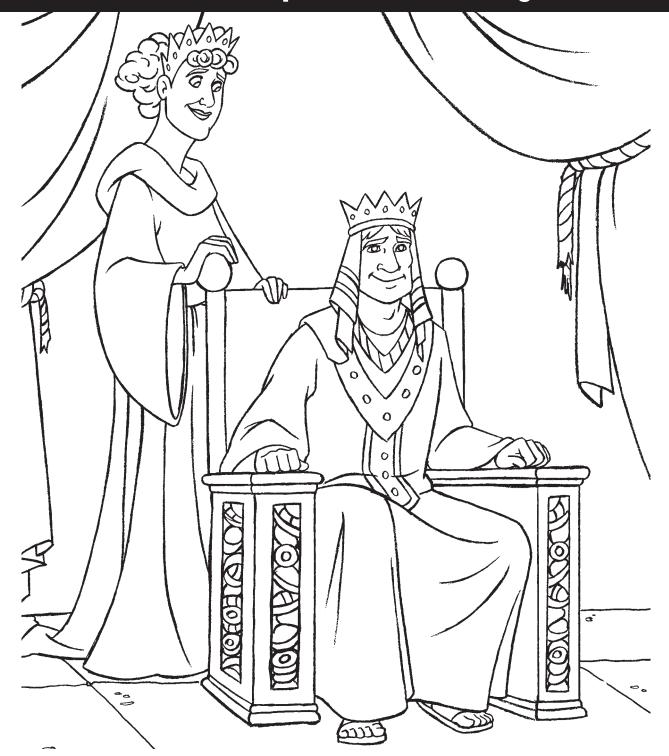


In Mexico in 1531 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St Juan Diego as "the woman clothed with the sun," and, by a miracle, left her image on his tilma or cloak. This image is still visible today on display in Mexico City at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is the name we call this apparition or appearance of Mary come down from Heaven.



In Heaven, Mary is still the mother of Jesus. Remember what the Archangel Gabriel said to her about Jesus? "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give unto 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 1:32-33)



Jesus rules forever as the King of the Kingdom of David, which God established in Israel many years before Jesus was born. In that kingdom, it was not the wife of the King, but his mother who was crowned the Queen. They called her the "Queen Mother."

So, we see that the angel was also telling Mary that she would become the Queen when her Son, Jesus, became King, just as every mother of every king in Israel had before her.



But Jesus told Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world. The new Kingdom of David that will last forever is in Heaven. And after Jesus ascended to His everlasting throne in Heaven, He brought Mary up into Heaven, too. She was crowned the "Queen Mother" of her Son's Kingdom: The Kingdom of Heaven.



In Israel, the Queen Mother would ask her son, the King, for favors that his subjects brought to her. Mary still does that for us: when we pray to her, she then turns to Jesus, her Son, and asks Him to grant our requests. That is why we say, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

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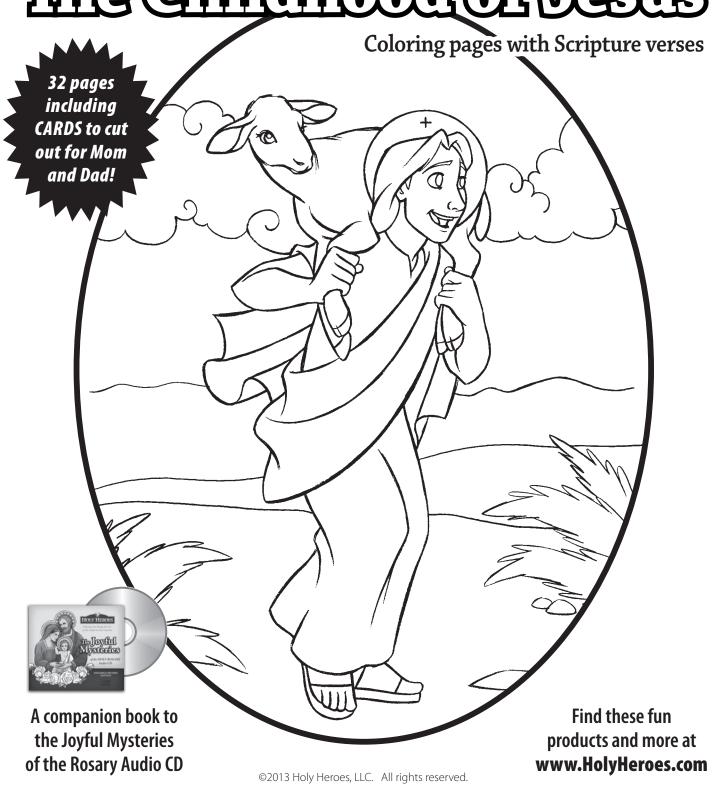


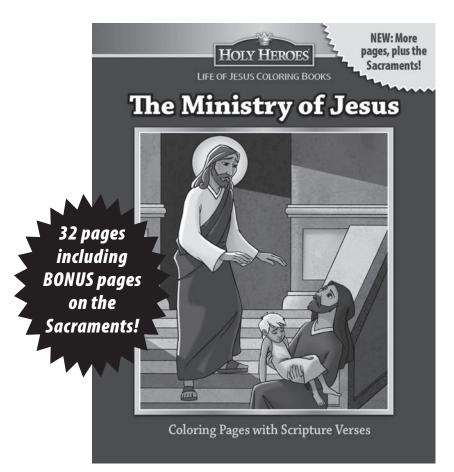




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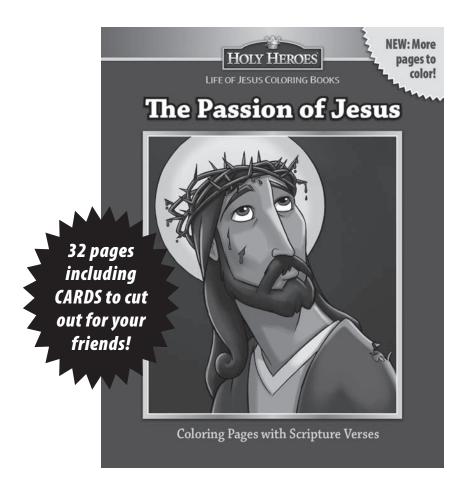


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