

**BLESSED
MOTHER'S DAY
TO ALL OUR
MOTHERS**

SOME OUTSTANDING BIBLE MOTHERS

**Some interesting thoughts on mothers, and
mothering**

- According to a recent poll, Mother's Day is second only to Christmas and Easter for church attendance.....a time at which one hopes to hear a pleasant sermon, and see pretty flowers.
- My research reveals that the origin of the idea of the now very secular celebration of Mother's Day actually began in the church, when Anna Marie Jarvis and fellow members of the Methodist Episcopal Church led the charge to make Mother's Day an official observance.
- Andrew's Methodist Church of Grafton, W.Va., held the state's first official Mother's Day on May 10, 1908, at which Jarvis marked the occasion by bringing 500 carnations, to honor her late mother, who had been a leader in the initial efforts of such Mother's Day celebrations.
- U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared May 8, 1914, the second Sunday in May, as a special day to honor the nation's mothers, especially those who had lost their sons to war.
- Though gift and card-buying and secular activities abound, and though different, regional, and cultural traditions are deep-rooted, **the church still plays a prominent role in celebrating Mother's Day as we thank God for those most special persons in our church fellowships.**

- **Bibliocentric, Christocentric believers keep the focus on worshipping God, while celebrating and honoring God's gift to us of mothers, by turning to the Bible.**
- **Because our faith is bound up in the Bible stories that filled the backgrounds of our childhood it is easy for us to remember the many biblical stories of motherhood —**
- **... and so the following vignettes, or mini biographies of a few biblical mothers, both named and unnamed, well known or not so well known, should give us pause to reflect, as we consider and extract the advice and example that the Bible gives about Godly Christian mothers.**
- **I have not read *All the Women of the Bible*, for many years, but I would recommend it as good bed time reading for serious, sound students of the Scriptures, who seek to delve further into matters about Biblical mothers, at this time of the year.**

- Before we present our vignettes, let us share a few salient introductory thoughts.
- The Bible says that children are a heritage from the Lord (*Psalms 127:3*). They are a blessing or a gift from God.
- Certainly the study of Embryology, modern Cell biology and Biochemistry suggests that the blessing of bearing a normal child occurs against tremendous odds!
- The Bible never states that every woman should be a mother. However, it does imply that those whom the Lord blesses to be mothers should take the responsibility seriously, because mothers have a unique and crucial role in the lives of their children. Motherhood is not a chore or unpleasant task.
- Mothers do not only bear children during pregnancy, and feed and care for them during infancy, but good mothers also play an ongoing role in the lives of their children, whether they are adolescents, teenagers, young adults, or even adults with children of their own.
- While the role of motherhood changes and develops, the love, care, nurture, and encouragement a good mother gives never ceases.
- Being a mother is a very important role that the Lord chooses to give to many women. A Christian mother is told to love her children (Titus 2:4), in part so that she does not bring reproach on the Lord and on the Savior whose name she bears.
- The Greek word *philoteknos* used in Titus 2:4 in reference to mothers loving their children, represents a special kind of “mother love.” The idea that flows out of this word is that of caring for their children, nurturing them, affectionately embracing them, meeting their needs, and tenderly befriending each one as a unique gift from the hand of God.

- **Several things are commanded of Christian mothers in God's Word:**

Availability – morning, noon, and night ([Deuteronomy 6:6-7](#))

Involvement – interacting, discussing, thinking, and processing life together ([Ephesians 6:4](#))

Teaching – the Scriptures and a biblical worldview ([Psalm 78:5-6](#); [Deuteronomy 4:10](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#))

Training – helping a child to develop skills and discover his/her strengths ([Proverbs 22:6](#))
and spiritual gifts ([Romans 12:3-8](#) and [1 Corinthians 12](#))

Discipline – teaching the fear of the Lord, drawing the line consistently, lovingly, firmly ([Ephesians 6:4](#); [Hebrews 12:5-11](#); [Proverbs 13:24](#); [19:18](#); [22:15](#); [23:13-14](#); [29:15-17](#))

Nurture – providing an environment of constant verbal support, freedom to fail, acceptance, affection, unconditional love ([Titus 2:4](#); [2 Timothy 1:7](#); [Ephesians 4:29-32](#); [5:1-2](#); [Galatians 5:22](#); [1 Peter 3:8-9](#))

Modeling with Integrity – living what you say, being a model from which a child can learn by “catching” the essence of godly living ([Deuteronomy 4:9](#), [15](#), [23](#); [Proverbs 10:9](#); [11:3](#); [Psalm 37:18](#), [37](#)).

- **Being a Christian or Biblical mother is certainly not a job for the faint of hearted. For mothers often put aside caring for themselves to help and elevate their children.**
- **Surely, one reason why society is in a mess today is because of the lack of godly mothers, the attack of the priority of the home and the attack upon motherhood by feminism**

- In our look at **Stories of Mothers in the Bible**, we will seek to deal with a wide range of mothers in their different familial relationships and settings, following **an interesting outline I stumbled on in my studies**
- Each individual mother has her own lessons to teach us.
- "The Unconventional Mother"
- "The Metaphorical Mothers"
- The foundational matriarchs of Genesis, and the Pentateuch
- "Mothers of a Budding Nation."
- "Mothers and Daughters,"
- "Wise Women and Queen Mothers,"
- New Testament Mothers

- We mention **"The Unconventional Mother,"** only briefly for completion today, since God undoubtedly had a purpose for them, as in the case of Tamar, who though involved in the unorthodox coupling with her father-in-law, Judah is listed in Jesus' genealogy at Mathew 1:3.
- Perhaps, she was rewarded for her ambition, to be part of the "seed" promise, about which she was hearing in the gatherings of Jacob's clan.
- Other Unconventional Mothers include
- the "daughters of men" **Genesis 6,**
- Lots daughters, Lot's wife, Job's wife

- Also for completion we will also mention briefly **"The Metaphorical Mother"** to point out that the Bible does not reserve motherhood only for women with biological children.
- **"The Metaphorical Mothers."** were symbolic mothers through their outstanding devotion to their people, as large scale leaders, who were characterized as **"mothers in Israel."**
- These women were unique in social standing and behavior, and their "mothering" was really a style of leadership, which differs significantly from how their male colleagues governed their people.

- Judges 5:7 identifies the prophet and judge Deborah as **"a mother in Israel,"** but she was also a **mother to Israel.**
- She provided wisdom (Judges 4:5) and, under God's leading, showed Israel the way they were to go (verse 6). She even tried to encourage her "grown child" to follow God on his own, without her constant presence (verses 8-9).
- Because of Deborah's wisdom and guidance, Israel enjoyed a rare period of peace (Judges 5:31).
- **The point of mentioning such Metaphorical Mothers is to stress that all women, including those with no biological children can follow Deborah's example to encourage, nurture, and train those around them to live mature, effective, and God-honoring lives.**

- The **Foundational matriarchs of Genesis**, are the first set of Bible Mothers, who (except Eve) lived in a close-knit clan society.
- In the Genesis stories about mothers, **we see the presence of God, and that the themes of covenant and faith inform the beliefs, actions and longings of these early matriarchs, who were essentially each nurturing a family that was on the brink of becoming a people or nation.**

EVE

Genesis 2:21-25, 3, 4

Mother of Cain, Abel, Seth and others

- **Eve - the mother of all living, the mother of us all (Genesis 3:20)**
- **Eve, was the first mother, and the woman, who as you know made the monumental, mind-blowing, mistake that affects-everybody forever, of being deceived by the serpent.**
- **Although she deserves the bad rap she gets, you have to feel a little bit of sympathy for one who didn't have a mother, to ask about how things were to be done, like when the kids had a temperature or were teething; she just had to figure it out on her own, but, then again, nobody could look at her and tell her that she was doing it all wrong.**
- **And she had the mother of all heartaches, too, and suffered terrible grief when her son Cain murdered his brother Abel, (without video games like Nintendo and violence on TV, or climate change on which to blame such bad behavior) so she was the first mom to have to bury her child.**
- **Despite these tragedies, Eve went on to fulfill her part in God's plan of populating the Earth.**

- It is obvious that she is the mother of us all as exemplified by the following characters which we share with her.
- Eve's major errors were that she gave Satan an audience, and consented to linger and look at that which was forbidden.
- She, like we too often are, was ignorant of Satan's devices and was therefore beguiled by his craftiness, so that her mind was corrupted by the simplicity that is in Christ (2Corinthians 2:11).
- She apparently did not know that we must never give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27), and that the devil must be resisted, if he is to flee from us (James 4:7), and that only by the use of faith can we quench all his fiery darts (Ephesians 6:16).
- Consequently she was unable to recover herself from his snare, and was taken captive by him at his will as taught in 2 Timothy 2:26.
- Eve failed to be vigilant as taught in 1 Peter 5:8.
- Eve did not have all the information that we have today, yet we ourselves often fall into the traps he lays for us, as he attempts to spoil the benefits of salvation which Christ has won for us by His death.

- We do not give Eve credit for recovering from her error and sentence, by bounding back, to believing God's promises of Genesis 3:15. **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**
- Eve (like Adam) had as her gospel, and her hope, the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the head of Satan. They understood that the Deliverer would come through the woman.
- Although the identity of the male descendant was not clearly immediately revealed, that the message was clear to Eve is seen in her remark of Genesis 4:1 at the birth of her first son when she said **"I have gotten a man, the Lord,"** or **"I have gotten a man, even the Lord."**
- The Hebrew permits both of these renderings. Eve was essentially saying, "I have given birth to the Man," i.e., the One that was promised, the Deliverer. Eve, apparently understood that the Deliverer would be the God-Man, true humanity and true deity in One Person.
- Eve believed God's promise. Although she was mistaken with respect to the time of the advent of this promised Seed/-Savior, her longings as presented in the text suggests that her understanding of the promise of Genesis 3:15 was crystal clear. We don't give her credit for this.
- As someone who personally knew God, she had a great responsibility as a mother, to pass along her knowledge of God and His plans for the world to her children.
- We know that she obviously did this, because one of her sons brought the right offering. Initial 50% success is passable. Right?
- Here was a mother, who without a single role model or mentor, failed initially, but rebounded to believe God.....and achieved a final 66% success as a child rearer.
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER , IS THAT GOD IS A GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE, WHO ALLOWS US TO REBOUND FROM OUR INITIAL FAILURES."**

SARAH

**Genesis 11-25 especially 12-23;
Romans 4: 19-21 Hebrews 11:11,21
Mother of Isaac**

- **Sarah: The Mother Who Waited impatiently but who became the mother of the nation of Israel**
- **Sarah was a woman who eventually laughed at her late start with motherhood, and who learned that good things come to those who wait. This is the mom who gives hope to everyone who waited a little late to get started on the Mommy Track. Can you imagine waiting until age 90 to experience the blessing of childbearing?**
- **God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and also that His promised redeemer would come through Sarah, but she was barren for a long time.**
- **We observe in Genesis 16, that when things were not happening in what she thought to be a timely manner, Sarah decided to take matters into her own hands by suggesting that Abram get the “promised child” by cohabiting with her maid Hagar, as was the custom in that era.**
- **At the birth of the child, the custom was that the child would be placed in Sarah’s lap (a type of adoption), and then she would present the child to Abram, as the fulfillment of the promise from God.**
- **This resulted in a child but not the child. This has had serious consequences up until today.**

- **Abraham obeyed his wife, but God did not accept the offspring, because customs of the day have nothing to do with the method of implementing God's promises. God's work ought to be done in God's way rather than according to the prevailing practices which are usually determined by the devil's crowd, as Sarah soon found out (Genesis 16:5).**
- **Sarah thus misunderstood the promise, and its method of fulfillment and, God's timing, and she tried to help God keep his promise.**
- **The misunderstanding here is that she seemed to have interpreted God's promise to mean that she must find a way to have the promised son, rather than waiting for God to provide him. Sarah thus allowed her self to be guided by circumstances rather than God....much like we ourselves often do.**
- **It is important to observe that the sin of Abram and Sarai at this point was the same as Adam and Eve in the Garden-unbelief!**

- Sarah eventually came to believe in God's promise, and God's power to enable the physical rejuvenation necessary for her to conceive, when she bore her son, Isaac, A TYPE OF THE LORD JESUS AS THE ONLY SON...THE OFFERED SONetc
- She thus learned one of the rules of faith, that nothing is too hard for the Lord-an important principle from Genesis 18:14, She learned that God could indeed give her the son of promise even after she was well pass the normal age of child bearing.
- Genesis 21:1-2 Romans 4: 19-21 Hebrews 11:11 proves that God kept his promise with respect to the birth of a son for Abraham even though Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100 years old.
- God turned her laugh of doubt to the laugh of faith and reliance in his promise. Then she laughed with joy at what the LORD had done.
- Thankfully God's promise did not rely on the level of Sarah's initial faith.
- WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER, IS THAT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.....IN HIS OWN TIME.
- He will do the same for us!

REBEKAH

mother of twin boys named Esau and Jacob

Genesis 26-27

- **Rebekah: The Mother Who Deceived her husband**
- **Rebekah the wife of Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, was a woman of great faith, who Rebekah started of very well by obeying God when Isaac's servant told her of the man who wanted to marry her.**
- **Rebekah must have been a most special, adorable and loveable woman, because her husband, Isaac is unique among the patriarchs for remaining faithful to his only wife Rebekah, and only fathered children with her—especially in a culture that encouraged men to take multiple wives and increase their progeny at almost any cost. De best in de west**
- **When after many years of marriage to Isaac, Rebekah still had not given birth to a child and was believed to be barren, just as Sarah had been, Isaac does not have a child with his wife's concubine (as does Abraham, or his son Jacob); rather, he "pleaded with the Eternal on behalf of his wife" (25:21). God answered his plea and they soon become parents of twins.**
- **This remind us that the Lord has one bride and he intercedes for her.**
- **This couple serves as an example not just for couples who stay together when they are not able to bear children, but for persons who remain committed to their partner despite significant challenges.**

- The personalities of Rebekah's two boys could not have been more different, and endeared the boys to their parents in different ways and for different reasons.
- Scripture reveals that Isaac preferred Esau because he was a hunter and great outdoorsman but Rebekah showed great favor to Jacob who was a momma's boy who preferred to stay at home close to his mother, who taught him to cook in a way that pleased everyone in the family.
- That was an unwise move for Isaac & Rebekah to take; they should have worked to love both boys equally.
- Parents should not favor one child over another, because every child has unique gifts that should be encouraged. The division and hurt that favoritism causes does not bode well for a family, and can result in irreparable harm.
- The consequences of the family rift caused by this favoritism lasted for a long time and reverberated through the next generation, as Jacob favored Joseph, who suffered greatly at the hands of his brothers as a result of such favoritism.
- For every mom who has ever had the temptation to play favorites with her children, pay attention to Rebekah. She didn't just play favorites, she schemed and connived and was an accessory to one of the biggest Daddy Dupes in all of history.

- During an age when women were typically submissive, Rebekah was quite assertive and took matters into her own hands. During her difficult pregnancy, the Lord told her that ***“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”***
- In that time, the older would have never served the younger, and the firstborn son would have inherited the best of everything
- **When Isaac was old and blind, Rebekah unfortunately tried using her love for Jacob by risking deception to follow God’s promise and His purposes for the family by colluding with Jacob to create a plot to trick Isaac into thinking Jacob was Esau in order to steal the father’s blessing, and take the birthright from his older brother.**
- I’m sure she rationalized that it wasn’t such a bad thing, but her action resulted in disastrous consequences.
- **Esau makes plans to kill Jacob as soon as their father is dead, but When Isaac was old in age, he told Esau to hunt and prepare food so that he could receive his blessing. But Rebekah overheard this and told Jacob to bring her food so she could prepare it for Isaac first. Jacob was unsure about deceiving his father, but Rebekah responded in [Genesis 27](#), *“My son let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say; go and get them for me.”* I think it is safe to say that she remembered and took very seriously what God had spoken to her during her pregnancy.**
- **Rebecca finds out and sends Jacob back home to live with Uncle Laban, who is his equal as a schemer and conniver, and the family saga goes on to the next generation.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER IS THAT GOD desires that couples stay together when they are not able to bear children, and for them to remain committed to their partner despite significant challenges.**
- **Rebekah reminds us that it is a dangerous thing to use maternal power for manipulation, and that mothers must not be Daddy Dupers, and that parents must avoid favouritism amongst their children**
- **Rebekah started of very well but ended up a deceiver just like her daddy who would later deceive her own son. Sadly just as Isaac was fooled by Jacob, Jacob’s sons did the same to him.**

Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29-35

- **Leah and Rachel: The Mothers Who Had to Share**

- **When Jacob went to stay with his uncle Laban, he met one of his daughters, Rachel, and loved her. He wanted her for his wife and agreed to work seven years to marry her. But uncle Laban tricked him by giving him his older daughter Leah in marriage instead. Jacob worked another seven years for Rachel, and he loved her more than he loved Leah.**
- **We don't know much about Leah and Rachel as mothers, except that they took great pride in being able to bear children for their husband.**
- **Though Leah had 3 times as many children as she did, Rachel gave to Jacob his two favorite children, Joseph and Benjamin before she died in childbirth with Benjamin.**
- **Siblings like to compete, but can you imagine having to share a husband with your sister, feeling like you always had to outdo her? But God blessed both Leah and Rachel with children, as he continued his covenant promise with Abraham, and Leah and Rachel's sons eventually became the 12 tribes of Israel. In fact, we gather from Ruth 4:11 that because of this, that they became to be regarded as the very most famous women in the nation of Israel.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THESE TWO MOTHERS, IS THAT GOD IS ABLE TO USE EVEN THE RIFTS AND IN FIGHTING IN FAMILIES FOR HIS PURPOSES AND GLORY.**

JOCEBED

Exodus 1-2

**Mother of Aaron, Moses, and
Miriam**

- **Jochebed: The Mother with a Plan and faith that God blessed**
- **Jochebed, mother of Aaron, Moses, and Miriam, was one of the bravest mothers in the Bible, and also one of the underappreciated mothers in the Bible, although she showed tremendous faith in God.**
- **Although little is written about Jochebed in the Bible, her story speaks powerfully to mothers of today.**
- **Though ordered by the Pharaoh to accept the murder of her baby boy at birth, Jochebed was determined to find a way to save her son, and God blessed her plan, and God rewarded her faith!**
- **Jochebed shows us that the determination and ingenuity of a desperate mother can result in surprising circumstances. She reminds of the teaching in Acts 5:29 that enjoins “We ought to obey God rather than men.”**
- **To avoid her baby boy being slain in the mass slaughter of Hebrew boys, when she could hide him no longer she literally set him adrift in the Nile River, with his sister serving as lookout, hoping someone would find him and raise him. God so worked and directed the small ark so that not only was her son saved from death when he was found by Pharaoh's daughter but she was even paid by Pharaoh's daughter to be her own son's nurse and raise him until he was old enough to go live with Pharaoh's daughter, who then adopted him as her son and named him Moses.**
- **Jochebed apparently taught Moses many things about God in the time she was with him, because Moses clearly knew who he was in relation to the Egyptians and Hebrews.**
- **God used Moses mightily, to free the Hebrew people from their 400 year, bondage of slavery in Egypt, leading them in the desert toward the Promised Land according to God's plan.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER , IS THAT GOD HONOURS THE FAITH OF MOTHERS WHO OBEY AND TRUST HIM.**

- Next we examine a few **"Mothers of a Budding Nation."**
- As compared to those found in the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, the mothers described in Judges, Samuel and Kings lived during an age of transition, and include Hannah, Samson's mother and the Shunammite.
- **Distinguish between** the widow of Zarephath ([1 Kings 17:17](#)), of the Shunammite ([2 Kings 4:19, 20](#)).

HANNAH

1 Samuel 1-2

- **Hannah: The Mother Who Kept Her Promise**
- Hannah is of course the mother of Samuel the prophet, a godly man who grew up in the Temple with Eli the priest
- Hannah's story is one of the most touching in the entire Bible. Like several other mothers in the Bible, she knew what it meant to suffer long years of barrenness. In Hannah's case she was cruelly taunted by her husband's other wife. But Hannah never gave up on God.
- Hannah had a great influence on Samuel's life. She prayed for his birth at the temple in Shiloh, and before he was born she promised God that she would dedicate him to the Lord when he had finished nursing.
- *"LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."*
- Her prayers were answered. The LORD blessed Hannah, and she gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, and just as she had promised, when the boy was old enough she took him to the house of the LORD and presented him to Eli, to live and serve permanently in the temple. Hannah then prayed,
- *"My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance."* And her beautiful prayer continues in **1 Samuel 2:1-10**.
- Later God favored Hannah with five more children, bringing great blessings to her life.
- Hannah loved God and her son. She visited him yearly at the Temple and undoubtedly prayed for him regularly.
- Samuel lived a life dedicated to the LORD, and he would go on to lead the people of Israel, anointing Israel's first and second kings—Saul and David. Samuel was also the last judge and military leader of Israel at a time when the nation was particularly violent and morally corrupt.
- Like his mother, he was faithful and just, and committed to serving God and country.
- *Real mothers are courageous in letting their children step confidently into their future.*
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER, IS THAT GOD BLESSES WOMEN WHO PRAY FERVENTLY FOR THEIR CHILDREN, AND WHO KEEP THE PROMISES THEY MAKE TO HIM-**

Samson's Mother

Judges 13

- ***Samson's Mother: The Mother Who Followed the Rules**
- **She is not mentioned by name in the Book of Judges, so we can deduce that what she did is more important than her name. She was married to a man named Manoah but was unable to conceive. Judges 13:3-5 tells us,**
- ***"The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, 'You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.'"***
- **Samson's mother knew there was something special about the angel of the LORD, and when her husband was afraid they would die for having seen the face of God she became the voice of reason saying He would not have told us these things if He were going to kill us.**
- **She gave birth and named the baby Samson, and the LORD blessed him. Although some of his actions were questionable, the LORD used him mightily in His plan to defeat the Philistines.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF SAMSON'S MOTHER, IS THAT GOD USES MOTHERS WHO ARE PERCEPTIVE AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY GOD**

- Though the Bible is replete with mother-son accounts, there seems to be a sparsity of information on the interaction between mothers and daughters
- Surely a study of "Mothers and Daughters," gives another dimension to the topic of motherhood, because such important relationships show that biblical women can empower one another to be strong in the face of great hardship as is well exemplified by the story of Ruth and Naomi, her mother in law.

RUTH & NAOMI

(Ruth 1-4)



- Ruth, the mother who made the right choice, and the decision with the long reaching consequence that resulted in her becoming one of five women noted in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus
- **When we first meet Ruth, she had three major problems that we also had without Christ**, as outlined in Ephesians 2:12-13 thus:
- That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
 - **Her past was cursed.**
 - She was an alien from the commonwealth of Israel.....just as we were. Christless!.....hopeless!.....Godless!
 - Spiritually, she was born on the wrong side of the tracks (Deuteronomy 23:3)
 - **Her present was crushed.**
 - Ruth was a stranger to the things of God; she was without Christ.
 - **Her future was condemned.**
 - Her future, without God, was hopeless. Ephesians 2:19

- **Then she made a decision!**
- **Ruth made a decision recorded in Ruth 1:16-17, to chose the people of God to be her people, the true and living God to be her God, and the promised land to be her habitat.**
- **She is thus the perfect picture of the redeemed believer who like her, were once “in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye (we) were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:11-12.)”**
- **By the choice she made, Ruth like us (when we received Jesus as Savior) received several benefits described in Ephesians generally, but specifically in chapter 2. One of these is that “**Now therefore ye (we) are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.**”(Ephesians 2:19)**
- **Ephesians 2 is the very obvious New Testament fulfillment of the promises of God as found in Ruth.**

- When Ruth made her famous decision and declaration of loyalty, recorded in Ruth 1:16 to a mother-in-law who could offer her nothing in return, she had no idea of the lofty heights to which she would attain.
- As the story unfolds, Ruth is a model of faithfulness, obedience and God's self-giving love, and a A PICTURE OF OUR RESTORED LEGACY.
- The result of her initial decision, and obedience to her mother in law as presented in Ruth 3:3 was that
 - Ruth received a family. (Ruth 4:10) When we are saved, we become a part of the family of God.
 - Ruth received a fortune. (Ruth 4:10) As Christians, we are joint heirs with Jesus.
 - No longer was Ruth gleaning the fields; she owned the field, and shared in the wealth of Boaz.
 - Ruth received fame. (Ruth 4:11) If we know Jesus, we will reign with Him forever.
 - Even today, the name of Ruth is spoken with reverence.
 - Ruth received fruitfulness. (Ruth 4:11) So have we John 15:16
 - Ruth received a future.(Ruth 4:16-17) So have we
 - Ruth's son, Obed, was the grandfather of David, the ancestry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- In the Bible there are a few examples of **“Wise Women and Queen Mothers,”** that demonstrate how some women expressed their mothering in ways that had far-reaching impact beyond the immediate family into the halls and the corridors of royalty in that they employed motherly concern and intuition to bring about social, political and religious change.

A good example is Jehosheba, a sister of King Ahaziah and the wife of the High Priest, who was influential in saving the life of the young Joash (2 Chronicles 22:11,12) thereby countering the devil’s attempt to usurp God’s purpose and promise to maintain a descendent of David on the throne.

- **Jehosheba**, "Jehovah is the oath," was
- **1. A kinswoman.** the aunt of Joash, the sister of his father
- **2. A good woman.** who was married to Jehoiada the high priest, and who with her husband disapproved of the state religion and state policy of the day, inspired and controlled as these were by Athaliah.
- **3. A brave woman.** for scarcely without peril to herself could she have carried out her humane design of rescuing her infant nephew.
- **4. A clever woman.** For it took immense tact to evade the vigilant eyes of Athaliah, and substitute some other child in Joash's room
- **With her mother's heart she delivered Joash from**
- **1. An early death.** He was still an infant at the breast, since he had a wet-nurse
- **2. A violent death.** He was in danger of being cut off by the sword at the hand of Athaliah.
- **3. An unnatural death.** He was in danger of being killed by his own grandmother.

- **She did this.....**
- **1. by secret concealment in the palace.** in stead of the dormitory of the priests and Levites in the temple-courts or the sleeping-apartments of the royal princes in the palace, Jehosheba hid Joash along with his nurse in a chamber for the beds; where, according to Eastern custom, the beds, **i.e.** mattresses and coverlets, were kept. In this recess, usually uninhabited, a temporary refuge was obtained from Athaliah's rage.
- **2. by private upbringing in the temple.** for six years lodged in the priest's house in one of the buildings on the outer wall, in which the high priest resided with his wife, after removing him at the first convenient opportunity from the dangerous proximity to Athaliah in the palace.
- Here his training was carefully and successfully attended to, according to the tenets of Proverbs 22:6, as he received instruction in the Law of God from the priest's lips as was to be expected from the tenor and tone of Malachi 2:7, and from his aunt, he learned to love and practise the religion of his great and good ancestors, Jehoshaphat and Asa.
We learn here how God used a mother (and aunt) to defeat the works of the wicked, and to participate in the safety of those whom God keeps.

Belshazzar's Mother

Daniel 5:10-12



- **Belshazzar's Mother: the mother with Godly Intuition**
- Although she was the queen mother living in the palace, she did not attend the banquet at which her son Belshazzar desecrated the temple vessels. But in the midst of the drunken revelry, when her son saw part of a mysterious hand writing his doom on the palace wall, this mother appeared and gave a short intuitive speech of advice that was the perfect remedy for the situation.
- We commend the queen mother for her strength of godliness in the midst of ungodliness.
- Of course she knew that God had at a previous time given Daniel the prophet the description and interpretation of her husband's Nebuchadnezzar's dream and she trusted that God could again explain the current mystery through him.
- Although she knew that the interpretation could mean judgement for her son (and it did), she knew also that his behavior had to be corrected some time.
- This nameless woman did and said what her godly intuition thought was best for her son. She is an encouragement to mothers everywhere to turn their children over to God when leaving them up to their folly would cause their self-destruction.
- This mother had witnessed the Lord's chastisement of her husband Nebuchadnezzar, and how it turned him to God. It seems that she desired the same for her son.
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF BELSHAZZAR'S MOTHER IS THAT GOD USES MOTHERS WHO ARE NOT FEARFULL OF GOD DISCIPLINING THEIR CHILDREN**

SOME NEW TESTAMENT MOTHERS

- In our look at stories of New Testament Mothers today, we will see that **each individual mother has her own lessons to teach us.**
- As we seek to deal with a wide range of New Testament mothers in their different familial relationships and settings, we will follow this outline.
- **The “Metaphorical Mother” of the New Testament**
- **Mentioned New Testament Mothers,**
- **“The Ignoble Mothers mentioned in Mathew chapter 1.”**
- **Mary.....if time permits.**
- It is noteworthy that although the New Testament mentions a number of women by name, only a relatively few of these women are specifically said to be mothers.

The “Metaphorical Mother” of the New Testament

- The concept of "The Metaphorical Mother" points out that the Bible does not reserve motherhood only for women with biological children.
- "Metaphorical Mothers" were symbolic mothers through their outstanding devotion to their people, as large scale leaders, who were characterized as "mothers in Israel."
- These women were unique in social standing and behavior, and their "mothering" was really a style of leadership, of great significance
- The point of mentioning Metaphorical Mothers is to stress that all women, including those with no biological children can follow the example these women to encourage, nurture, and train those around them to live mature, effective, and God-honoring lives.
- Last year, we mentioned Deborah, "a mother in Israel," and also a mother *to* Israel (Judges 5:7).
- "The Metaphorical Mother" of note in the New Testament is of course ANNA. We have no biblical evidence that she was a mother in any other respect.

**ANNA- A WIDOW WHO FASTED
PRAYED AND WORSHIPPED**

Luke 2:36-38

- **We read of Anna in Luke 2: 36-38, thus.....**
- And there was a prophetess, **Anna** the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
- She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a **widow** to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.
- And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

- **Luke 2:36-38 speaks of this 84 year old widow's witness or testimony to the Redeemer thus..**
- **a. She was a prophetess.**
- **b. She fasted regularly.**
- **c. She was constantly in prayer.**

- **Anna, a prophetess:** We don't know in what capacity Anna was a prophetess. But it seems that Anna had a vigorous and active faith in what she had learned and believed to be the divinely inspired prophetic program for the restoration or redemption of Israel, enunciated in several OT passages.
- That expectation, was not mere wishful thinking, but was solidly based on the repeated promises of the prophets like Jeremiah (chap 33), and Daniel (chap 9) which had given a timetable for Jerusalem's partial restoration, its consequent renewed desolations, and its ultimate complete restoration.
- After the return from the exile in Babylon, the prophet Zechariah had repeatedly affirmed that Jerusalem would one day be finally and permanently redeemed, and his language had made it clear that he was thinking of a restoration far more glorious than what was achieved when Nehemiah rebuilt the city's walls, as detailed in the book of Nehemiah.(c.f 1:12–2:13; 3 8:1– 23; 9:9; 12:1–13:1; 14:1–21).
- Since that time Jerusalem had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes, and was now downtrodden by the Romans. But Anna, and those like her, were undaunted in their faith.
- In Anna's mind things were going according to plan. Jerusalem's 'widowhood' (see Lam 1:1) had lasted a long while; and Anna, in the literal sense had been a widow for a very long time, and in a way her personal experience mirrored that of her city.
- Constant in her prayers and supplications, she was undaunted in her faith that the city's sorrows and desolations would one day be a thing of the past, and Jerusalem would be redeemed (see Luke 2:37–38).

- **Who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day:**
- The realm of her ministry was within the temple, with its symbolic testimonies to the promised Messiah.
- She had spent many hours meditating about these matters.
- **This godly woman, like many churchwomen today, and through the years, served God with total devotion.**
- **Anna**, was one of the many Jews who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem, such as Simeon who is said to have been “ looking for the "consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25), or Zacharias, who had praised God for accomplishing redemption for His people (Luke 1:68).
- The reason for this was that God was already preparing people for the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus.
- Although it would be thirty years before their ministries would actually begin, God was already at work preparing people’s hearts.
- **Anna's close walk with God is shown by**
- **1- her love for the coming redeemer, about whom she knew only what the OT scriptures taught-yet see how she loved Him!**
- **2 and her desire to tell others about Jesus (continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem).**
- And so, when the Messiah-Child actually appeared in the temple, she was quick to recognize Him and she gave

- **A thankful recital:** *She... began giving thanks to God (2:38).*
- The direction of Anna's reaction was twofold.
- **She gave thanks to God....and**
- **She witnessed to man by giving a Message of Redemption to those ...who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (2:38).**
- Anna assured her listeners that Jerusalem would be redeemed.
- But notice which came first. **Her relationship with the Lord preceded her testimony before men.**
- Like, Anna, **we need to talk to the Lord about men before we talk to men about the Lord.**
- Sometimes, we tend to do it backwards. We start talking and witnessing and planning and doing, and then we take it all to God and ask Him to rubber-stamp it.
- We must all follow Anna's example

- **The principle and message here for us all is a message of comfort and encouragement.**
- **It is that God prepares the way.**
- **Maybe you are going through hard times.**
- **Maybe you are facing a dry period in your life.**
- **Maybe you are journeying through the valley of the shadow of death.**
- **But God has prepared a way. You may not be able to see it. Your situation may look hopelessly tangled. But God has prepared a way.**
- **This is the lesson for us from Anna, this mother in Israel.**

Mentioned New Testament Mothers

Elizabeth

Luke 1:13-14,25

- **Elizabeth: The Mother Who Believed in a Miracle**
- Elizabeth, who was barren in her old age, was another of the miracle mothers in the Bible. She was married to a priest named Zechariah. They were both righteous before God, observing all of His commands.
- When Zechariah was serving in the temple, one day, an angel of the Lord, Gabriel, approached him and said ,
- “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.” –[Luke 1:13-14](#)
- When Zechariah questioned and doubted this news, he was struck mute for the duration of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. She conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she and her husband named John, as the angel had instructed.
- Like Hannah before her, she dedicated her son John the Baptist, to God, and like Hannah's son, he also became prominent as the one whom Jesus proclaimed as the greatest of the prophets, who would go on to baptize people from their sins as he prepared the way for the Messiah.
- Elizabeth believed the angel and was thus able to proclaim in Luke 1:60 **Not so; but he shall be called John.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER IS THAT GOD BLESSES WOMEN WHO BELIEVE HIS PROPHETIC MESSAGE**

The Syrophoenician/Canaanite Woman

(Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30).

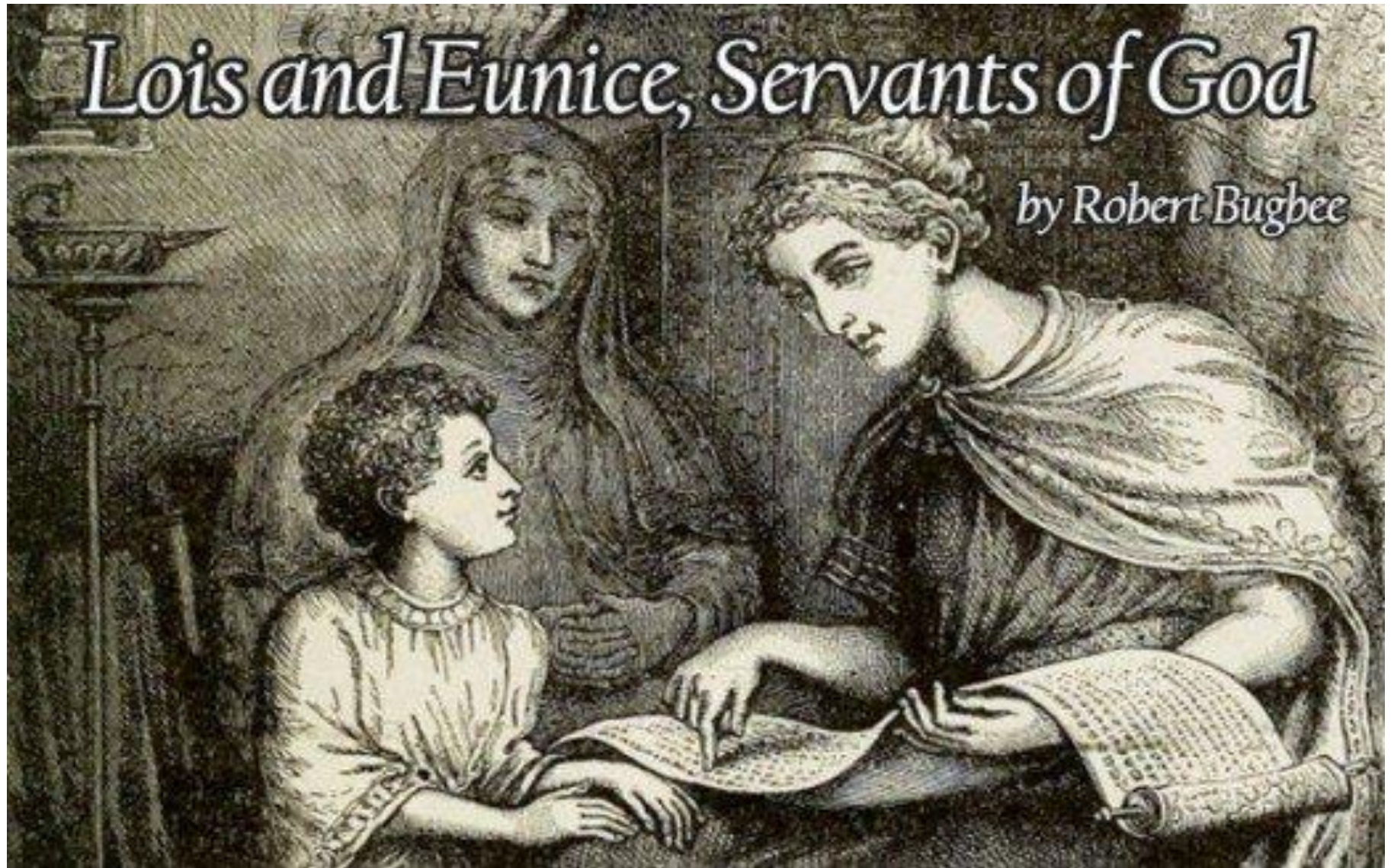
- We come now to the Canaanite woman, who with great determination unleashed her deepest desire for her child at Jesus' feet, and persevered in pursuing her need by faith.
- This nameless woman is referred to in the texts as "Canaanite" and "Syro-Phoenician," and also as "Gentile" and "Greek". This provided a clue to her non-Hebrew race, and also identifying her as heathen. Despite these descriptions, Jesus saw some character and strength which caused Him to say this about her. **"O woman, great is your faith!" (Matthew 15:28)**
- This woman had a demon-possessed daughter, so when she heard that Jesus, the Teacher/ Healer was in town, she searched for Him, found Him and humbly asked that He deliver her daughter from her suffering.
- Despite the fact that Jesus initially pretended to ignore her; that His disciples tried to chase her away; and that Jesus, in his delayed response, compared His attention to her with giving the children's bread to the dogs, she insisted that her child deserved His help, saying that even dogs get to eat the crumbs under the table. She would not let Him deny her.
- Boldly she persevered—, **alone, unsupported, and persistent beyond comprehension on behalf of her child--** and Jesus healed her daughter because of it.
- She is an example for mothers who are determined to see their children succeed even if they live on the wrong side of the tracks, even if nobody else sees their value. Such strength of determination usually wins against all odds.
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS MOTHER IS THAT GOD BLESSES MOTHERS WHO HAVE GREAT FAITH AND BELIEVE IN WHAT HIS SON JESUS CAN DO.**

Salome, the mother of James and John

(Matthew 20:20-23, Matthew 27:55-56, Mark 15:40-16:8).

- **Salome, the mother who wished positions for her sons at Jesus' right and left hand.**
- Salome was the sister of Jesus' mother, Mary, and as such, she had witnessed Jesus' entire life, had accompanied him on the road, stood by the cross, and went to his tomb.
- She once requested that her sons, James and John, sit at Jesus' right and left hands when he reached Paradise.
- Some may think that to be a shallow or vain request, but **Salome believed in the concept of the kingdom that Jesus was predicted to set up as taught in the prophetic scriptures, even though she did not understand it all fully.**
- What good mother wouldn't want for her son what she requested of Jesus?
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM SALOME IS THAT GOD BLESSES MOTHERS WHO ARE NOT FEARFULLY OF PERSUING GODLY GOALS AND VOCATIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.....i.e above that of being "soccer moms."**

EUNICE -2 Timothy 1:5



- **I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you [Timothy], which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5)**
- **Eunice’s name which means “Influence”, is mentioned only once in Scripture, and as a woman of “genuine faith” who passed on this virtue to her son, Timothy. She is one of the many mothers who intentionally plant good seeds within their children and reap their reward in the fruit that their offspring produce.**
- **Her influence helped to guide her son into the acceptance of her faith.**
- **Paul, his ministry mentor credited his devotion to the influence of his mother and grandmother who trained him in the Scriptures from an early age (2 Timothy 3:15).**
- **Mothers like Eunice remain unseen, while their influence shines through godly lives from generation to generation. It begins with diligence in child training.**
- **Some examples of this are the mother of John and Charles Wesley and the wife of the celebrated preacher and Bible teacher G CAMPBELL MORGAN.**
- **When Mrs Morgan’s 5 sons , who were all great preachers themselves, were asked, who was the greatest preacher of them all– they simultaneously answered “MOTHER!” This was their testimony to her godly influence on them all. They were pointing out, that they had become all that they had become because of their mother’s input. Nothing moves a child like a mother's touch, and influence!**
- **2 Timothy 1:5 teaches us that the influence of godly mothers and grand mothers can have perpetual and perennial benefits according to the tenet of 2 Timothy 2:2, and Acts 16:31.**

**The Widow of Zarephath - A WIDOW
WHO WAS HONOURED AND
PROVIDED FOR BECAUSE SHE WAS
WILLING TO OBEY AND FOLLOW THE
INSTRUCTIONS OF ELIJAH, THE MAN
OF GOD**

***Luke 4:23-27* REFERRING TO THE STORY IN
I Kings 17:9-24**

- **The Widow of Zarephath, was of course, not strictly a NT mother, but she is mentioned here because of what Jesus said about her in Luke 4:23-27, as he rebuked his fellow citizens in Nazareth because of their rejection of Him as the promised Messiah , when he revealed that the passage he read to them from Isaiah 61, referred to Himself.**

- **The widow of Zarephath was the mother who ministered to another even in the midst of her own desperate circumstances. This mother's motto was truly *Non sibi sed aliis....not for self but for others.***
- **When Elijah was forced to flee from the king of Israel, he was sent by God to the house of a Phoenician widow in Zarephath, who was starving and scavenging to make a fire for her dying son. When she met Elijah, she had never seen him before as far as we know, nor did she know that this stranger was the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kgs 17:8–16);**
- **The demand Elijah made on her was, simply outrageous. She had only one handful of meal left, yet he insisted that she first use up her last handful of meal in making him a cake.**
- **He added, that if she first did as he asked, that after that her supply of meal would be miraculously maintained. Without any evidence except Elijah's solemn promise in God's name, she did as she was asked, and her grain bins miraculously overflowed**
- **Later, when her son became sick to the point of death, Elijah went in and healed him.**
- **Jesus referred to her strength and kindness when he pointed out that had she been like the people of Nazareth, she would have demanded that Elijah first do a miracle, before she would believe him and make him a cake. This was the only person ever healed during Elijah's ministry, as Jesus pointed out.**
- **This woman's acceptance of the word of God by Elijah reminds me of 1 Thessalonians 2:13, in which Paul commends the Thessalonians because they "received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**
- **Likewise this woman received the word from God's servant Elijah.**
- **WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THIS MOTHER IS THAT GOD USES MOTHERS WHO ARE SELFLESS AND SERVE OTHERS, OFTEN BEFORE SELF.**

Peter's mother in law

**Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; and
Luke 4:38-39**

- **The healing of Peter's mother-in-law as reported in Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; and Luke 4:38-39**
- **Matthew 8: 14** When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. **15** He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.
- **Mark 1: 29** As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. **30** Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. **31** So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.
- **Luke 4: 38** Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. **39** So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

- This miracle took place one Sabbath, at the house of Simon and Andrew, which may have been quite close to the local synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus had been teaching, according to the Gospels of both Mark and Luke.
- Apparently they left the synagogue and went straight to Peter's house, in the company of James and John— so the house would have been filled with a number of large, healthy, hungry men, all needing to be fed. But Peter's mother-in-law, who might have been expected to prepare food, was **lying in bed sick with a high fever.**
- The original Greek implies that she was seriously ill. When Jesus was alerted to the condition of Peter's mother-in-law, Jesus walked over to her, took her hand, and helped her up. Immediately the fever left her and there was no sign of the weakness which might be expected in a person who had just had a febrile illness.
- In Mark's gospel, the Greek word translated as "helped her up" is the same used later in Mark 16:6 by the angel at the tomb when he tells the women that Jesus "has been raised". It as if Mark was making a connection to the Resurrection, suggesting that a women grievously ill had been restored to new life demonstrated by service to others
- Peter's mother-in-law immediately got up and began to wait on him, and the others as she got to work, preparing food for the evening meal!
- There was no fuss, no halleluiahs, about the mother-in-law's cure. **Life in the home of this practical, no-nonsense woman simply returned to normal.**
- **This is the simple story about the gratitude and hospitality, of a nameless, unpretentious woman, whose service has been told in all Christian lands; and illustrates that those who serve in the background can also play a vital part in God's plan, and that service is a cost to following Jesus.**
- **BTW, the fact that Peter was married debunks the RC DOGMA that ministers ought to be celibate!**

Rufus's mother

Romans 16:13

- In Romans 16:13, we read that the apostle Paul sent special greetings to a fellow believer in Rome named Rufus who is described as **Eklektos** (choice). This has the literal meaning of chosen, or elected. He was an extraordinary Christian, known for his love and work for the Lord and for the Lord's people.
- No wonder he had all of these characteristics. He had a special mother, who Paul commended by the words..... **Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.**
- No doubt Rufus was an outstanding believer because of the Godly influence of his mother. I believe that God has given mothers a unique capacity for showing gentleness and compassion, and for influencing the spiritual direction of children.
- The greeting **to his mother and mine** does not mean that Rufus was Paul's natural brother but that he considered Rufus' mother to be like a mother to him.
- During his years of ministry, Paul faced many hardships (2 Cor 6: 4-10). Perhaps Rufus had brought a weary and tired apostle to his home, where Paul received from his mother some comforting words, a fresh garment, and a nourishing meal.
- We don't know this for sure, but it could explain his unusual greeting in Romans 16:13.
- **It seems that Rufus' mother had the gift of hospitality, and that at some time and in some way during Paul's years of ministry, used her gift faithfully for the Lord Jesus, in caring for the Apostle Paul as if he were her own son, and that Paul received from her the empathy and tenderness that only a mother can give.**
- There are times when nothing but a mother's touch will do. Even grown men need it.
- **When we become saved and become members of the family of God (John 1:12) we soon discover that we have many brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers and that God's blood-bought children have a unique relationship one with another, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).**
- **Let's be thankful for our mothers, and for those in the church, who have been like a mother to us.**

- **"Let Christian mothers find here a great field for that wonderful heart of instinctive loving care given by God to mothers,—that they extend their maternal care beyond their own family circle, to all Christians, and especially to all laborers for Christ. The Lord will remember it at His coming!"
(W.Newell)**
- God has conferred on motherhood
A true nobility,
And she who gladly fills that role
Can shape man's destiny. —copied

**"The Ignoble Mothers mentioned in
Mathew chapter 1."**

- A very significant feature of Matthew's genealogy is the insertion in it, of the names of five mothers, who became the ancestors of the Lord Jesus Christ, and who remind us that **God often does the unexpected and chooses the unlikely.**
- The very mention of women in a Hebrew genealogy is unusual, for women are not usually named in Near Eastern genealogies, **but these were intrinsic to God's purpose in bringing forth the Christ, and chosen as exceptional illustrations of God's grace..**
- Four of the women who are mentioned are the more notable because some of the more distinguished women are omitted (e.g. Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel), and since at least three of these four women that are expressly mentioned were notorious women with whom sexual sins are associated.
- The choice of these women **demonstrates God's grace for sinners, and God's grace for Gentiles.** Certainly two and perhaps three of the four women are Gentiles. Three of them tainted in regard to womanly purity, and the fourth, though morally sweet and noble, yet mingling alien blood in the stream.
- **Matthew's purpose in recording their names may be to shew that "the Friend of sinners" who came to save "that which was lost," did not scorn such descent.**

- We say we can't pick our relatives, but Jesus could and did. **We can see His love and grace on display to show His incredible love for sinners.**
- We are introduced to
- Tamar, v. 3, was a pagan Canaanite who married into a Jewish family. She seduced her father-in-law, Judah in an illicit sexual liaison to reveal his and reminds us of Judah's failures (Genesis 38:6-30). She acted as a desperate and deceptive Gentile harlot as she acted under the impulse of a fanatical *faith*, "being resolved at all hazards to become one of the mothers of God's chosen race.
- **Rahab v. 5, was a Caananite Gentile harlot (Joshua 2), who lied to save the Jewish spies, and whose family were the only survivors of Jericho.**
- Ruth, v. 5, a Gentile citizen of Moab, the ancient enemy of Israel, and thus under a special curse, for according to Deuteronomy 23:3 says, "No Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord."
- Bathsheba, v. 6 the wife of Uriah the Hittite, was involved in an adulterous union with King David and contributed to David's downfall (2 Samuel 11).
- **We will not dwell any further on their faults and sins today, because we want to stress that Matthew's genealogy shows us the work of God's grace in His choosing four former female outcasts, through whom the Messiah and great King would descend.**
- **We want to stress what God wants us to learn about Him by the insertion of their names. i.e that they were exceptional illustrations of His grace, that God's use of imperfect vessels reveal God's perfect grace, and that God's elevation of these four matriarchs reach the gospel of the deep and wide mercy and grace of God, which was essentially the message that Matthew proclaimed.**

- What we see here is that already in OT times, certain Gentiles are "being blessed in Abraham" (Genesis 12:3) and incorporated into the covenant-people. (c.f Ephesians 2)
- We see in the lives of the mothers presented in Matthew's genealogy that Matthew is teaching us that.....
- 1- "Men and women, notorious for their evil character, lie in the direct line of his descent. This was permitted, that He might fully represent our fallen race." (Meyer)
- 2- The line that led from Abraham to Jesus, the Son of David, was intersected again and again by gentile blood, because King David himself had a Canaanite great-great-great-grandmother, a Jerichoite great-great-grandmother, a Moabite great-grandmother, and a Hittite 'wife.'
- 3 Jesus came '**not for the righteous, but for sinners**' (Matt 9:13); and that Jesus came **not only for, but through, sinners.**
- 4 **God did not begin to stoop into our sordid human story at his nativity only; he was stooping all the way through the Old Testament.**
- Matthew allows us in the church to know that from the start, and not just from the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), God's work has been interracial, and that God is no narrow nationalist or racist, because **God has for ever been interested in saving both Jew and Gentile!**

- These four women illustrate from different angles the great news that God saves sinners.
- **TAMAR: THE SALVATION THAT CHRIST BRINGS IS FOR SINNERS.**
- **RAHAB: THE SALVATION THAT CHRIST BRINGS COMES TO SINNERS THROUGH FAITH.**
- **RUTH: THE SALVATION CHRIST BRINGS IS FOR GENTILES CONDEMNED BY THE LAW, BUT REDEEMED BY GRACE.**
- **BATHSHEBA: THE SALVATION THAT CHRIST BRINGS IS SUFFICIENT TO PRESERVE HIS PEOPLE IN SPITE OF THEIR SINS.**

- The Lord has put into the genealogy of Jesus these four women, in order to **display the grace of God, in order that any of us, through our failures, can still identify with God's plan of grace and love for men.**
- **None of us are excluded. God has already included in His program people who had made a mess out of their lives, people who had had great personal failures in their lives, people who had immoral stains in their lives and still God used them in His total plan.**
- **And thus, it encourages us who also have stains, who also have failures, that God can still use us in His plan.** And so it is exciting to see the inclusion that God makes in this line coming to Christ.
- If you have failed terribly, God sent the Savior for you! Maybe you don't just have skeletons in your family closet. Maybe *you are* the skeleton!
- The inclusion of these four women in Jesus' genealogy invites you to come to Jesus and ask Him to save you from your sins.
- If you have trusted in Christ as Savior, but have fallen into serious sin, this story of God's grace invites you to turn back to Christ, experience His forgiveness, and walk in fellowship with Him again, because in Christ, God sent a Savior for sinners. He is the God of the second chance.

- **Don't ever say God can't use you because of what you've done...whether 10 min. ago, or 10 yrs. ago. Tamar could say, but I've deceived. Rahab could say I've got a bad reputation.**
- **Ruth could say but I wasn't raised a Christian. Don't be a Scab Picker...leave the past as just that.....the Past.**
- **These four women are saying, as it were, to us all, that , though stained however darkly or distant however remotely, we are assured of a welcome into the family Of God, if we would confess our sins and follow Christ.**
- **He is a Saviour with pity and pardon for the sinful, with a heart and arms open to welcome all those who were afar off among even us the Gentiles.**

- **MAY ALL OF OUR MOTHER'S HERE ASSEMBLED BE CUT FROM SIMILAR CLOTH, AS THAT OF THE SEVERAL GODLY MOTHERS WE HAVE DISCUSSED TODAY.**
- **LET US AGAIN THANK GOD FOR GOOD GODLY MOTHERS.**
- **And let us not forget the truth of Romans 5:20b&21 that “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The End.

