

## Mothers in the Bible: A Survey of Ten Bible Mothers

*Lessons that demonstrate God's wonderful plan for and care of mothers through time amid the difficulties in life that God allows.*

### Memorable Mothers in the Old Testament

#### 1. Eve – The First Mother, and Mother of Us All

##### a. The Mother of All Living

Gen 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

##### b. The Path of the Promise

Gen 3:15 "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

##### c. The Pattern of Difficult Motherhood

Gen 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

##### d. The First Mother

Gen 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

#### 2. Hagar – Unfairly Treated but Not Forgotten

Gen. 16:8-10 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." <sup>9</sup> The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." <sup>10</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

#### 3. Sarah – Barren, But Promised and Remembered

Heb 11:11-12 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. (Gen 17:15-18:15; 21:1-7)

#### 4. Jochebed – Brave, Risk-Taking Mother

Ex 2:2-3 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. (2:1-10; 6:20)

#### 5. Naomi – Mother of Great Loss and Great Hope

Ruth 1:3-5 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. <sup>4</sup> Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. <sup>5</sup> Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

#### 6. Ruth – Faithful Widow; Blessed Mother

Ruth 4:13-17 <sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to

her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ... <sup>17</sup> Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

#### 7. Hannah – Praying, Barren Mother in a Difficult Marriage Situation

1 Sam 1:2,6,11 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. <sup>6</sup> And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>11</sup> Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

### Memorable Mothers in the New Testament

#### 1. Mary – Pure, Humble Servant of the Lord

Mt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Lk 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> "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. <sup>33</sup> "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> "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. <sup>37</sup> "For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

#### 2. Eunice (& Grandmother Lois) – Faithful Instructor of Her Child

2 Tim 1:5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

2 Tim. 3:14-15 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

#### 3. Mother of Rufus – Mother of More Than Her Own Children

Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.