

Cindy Cottone

# The Bible Corner



## Thanks, Mom!

Some of the greatest heroes in the Bible may never have been heroes at all if it hadn't been for their mothers.

A strong, courageous mother was behind our heroes, supporting God's plan for their lives. Some of these mothers remain nameless in the Bible. Nevertheless, their strong presence and effect on the lives of our heroes is very much a part of the story. Without these mothers, our own history may well have had to be rewritten. As a tribute to all mothers this Mother's Day, below are the stories of the heroes' mothers.

1. "Miriam," the woman called, "hurry! We haven't a moment to lose. I don't want my baby boy to die!"

The people of Israel has been Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt for a long, long time. But Pharaoh was worried because the Hebrews had grown to be a great nation of people. "Perhaps they will become strong enough to overthrow my government," he decided. "Something must be done!" So Pharaoh issued a very cruel law. "Kill all of the Hebrew boys at birth!" he ordered. "Not even one of them is to live!"

One mother hid her beautiful baby boy for three months. It was a dangerous thing to do, but she loved her son very much. She carefully made a basket and placed her baby in it. "Miriam, take the basket and place it in the Nile River and wait. God will save my baby!"

Miriam watched as the basket floated to where Pharaoh's own daughter could easily see it. The baby began to cry.

"Oh, he's adorable!" Pharaoh's daughter said, smiling. "I will keep the baby in the palace to live with me!"

Miriam saw her chance. She emerged from where she had been hiding. "Do you

want me to find a midwife to nurse the baby?" she asked innocently.

"Yes, I do," she replied. "Take the child to be fed at once!"

And that is how Moses' own mother saved his life. Moses grew up to be a fine man. He became one of the greatest prophets of Israel. It was Moses who led his people out of Egypt to freedom.

Read about Moses' mother in the Old Testament in Exodus, chapters 1 and 2.

2. "We will surely die!" Manoah cried to his wife. "For we have seen God!"

"Manoah, do not be afraid, but believe," the woman answered. "The Lord has answered our prayers after all these years. I will do as the angel has instructed us!"

A baby boy was born just as the Lord had promised them. His mother taught him all of God's laws. Her baby was given a very special gift by God. "Never cut the boy's hair," the angel had advised. "He is going to possess superhuman strength. And with this strength, the boy will save God's people!"

Samson grew up and became one of the judges of Israel. With his strength he delivered his people from the Philistines. The Philistines had used his people as slaves for 40 years.

Read about Samson's mother in the Old Testament in Judges, chapters 13 through 16.

3. King David was old and near death. One of his sons, Adonijah, was very selfish. He would not be a good king as his father had been. But Adonijah saw his chance. He knew that his father would die soon, so he decided to crown himself the new king of Israel. But this was not God's plan at all.

"I must speak to my husband before it is too late," said Bathsheba when she learned of Adonijah's plans.

"David, you've been a good king to our people, but you are old and tired now," Bathsheba said sadly. "Unless you declare otherwise, Adonijah has prepared to take over your throne."

"That is not my wish. I promised God that our other son, Solomon, would reign as king after I die," David answered. "Call the prophet Nathan here at once!"

"Yes, David, what do you wish?" Nathan asked as he entered the room.

"Nathan, anoint my son immediately with the holy oil, making him the next king of Israel. Place the boy on my own horse and take him through the city. Blow the horn and declare, 'Long live King Solomon!'"

Solomon became the third king of Israel. He was known as one of the wisest rulers ever to govern his people. It was Solomon who built a great temple for God.

Read about Solomon's mother in the Old Testament in 1 Kings, chapter 1, verses 1 through 39.

4. Elizabeth watched her husband sadly. Zacharias had not spoken a word for months. He had been mute ever since the day in the temple when he had the vision. Now her greatest joy was touched with sorrow. Zacharias was a very good man, but sometimes, faith was a difficult thing for him. With God, however, all things were possible. How else could a woman of her age become pregnant? Elizabeth had known all along that someday the Lord would answer her prayers. Zacharias hadn't been so sure.

Elizabeth had a beautiful baby boy. When the child was eight days old, his parents brought him to the temple for the circumcision ceremony. Everyone there expected the boy to be named Zacharias after his father. But Elizabeth said, "The Lord has said that the boy must be named John."

Zacharias motioned for a piece of paper and on it he wrote "John." Instantly he was able to speak again. He believed as Elizabeth did in the Lord's fulfillment of His promise.

John the Baptist is one of the most famous prophets in the Bible. He dedicated

his whole life to preparing people to meet his cousin, Jesus Christ.

Read about John the Baptist's mother in the New Testament in Luke, chapter 1; verses 13 through 25.

5. It was still night, but a light brighter than day filled the room. A young woman sat confused and frightened. "What can this mean?" she said, not daring to move.

Suddenly, from the light, a voice said: "Do not be afraid, but rejoice! The Lord is with you. You have been chosen from all other women in the world!"

The woman could see now that it was an angel who had spoken the words. "I don't understand," she said softly.

"Very soon the power of the Holy Spirit shall come upon you. You will have a baby boy and you are to name Him Jesus. He will be very great and be called the Son of God, and His Kingdom shall never end."

The long-awaited Messiah was coming to save His people. Now the young woman understood, and she answered: "I am God's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants. May everything you have said come to pass!" Then the angel disappeared.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Mary said yes to God, and Jesus Christ came into our world to be our Savior. Where would we be today if Mary had not cooperated with God's plan for us?

When Jesus was dying on the cross and saw His mother standing there beside John, He said to her, "He is your son." And then to John, He said, "She is your mother." (John 19:26-27)

Mary is our spiritual mother and our model for total faith and obedience to God. Her story is found in Luke, chapter 1, verses 26 through 56.

The mothers of our biblical heroes showed great faith and courage in their lives. They were obedient to God even if it meant losing their sons to a greater cause. Children, like mothers, are, after all, gifts from God. This Mother's Day, take some time to thank your own mother for the quiet way she has supported your life. Thanks, Mom!

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