

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

Today is a day that we set aside in our country to honor mothers. In light of that, I would like to look at five mothers from the Bible that stand out to me and apply five lesson lessons that every mother or young woman that might someday become a mother might apply to the responsibility at hand.

1) Eve: The mother of firsts.

She was the first to bear a child.

Genesis 4:1-2 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel."

- She was the first to ever go through the suffering of childbirth.
- She would be the first to endure diaper changes, breastfeeding, burping, teething and other chores of being the first mother.
- She would have likely had the privilege to witness the first smile of a baby, the first baby laugh, the first word, the first steps and the first questions of a child.
- She was the first nurturerer of children and I'm sure she enjoyed it all.

She was the first and only one to bear the title "Mother of all Living".

Genesis 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

- If you are the first mother on the earth, you and only you can be the mother of all Living. All genealogical trees go back to her.

She was the first to bury a child.

Genesis 4:25 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed."

- Losing her son at the murderous hand of another son would have been hard on Eve as a mother.
- While enduring childbirth for another son, she held in mind the lost son Abel.
- She was a mother of firsts in many ways.

2) Sarah: The mother in waiting.

- The first bit of information spoken of her was that she was barren (Genesis 11:30). Being a childless woman was something that unjustly brought great reproach in her culture. Since children are a gift from the Lord (Ps 127:3), people reasoned that women in this position must have done something shameful to have caused it. For her womb to not have been opened at her age would have caused major stress. Her desperation to have a child was demonstrated in the following verses.
 - Genesis 16:1-2 Genesis 16:1–2 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.² So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
 - Even the birth of Ishmael did not suffice, but further cut to her heart that she was not the one that bore a child with her husband.
- Years later in Genesis 18, Abraham was once again promised an heir through his wife Sarah to which the following was written:

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

- Genesis 18:12–13 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear *a child*, when I am *so* old?’”
- Though it appeared that she had given up in her old age of a dream of having a child, she later regained her hope through faith in God’s promise.
 - Hebrews 11:7 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.
- A year later she gave birth to a son named Isaac and fulfilled her greatest ambition of being a mother.

3) Jochebed: The mother of rescue.

- Her name means *Jehovah is her glory*. She was the mother of Aaron, Miriam and Moses (Num 26:59). During her early time as a mother, Pharaoh ordered all newborn Israelite males to be thrown into the Nile as crocodile food (Exodus 1).
- Her son, baby Moses, was scheduled for execution by drowning, but she was not going to let that happen. She placed him in a floating basket and sent him down the river, trusting in the glory of God, believing He was going to work things out in the end.
- Obviously she was under much stress and made what might be considered a radical decision. With the graces of God, baby Moses was discovered by Pharaoh’s daughter within the following text.
 - Exodus 2:6–9 When she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?”⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go *ahead*.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother.⁹ Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give *you* your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.
- God worked it out for her and she not only ended up being a nursing mother for her beloved son; and actually was paid for the privilege. Praise God for a mother like her.

4) Hannah: The mother with a vow

- Hannah was yet another childless, aging woman. She really wanted a child in the best way, for she went to the place of prayer and made a heart-felt vow unto God. This was a type of Nazarite vow of Numbers 6.
 - 1 Samuel 1:11 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 son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”
- She continued in this until Eli, the High Priest and Judge of Israel, saw her praying, thinking she was drunk. When she explained there was a deep supplication being poured out from her heart to God, his response was:
 - 1 Samuel 1:17–18 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.”¹⁸ She said, “Let your

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.

- She felt absolutely blessed to have received such kind words from the High Priest. Surely she would be blessed with a child. And you know what? She was.
 - 1 Samuel 1:20 It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked him of the LORD.”
- The process of weaning is when the child moves from milk to solid foods. History teaches us that children were weaned around 24 months, but some partially weaned up to four or five years old. Accounting for the time of birth and having to wait for the time of the yearly sacrifice, Samuel was about three years when weaned the child, she dedicated him fully to God as a priest and prophet.
 - 1 Samuel 1:27-28 She said, “For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him.”²⁸ “So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.
- He would go on to be one of the Godliest figures of the Bible, largely in part to a dedicated mother that saw to it that he was dedicated to God. With God’s help and her vow, this great man is being discussed today in this lesson.

5) Mary, the mother of Jesus.

- She was chosen by God to be the vessel of the embodiment of our Lord Jesus Christ. Likely a teenager, she would have had to endure ridicule as a fornicator (John 8:41) upon becoming pregnant prior to her marriage to Joseph (Mt 1:18). Yet she willingly felt it worthy for such a task.
 - Luke 1:38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”
- She internalized moments of Jesus’ life just like a mother.
 - When shepherds announced the praising angels of the Christ, she internalized it. *Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.*
 - In Luke 2:33 it states that both her and Joseph “*were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.*”
 - When witnessing His teaching abilities as a twelve year old it says in *Luke 2:51 “...and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”*
- She was often following Him around in the ministry, just like a mother would.
 - She was with Him in the Capernaum synagogue when He was being rejected by His fellow residents (Mt 12:46).
 - She was there when He carried out His first miracle at Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-2).
 - She was there they day that they nailed His some to the cross.
 - John 19:25–27 But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “**Woman, behold, your son!**”²⁷

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.

- She took a great interest in her Son, just like any mother would do. She was just a normal simple woman that loved God and was blessed to be Jesus’ earthly mom.

Five Worthy Lessons for Mothers

1. Eve: Always be prepared for the unexpected.
2. Sarah: Treat every child like a promised child.
3. Jochebed: Trust God when the tough times come.
4. Hannah: Make sure you fully dedicate your child to God.
5. Mary, the mother of Jesus: Internalize your relationship with your child.

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

Today is a day that we set aside in our country to honor mothers. In light of that, I would like to look at five mothers from the Bible that stand out to me and apply five lesson lessons that every mother or young woman that might someday become a mother might apply to the responsibility at hand.

1) Eve: The mother of firsts.

She was the first to bear a child.

Genesis 4:1-2 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel."

- She was the first to ever go through the suffering of childbirth.
- She would be the first to endure diaper changes, breastfeeding, burping, teething and other chores of being the first mother.
- She would have likely had the privilege to witness the first smile of a baby, the first baby laugh, the first word, the first steps and the first questions of a child.
- She was the first nurturerer of children and I'm sure she enjoyed it all.

She was the first and only one to bear the title "Mother of all Living".

Genesis 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

- If you are the first mother on the earth, you and only you can be the mother of all Living. All genealogical trees go back to her.

She was the first to bury a child.

Genesis 4:25 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed."

- Losing her son at the murderous hand of another son would have been hard on Eve as a mother.
- While enduring childbirth for another son, she held in mind the lost son Abel.
- She was a mother of firsts in many ways.

2) Sarah: The mother in waiting.

- The first bit of information spoken of her was that she was barren (Genesis 11:30). Being a childless woman was something that unjustly brought great reproach in her culture. Since children are a gift from the Lord (Ps 127:3), people reasoned that women in this position must have done something shameful to have caused it. For her womb to not have been opened at her age would have caused major stress. Her desperation to have a child was demonstrated in the following verses.
 - Genesis 16:1-2 Genesis 16:1–2 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife had borne him no *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.² So Sarai said to Abram, “Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
 - Even the birth of Ishmael did not suffice, but further cut to her heart that she was not the one that bore a child with her husband.
- Years later in Genesis 18, Abraham was once again promised an heir through his wife Sarah to which the following was written:

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

- Genesis 18:12–13 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear *a child*, when I am *so* old?’”
- Though it appeared that she had given up in her old age of a dream of having a child, she later regained her hope through faith in God’s promise.
 - Hebrews 11:7 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.
- A year later she gave birth to a son named Isaac and fulfilled her greatest ambition of being a mother.

3) Jochebed: The mother of rescue.

- Her name means *Jehovah is her glory*. She was the mother of Aaron, Miriam and Moses (Num 26:59). During her early time as a mother, Pharaoh ordered all newborn Israelite males to be thrown into the Nile as crocodile food (Exodus 1).
- Her son, baby Moses, was scheduled for execution by drowning, but she was not going to let that happen. She placed him in a floating basket and sent him down the river, trusting in the glory of God, believing He was going to work things out in the end.
- Obviously she was under much stress and made what might be considered a radical decision. With the graces of God, baby Moses was discovered by Pharaoh’s daughter within the following text.
 - Exodus 2:6–9 When she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?”⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go *ahead*.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother.⁹ Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give *you* your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.
- God worked it out for her and she not only ended up being a nursing mother for her beloved son; and actually was paid for the privilege. Praise God for a mother like her.

4) Hannah: The mother with a vow

- Hannah was yet another childless, aging woman. She really wanted a child in the best way, for she went to the place of prayer and made a heart-felt vow unto God. This was a type of Nazarite vow of Numbers 6.
 - 1 Samuel 1:11 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 son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”
- She continued in this until Eli, the High Priest and Judge of Israel, saw her praying, thinking she was drunk. When she explained there was a deep supplication being poured out from her heart to God, his response was:
 - 1 Samuel 1:17–18 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.”¹⁸ She said, “Let your

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.

- She felt absolutely blessed to have received such kind words from the High Priest. Surely she would be blessed with a child. And you know what? She was.
 - 1 Samuel 1:20 It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked him of the LORD.”
- The process of weaning is when the child moves from milk to solid foods. History teaches us that children were weaned around 24 months, but some partially weaned up to four or five years old. Accounting for the time of birth and having to wait for the time of the yearly sacrifice, Samuel was about three years when weaned the child, she dedicated him fully to God as a priest and prophet.
 - 1 Samuel 1:27-28 She said, “For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him.”²⁸ “So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.
- He would go on to be one of the Godliest figures of the Bible, largely in part to a dedicated mother that saw to it that he was dedicated to God. With God’s help and her vow, this great man is being discussed today in this lesson.

5) Mary, the mother of Jesus.

- She was chosen by God to be the vessel of the embodiment of our Lord Jesus Christ. Likely a teenager, she would have had to endure ridicule as a fornicator (John 8:41) upon becoming pregnant prior to her marriage to Joseph (Mt 1:18). Yet she willingly felt it worthy for such a task.
 - Luke 1:38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”
- She internalized moments of Jesus’ life just like a mother.
 - When shepherds announced the praising angels of the Christ, she internalized it. *Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.*
 - In Luke 2:33 it states that both her and Joseph “*were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.*”
 - When witnessing His teaching abilities as a twelve year old it says in *Luke 2:51 “...and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”*
- She was often following Him around in the ministry, just like a mother would.
 - She was with Him in the Capernaum synagogue when He was being rejected by His fellow residents (Mt 12:46).
 - She was there when He carried out His first miracle at Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-2).
 - She was there they day that they nailed His some to the cross.
 - John 19:25–27 But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “**Woman, behold, your son!**”²⁷

Famous Mothers of the Bible and the Lessons They Teach

By Doug Hamilton

Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.

- She took a great interest in her Son, just like any mother would do. She was just a normal simple woman that loved God and was blessed to be Jesus’ earthly mom.

Five Worthy Lessons for Mothers

1. Eve: Always be prepared for the unexpected.
2. Sarah: Treat every child like a promised child.
3. Jochebed: Trust God when the tough times come.
4. Hannah: Make sure you fully dedicate your child to God.
5. Mary, the mother of Jesus: Internalize your relationship with your child.