

## Mothers

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by Wayne Goff

Women are highly regarded in the Bible. Sometimes we think otherwise because of their lack of legal status politically speaking. But Miriam was a prophetess (Ex. 15:20), Deborah was a prophetess and judge (Judges 4:4), as was Huldah (2 Kings 22:14).

The love of children was deeply imbedded in the hearts of Hebrew women, and motherhood was highly respected. Jacob *"obeyed his father and his mother"* when he went back to Padan Aram to find a wife (Gen. 28:7).

The Law of Moses commanded children to honor their father and mother (Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3). The death penalty was given to one *"who strikes his father or his mother"* (Ex. 21:15)! The same fate belonged to the habitually rebellious child (Deut. 21:18-21).

No greater grief could be expressed by David than when he wrote *"...I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother"* (Ps. 35:14). The entire book of Proverbs teaches reverence, love and obedience to one's parents — both mother and father (Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 23:22; 31:28-30).

*"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: many daughters have done well, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."*

In the New Testament, no higher honor was bestowed on any mother than that given to Mary, the mother of Jesus! *"Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed'"* (Lk. 2:34-35).

When an angel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus even though she was still a virgin, she replied: *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word"* (Lk. 1:38)! May God bless us with women who aspire to be godly mothers like Mary.

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