



The First Mother

The first mention of a mother in the Bible is in Genesis 3:20. Adam named his wife Eve, *Chava* in Hebrew, "...because she was the mother of all living." This is interesting in a prophetic sense since Eve did not have any children at that point. In Genesis 4:1, we read, "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have acquired a man from the Lord'." Eve recognized that God had a role to play in making her a mother. He is the Author of life! The word for mother in Hebrew is **אֵמָה** (pronounced *em*). In the ancient Hebrew word pictures, the alef **א** stands for strength and the mem **מ** for water. The picture of a mother would be "strong water." This is a powerful image in a land full of deserts. Water meant life. A mother is a life giver. The modern word for mother in Hebrew is **אִמָּה** (*eema*).

It has often been postulated that a child gets his concept of God from his father, and his self-concept from his mother. If this is true, we have a generation of children in our "fatherless society" who have not grown up with an accurate picture of our loving, giving, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God! Too many mothers have been forced to be both "mom" and "dad." By the grace of God, many of them have been able to successfully fulfill both roles, producing children with healthy self-concepts who know and love God.

A Mother's Impact

According to traditional Jewish, biblical thought, the woman is the foundation of the home, the one who shapes the hearts of her children. One famous rabbi has been quoted as saying, "I have never called my wife 'my wife' but only 'my *bayit*' (home) for she is the essence of the home" (Sabbath 118b). The ideal Jewish home is one of shalom or peace. Not a "quiet" home, but one of completeness, wholeness and joy. "The glory of the Jewish wife and mother is to hold court in the inner chambers of her own *bayit*, which is her palace and royal domain." (Bereishit Rabbah 18:19) (See Psalm 45:13.)

Although women in biblical times were under their husband's absolute authority, they were highly respected for their role in mothering. In Isaiah 66:13, the Lord even describes His love for His children in terms of mothering: "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you..." A mother's death was considered a very great loss. When King David wanted to express the deepest sorrow of his soul, he said, "I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother" (Psalm 35:14). After his mother Sarah's death, Rebekah became his wife, and "...Isaac was comforted after his mother's death" (Genesis 24:67). Has your mother passed away? The Lord will comfort and take care of you (See Psalm 27:10)!

Honor Your Mother

May is not only the month in which we celebrate mothers. *Shavuot* (Pentecost) begins the evening of May 22, 2007. At *Shavuot*, fifty days after Passover, we celebrate the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Spirit in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. The Fifth Commandment given by God to the Children of Israel was on the First Tablet which contained the commands governing men's duties toward God: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). One would think that this commandment should be on Tablet #2, which deals with people to people relationships. In God's way of thinking, however, when a child honors his parents, he is honoring God. The relationship is not strictly horizontal, but vertical as well.

This commandment is the first one with promise. We have often pointed this out to our sons Jonathan and Jesse saying, "Do you want to live a long life? Honor us. Obey us." Rabbi Saul re-emphasized this command in Ephesians 6:1-3. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth'."

Part of honoring one's father and mother is heeding the admonition of Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother." Under the Law, the penalty for cursing one's father and mother was death. (See Leviticus 20:9.) The Bible tells us that mothers and

fathers should discipline their children. *"The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."* (Proverbs 29:15) The book of Proverbs tells us that *"...a foolish son is the grief of his mother"* (Proverbs 10:1). Children are admonished to venerate the elderly: *"...do not despise your mother when she is old"* (Proverbs 23:22).

We read in the *Brit HaDasha* of a time when the scribes and Pharisees challenged Yeshua concerning the transgressions of some of their traditions. *"[Yeshua] answered and said to them, 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother 'Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated to the temple'— is released from honoring his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.'"* (Matthew 15:3-6)

Yeshua always honored His mother, Miriam. Commandment #5 was of supreme importance to Him. As He was dying on the tree of sacrifice, He spoke some very beautiful, touching words about His mother: *"Now there stood, by the cross of [Yeshua] His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When [Yeshua] therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home"* (John 19:25-27). Even at the hour of death, Yeshua honored His mother, making provision for her emotional and physical well-being.

Praying Mothers

One of the greatest gifts mothers can give their children is prayer. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous mother avails much! (Our paraphrase of James 5:16) When our boys were little, Jamie prayed and fasted on Thursdays for their spiritual development. By the time they started high school, there were "Moms in Prayer" groups that she attended once a week. She has been very blessed and inspired to be among women who know God and trust Him with the children whom He has entrusted to their care. Moms who pray know that God loves our children even more than we do. They also know that the Bible is filled with promises for our children. Some of Jamie's favorite promises claimed over the years are as follows:

"Let your work appear to your servants, and your glory to their children." (Psalm 90:16)

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord; and great shall be the peace of your children."

(Isaiah 54:13)

"...Believe on the Lord [Yeshua Ha Mashiach], and you will be saved, you and your household."

(Acts 16:31)

The Bible is filled with praying mothers. Hannah, a godly woman mentioned in the Book of I Samuel, is a beautiful example of a mother who prayed and received answers to her prayers. Hannah was loved by her husband, Elkanah, but she longed for a child. During one of their yearly journeys to Shiloh to worship at the tabernacle, Hannah stood weeping and pouring her heart out before the Lord. She was childless. Hannah asked God for a son and promised to give him to the Lord all the days of his life, to serve Him in the tabernacle. God answered her prayer. Hannah conceived, and a male child was born. She called him Samuel, literally "heard by God." When Samuel was weaned, she kept her promise and took him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh to serve the Lord forever. Hannah declared, *"For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord. So they worshipped the Lord there"* (I Samuel 1:27-28). Hannah experienced the joy of answered prayers, and by the grace of God, was able to separate from her precious little one and rejoice in prayer and song. (See I Samuel 2:1-2.)

May we all become mothers like Hannah! Her son ministered before the Lord, even as a child. (See I Samuel 2:18.) As Samuel grew before the Lord, God blessed Hannah and Elkanah with three more sons and two daughters. (See I Samuel 2:21-26.) Samuel became a great prophet of the Lord and Israel's last

judge. He anointed both Saul and David as Israel's first two kings.

Hannah shows women of all times and situations what we should do when we are grieving, with deep unsatisfied longings and emotional pain—take it directly to God, pour out our anguish and hurts to Him. Refuse to become bitter, hopeless or vindictive. Do not succumb to self-pity. (A word that does not exist in the Hebrew language!) Thank you, Lord, for Hannah's example. We're sure she never stopped praying for Samuel. Moms—**never stop praying for your sons and daughters!** *"And, let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* (Galatians 6:9)

Blessing New Mothers in Israel

The Lord has put it on our hearts to bless new mothers and their babies in Israel during our 2007 Mercy Mission. We plan to host a Baby Shower (something new in Israel) at one of the nation's largest hospitals. Lord willing, about 30 new mothers will receive brand new baby gifts. Since abortion is unfortunately a big problem in Israel, we intend to express God's thoughts on babies, (see Psalm 139), and bless women who have decided to bring their babies into the world. Your prayers for the success of this mission are needed and appreciated.

A Prayer for Mothers

"Abba, we thank You for our mothers, the ones who gave us life. We also thank you for each mother who is reading this prayer. Let them know that they are women of great worth like the virtuous woman, *Eschet Chayil*, of Proverbs 31. Grant each one wisdom, discernment, diligence, favor, greater faith, compassion, creativity, strength, self-control, and unconditional love so that, *"her children rise up and call her blessed..."* (Proverbs 31:28). Help each mother to speak destiny to her children, to see them as You see them, and to cling to the promises in Your word until she sees her children become all that You have created them to be. In Yeshua's name. AMEN!"

Heidi & Jamie

ORDER FOR MOM:

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The Virtuous Woman—Proverbs 31: Full color print in beautiful cherry wood frame (7"x17").

Connie Francis sings Jewish Favorites - Traditional Jewish songs including *"My Yiddishe Mama."*

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - May 2007

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Chicago (NEW)	WEDE TV 34	TUES 6:00 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITHALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland (NEW)	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem (NEW)	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL
Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]
GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirectTV
World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel
TUE 3:30 AM (GMT) & 5:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)
THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

SKY Digital - New Zealand
Shine TV - WED 11:30 AM & 10:30 PM [ch 99]



INTERNET www.jewishjewels.org www.acctv.com.au
www.shinetv.co.nz

INTERNATIONAL Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM
