

Mothers And Homemakers Biblical Heroines!

The family is in trouble!

Never was understanding God's point of view on the function of mothers and homemakers been more important.

The family unit of husband, wife and children is a sacred institution God created as the warm haven and positive foundation for facing the storms and stresses of life successfully.

The family unit, the bedrock of all decent society, is today in most parts of the world in convulsion.

The result is staggering human tragedies and social problem mounting up.

Isaiah 1:9-10 [NIV] *“Unless the LORD Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!”*

This Bible prophecy stands fulfilled with the breakdown of the true family unit by the practice of perverted sex.

God's judgement on modern Sodom and Gomorrah cannot be forestalled much longer.

Personality weaknesses, social fragmentation and hopelessness grip millions of families and people.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 [NIV] *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”*

Yet few seem to equate the skyrocketing rise of these problems with the undermining of family life in the western world.

Even in the 1960s, one pillar upholding the true family unit of husband, wife and children was the mother and homemaker.

Honour was attached to this responsibility.

The growing presence of women in the workforce, prompted by the use of women during the Second World War and a generally self-seeking attitude on the part of everyone, began to change the position of the mother in the family unit.

The tediousness of modern life, the economic downturn, which fuelled the need of two breadwinners, and the movement to “liberate” women all combined to erode the women's position in the home.

Sadly, the “hand that rocked the cradle” is now often that of a babysitter or nursery attendant.

How tragic, for there is **no** satisfactory substitute for the sense of warmth and security generated by capable, concerned mothers.

What else can steer young minds and bodies through the minor but significant slips and starts of childhood or the bewildering physical and emotional changers of adolescence, so effectively?

What an enormous responsibility falls upon mothers!

They bear the minute-by-minute supervision of their children, little personalities made in the “*image*” of the Creator God, [**Genesis 1:26-27**].

It is **not** a joke that mothers need the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the watchful eye of an eagle, [**Deuteronomy 32:10-11**] and the stamina of a thoroughbred horse, [**Song of Songs 1:9**].

The stakes are literally life and death, God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is emphatic about that.

Proverbs 30:17 [NIV] *“The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.”*

Not a very pleasant end for your child!

Proverbs 14:1 [NIV] *“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”*

“*House*” refers to the family unit of husband, wife and children.

Proverbs 10:1 [NIV] *“The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.”*

Where does the son obtain his wisdom? Mainly the mother who spends the greater part being a teacher and example to her children, [**Proverbs 17:25**].

Proverbs 22:6 [NIV] *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

It is in the early, informative years, that the future character and personality is formed, mostly under the watchful eye of the mother.

How unerringly accurate God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is.

What a tragedy for many people the latter years of life are not gladdened with the sure knowledge of their children’s successes, [**Proverbs 17:25**].

All because of the lack of parental guidance in the early years, [**Proverbs 22:6**].

In our industrial societies, value is measured by efficiency and technical competence over nurturing the gifts of love, faithfulness, patience, gentleness and self-control.

Such characteristics are instilled in a child at an early age and are mostly a result of a mother’s intimate relationship with a child on an hour-by-hour basis.

God values the role of the homemaker. He sees the mother’s function as one of the best bulwarks against the hopelessness of a dying civilisation.

Examples of Godly women who helped to transform society.

2 Kings 15:1-3 [NIV] *“In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah began to reign. He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-two years. His mother’s name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.”*

The influence of the king’s mother, Jecoliah, must have been great on this young king because of the complete contrast to the previous king Jehoash, [**2 Kings 14:23-24**].

2 Kings 15:32-34 [NIV] *“In the second year of Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel, Jotham son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he*

reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done."

Again we see the mother's name, Jerusha, is mentioned by God, indicating her influence in her son's change of character to the previous king, Pekah, [**2 Kings 15:27-28**].

2 Kings 18:1-6 [NIV] *"In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.) Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no-one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses."*

Again we see the mother's name, Abijah, is recorded by God indicating the influence she had on her son and how he turned Israel back to the true Creator God.

Jecoliah, Jerusha and Abijah had one thing in common, they found fulfilment in serving their families and pointing their children in the right direction.

They prized obedient, stable children and believed this to be a full-time job, [**Proverbs 23:22-26**].

They strived to eradicate the bad habits of a neglected child, [**Proverbs 29:15**].

They were happy to work quietly, out of the limelight, providing the support, encouragement and correction that all children require, [**Proverbs 29:17**].

Their warm attitudes, their calm strength, provided their homes with a background atmosphere of quiet confidence and stability.

They were an ever-present source of solace, answers and kind direction.

Some women have actually helped alter the course of history through their children.

Jochebed was one of them, [**Exodus 6:20**].

This courageous, intelligent woman was a key player in outsmarting the genocidal policy of an evil nation, [**Exodus 1:22**].

With God's help, Jochebed concocted a plan whereby her infant son would not only survive but be reared by her.

[Read the whole account in **Exodus 2:1-10**].

Jechebed is **not** well-known to human historians but she is permanently inscribed in God's spiritual hall of fame, [**Hebrews 11:1-2, 23**].

Her son Moses is still ranked as one of history's greatest leaders, [**Acts 7:22**].

Few servants God ever chose to walk a difficult path in life than that of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ.

She had to endure sneers and sarcasm because of what was considered a premarital pregnancy.

In fact it was a major part of God's great plan for all humanity, [**Matthew 1:18-21**]. This required mental toughness, tact and sensitivity few humans possess, Mary came through with flying colours, [**Luke 1:26-38**].

The misguided veneration given to Mary by some religionists should not blind us to her high human qualities of competence and cool-headedness.

What a stupendous responsibility!

Thankfully, she had the case histories of the righteous Sarah, Rebekah and Hannah to glean from, for all these mothers received children through divine intervention, yet the tone and atmosphere of Mary's rather large household, [**Matthew 13:55-56**] had to be extra special. Mary had to nurture that robust and vigorous, yet brilliant and perceptive child who grew up the sinless Saviour of all humanity. What a task, [**Luke 2:41-52**].

Jesus Christ's stable home-life emerges indirectly in His teaching.

Luke 5:36-39 [NIV] *"He told them this parable: 'No-one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no-one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no-one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, "The old is better."'"*

Jesus uses common household chores to teach a spiritual principle.

Matthew 15:37 [NIV] *"They all ate and were satisfied. Afterwards the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."*

Certainly the neatness displayed after the miracle of the loaves reflects the personality of a well-trained child.

Luke 11:5-8 [NIV] *"Then he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him." Then the one inside answers, "Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything." I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.'"*

This was probably the result of a warm recollection from Jesus Christ's childhood.

Matthew 13:33 [NIV] *"He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.'"*

An analogy drawn from a firsthand acquaintance with normal housework.

Matthew 12:47 [NIV] *"Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.'"*

Is an indication that Mary was widowed from an early age, so these insights to normal family life must have mostly come from Mary.

It is a good thing for God's plan that Mary did not feel that being an "everyday housewife" was beneath her, unimportant or challenging.

It is a good thing that Jesus Christ's mother didn't seek status or fulfilment other than in her role of a housekeeper.

Luke 2:51-52 [NIV] *“Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.”*

Jesus obviously respected both of His parents.

Jesus Christ knew their deep reserves of inner strength and quiet confidence.

Jesus knew how often she had to subordinate her deep feelings in a humble surrender to the sometimes mysterious ways of the Creator God, [**Matthew 12:46-50**].

Jesus’ last earthly thoughts revolved around the woman who helped train and inspire Him and stuck with Him to the bitter end, [**John 19:25**], even in partial spiritual blindness.

Proverbs 23:24-25 [NIV] *“The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!”*

Mary was a living fulfilment of this proverb.

Proverbs presents a brilliant and tasteful tribute to the best that can be in a homemaker.

Let us review this section of scripture and notice how many great challenging and demanding traits and skills effective mothers and homemakers must exemplify.

Proverbs 31:10 [King James] *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”*

The word “*virtuous*” actually conveys more than moral purity, it also implies forcefulness or strength and resourcefulness.

Proverbs 31:11-12 [NIV] *“Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.”*

Shows consistency and maturity, she is not a shallow person, she knows her priorities. She derives her emotional and psychological sustenance from seeing her family succeed. This is the first but most important observation of her character.

Proverbs 31:13-15 [NIV] *“She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.”*

A diligent mother and house-maker willingly works at her household duties, such maintenance prevents early deterioration. She also actively shops for quality and bargains.

Proverbs 31:16-19 [NIV] *“She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.”*

She is a fit and healthy person who likes the out-of-doors.

Proverbs 31:20 [NIV] *“She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”*

Yet for all this activity she has time to help those in need.

Proverbs 31:23 [NIV] *“Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.”*

With such support for their family, it is little wonder that her husband is well-known in the community, she is also praised in the community.

The real payoff for a successful mother and house-maker comes years down the line.

The exploits of her offspring provide joy and satisfaction for the second half of her life.

Proverbs 31:28-31 [NIV] *“Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”*

The loneliness and frustration that so many senior citizens feel today could be cushioned tremendously by the jubilation that diligent parents experience in their extended family, even being able to offer financial assistance, [**Proverbs 13:22**].

Paul, inspired by the Creator God, was very emphatic about the importance of mothers and homemakers.

1 Timothy 5:14 [NIV] *“So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.”*

If a woman was widowed when still young, she should continue to be a mother and homemaker.

Titus 2:3-5 [NIV] *“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God.”*

Older women should encourage younger women and help them to be good mothers and homemakers.

All mothers and homemakers should realise what an important role they have been given by the Creator God.

Here are three ways to help mothers and homemakers crystallise their priorities and be helped to counteract the false propaganda that surrounds them on this subject.

1 Never downgrade your responsibility in your own mind –

While society downgrades the sanctity of the family, remember how God labels our world as the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming draws near.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 [NIV] *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”*

A society that has **no** fear of God and has rejected His way of life, including the value of motherhood and homemaking.

Proverbs 23:17-18 [NIV] *“Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.”*

God has something much better to offer those who follow His way of life, peace and fulfilment now and blessings for all eternity through being part of His created family, the Kingdom of God.

2 Study the lives of Godly women, build their traits into your lives –

Proverbs 23:7 [Amplified Bible] *“For as he thinks in his heart so is he ...”*

With the help of a concordance study the lives of such women as Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah and Mary [mother of Jesus Christ]. Take notes as you read, writing down their strong points and the lessons that they learnt and the blessings they received for faithfully supporting their husband and children.

3 Don't lose the vision in child rearing –

Proverbs 29:18 [King James] *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”*

Apply this principle to your children.

Today you may be only trying to get your eight-year-old son to pick up his overcoat, but the principles you are teaching are neatness and responsibility, these will last for eternity.

Try to see all things in the light of building permanent character traits in your children, future children in God's created family.

When you see this child-training as a task that the Creator God has allowed you to do on His behalf, you will be more vigilant and more motivated.

Mothers and homemakers awake to your high calling, don't surrender your birthright! The future “payoffs” are worth every effort.

Proverbs 22:17-20 [Amplified Bible] *“Listen, consent and submit to the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge. For it will be pleasant if you keep them in your mind, believing them, your life will be accustomed to confessing them. That your trust, belief, reliance, support and confidence may be in the Lord, I have made known these things to you today, even to you. Have I not written to you long ago excellent things in counsels and knowledge, to make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may give a true answer to those who ask you?”*