

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

"GREAT MOM'S OF THE BIBLE!"

Intro: Mom's I have good news and bad news, let's listen to the bad news first, the bad news is that "Mother's Day" can be traced back to ancient pagan practices. The history of Mother's Day can be traced back to celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the mother of the gods. During the 1600's, the early Christians in England celebrated a day to honor Mary, the mother of Christ. By a religious order the holiday was later expanded in its scope to include all mothers. Now the good news, God wants all mothers as well as fathers to be "HONORED" every day by their children, the Scriptures tell us in, **Deuteronomy 5:16** - *Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.* **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."* **So everyday should be "HONOR MOTHER'S DAY!"**

Paul writes words of encouragement for mothers in **Titus 2:1-5** - *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.* The Greek word for LOVE in regards to children is *philoteknos*, which is in reference to that special kind of "mother's nurturing love." **It carries the idea caring for your children, nurturing them, affectionately embracing them, meeting their needs, and tenderly befriending each one as unique gift from the hand of God.** The Psalmist declares in Psalms 127:3 - *Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.*

- Observe the great attributes of "GREAT MOMS":

> **Great Mom #1 – Eve (*Life giving*) – "Mom of LIFE!" (Genesis 3:14-21; 4:1-10, 25-26)**

> **Great Mom #2 – Noah's Wife (*Mrs. Rest / Relief*) – "Mom of FAITH!" (Mrs. Noah – Genesis 8:15-22; Heb. 11:7)**

> **Great Mom #3 – Sarah (*Noble lady*) – "Mom of HOPE!" (Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-3 (Isaac – "Laughter"))**

> **Great Mom #4 – Jochebed (*Jehovah is honor*) – "Mom of FAITH!" (Exodus 2:1-10 - **JOCHEBED** (*Jehovah is honor*) - a daughter of Levi and the mother of Aaron, Moses and Miriam. To protect Moses from Pharaoh's command that every male Hebrew child be killed, she placed him in an ark of bulrushes on the river. After Pharaoh's daughter discovered the baby, Jochebed became his nurse. She is noted among the heroes of the faith (**Hebrews 11:23-26**).**

> **Great Mom #5 – Hannah (*Gracious*) – "Mom of DEVOTION!" – Hannah a wife of Elkanah, a Levite of the Kohathite branch of the priesthood (1 Sam 1:1-2:21). Unable to bear children, Hannah suffered ridicule from Elkanah's second wife Peninnah, who bore the priest several children. Hannah vowed that if she were to give birth to a son, she would devote him to the Lord's service. The Lord answered her prayers, and to her was born the prophet Samuel. Hannah was faithful to her promise. Making what must have been a heart-rending sacrifice, Hannah took Samuel to the Temple after he was weaned, there to "remain forever" (1:21). God rewarded Hannah's piety and faithfulness with three more sons and two daughters. Hannah's beautiful thanksgiving psalm (2:1-10) is similar to the song of Mary when she learned she would be the mother of Jesus (**Luke 1:46-55**).**

> **Great Mom #6 – Elizabeth (*God is my oath*) – "Mom of PRAYER!" (Luke 1:5-17)**

> **Great Mom #7 – Mary – “Mom of PROMISE!”** - When Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph the carpenter, the angel Gabriel appeared to her. Calling her "highly favored one" and "blessed...among women" (Luke 1:28), the angel announced the birth of the Messiah. After Gabriel explained how such a thing could be possible, Mary said, "Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). That Mary "found favor with God" and was allowed to give birth to His child indicates she must have been of high character and faith. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Mary "wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). She witnessed the visits of the shepherds and the Wise Men and "pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19) and heard Simeon's prophecy of a sword that would pierce through her own soul (Luke 2:35). Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt to escape Herod's murder of all males under two years old (Matt 2:13-18). Neither Mary nor Joseph appear again until Jesus is 12 years old, at which time He stayed behind in the Temple with the teachers (Luke 2:41-52). Both Mary and Joseph accepted Jesus' explanation, realizing He was Israel's Promised One. Mary was present at Jesus' first miracle-the turning of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-12). Mary seemed to be asking her Son to use His power to meet the crisis. Jesus warned her that His time had not yet come; nevertheless, He turned the water into wine. At another time Mary and Jesus' brothers wished to see Jesus while He was teaching the multitudes-perhaps to warn Him of impending danger. But again Jesus mildly rebuked her, declaring that the bond between Him and His disciples was stronger than any family ties (Luke 8:19-21). The Scriptures do not mention Mary again until she stands at the foot of the cross (John 19:25-27).

Planting Seeds

*When a mommy hugs her children
She plants a seed of love
And all her wonderful kisses
Come from God above.*

*When a mommy laughs and giggles
She plants a seed of joy
Like when she tickles your funny bone
Or plays with your favorite toy*

*When a mommy tucks you in at night
She plants a seed of peace
She prays for God to bless you
With a sweet and restful sleep*

*When a mommy asks you to wait for things
A seed of patience is what she sows
For all the really good things in life
Take some time to grow*

*When a mommy makes your favorite food
She plants a seed so kind
She knows when chicken soup is good for you
Or when you have cookies on your mind*

*When a mommy washes all your clothes
Seeds of goodness she plants
She works so hard to scrub and scrub
So you will have clean shirts and pants*

*When a mommy takes care of you all day
Faithfulness is the seed she sows
She makes sure you have all you need
Like lots of good food and shoes on your toes*

When a mommy rocks you in her arms

*A gentle seed is planted deep
Sometimes she'll sing you a little song
While in her arms you cry or sleep*

*When a mommy tells you, "No, no, no."
She plants a seed of self-control
For she knows not all things are good for you
So make sure you listen to what you are told*

*But the greatest seed that a mommy plants
Is the seed of God's great love*