
Motherhood in the Bible

- 1. Creation of Motherhood** (*God's design and plan centers around motherhood, bearing those created in the image of God!*)
 - Gen 1:27-28 ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply...";
- 2. Continuation of Motherhood** (*even after the fall, God's plan and purpose had not changed*)
 - Gen 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you." (curse did not cancel role)
- 3. Realization of Motherhood** (*a human AND divine process*)
 - Gen 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."
 - Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.
- 4. Exaltation of Motherhood** (*to bless others*)
 - Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
 - Gen 15:5-6 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.
 - Luke 1:28,31 ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.
- 5. Prevention of Motherhood** (*as a form of punishment or curse*)
 - Gen 20:17-18 ¹⁷ So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore *children*; ¹⁸ for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.
- 6. Anticipation of Motherhood** (*looked forward to as a blessing*)
 - Psalm 127:3-5 ³ Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So *are* the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.
 - Psalm 128:1-4 Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. ² When you eat the labor of your hands, You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. ³ Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart

of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.

- Mal 2:15 But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.
- 7. Prioritization of Motherhood** (*primary focus of life*)
 - 1 Tim 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
Not spiritual salvation – (immediate context & broad context)
Not just bearing children but the entire process of raising them
Focus and Fulfillment
Perhaps the best explanation of this difficult verse is this. God promised women a life of fulfillment as mothers in the home, provided they walk with the Lord, rather than as teachers and leaders in the church.
"The meaning of *sozo* [to save] in this passage is once again something like 'spiritual health,' a full and meaningful life. This fits the context quite well. Paul has just excluded women from positions of teaching authority in the church (1 Tim. 2:9-14). What then is their primary destiny? They will find life through fulfilling their role as a mother IF they continue in faith, love, and holiness with propriety. A salvation which comes only to mothers who persist in faithful service is not the faith alone salvation taught elsewhere." (Dr. Tom Constable)
 - 8. Reflection on Motherhood** (*God's description of a godly woman assumes motherhood as a 1st focus*)
 - 1 Tim 5:9-10 ⁹ Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.
 - 9. Direction towards Motherhood** (*God's instruction for a younger widowed woman centers on marriage and motherhood*)
 - 1 Tim 5:11-14 ¹¹ But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, ¹² having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. ¹³ And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. ¹⁴ Therefore I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
 - 10. Expectation of Motherhood** (*the norm for a woman centers around marriage and motherhood*)
 - Titus 2:3-5 ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.