

Sunday May 13th
Mothers' Day 2007
Mother Mary

1). Lu 1:26 ¶ *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 "For with God nothing will be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. 39 ¶ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,*

- 2). There are a number of things we should note here concerning Mary
- a). Obviously she is of the seed of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob
 - b). She is a virgin
 - c). She is betrothed to a man from the house of David
 - d). She is highly favored by God
 - e). She will be overshadowed by the power of the Highest
 - f). The One to be formed in her womb will be given the throne of His father David and will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end.
 - g). When the angel departs she goes with haste to the hill country
 - h). And her character is marked by her own words - *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."*

3). Now as we know Mary is not an arbitrary choice for the mother of God's own Son – the One promised in 2 Samuel 7.

a). God being a God of order and always complying with that which He has set in place has Mary and her betrothed Joseph singled out because of their lineage.

b) Joseph we will remember has a lineage that goes back to David through David's son Solomon - Mt 1:1 ¶ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.*

c). In this lineage we see the legal right to the throne coming to Jesus through Solomon, via His adopted father Joseph just as God had promised Ps 89:3 *"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 4 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.'"*

d). And through Mary we have the blood line that comes from David through David's son Nathan - Lu 3:23 *Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, 27 the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Jose, the son*

of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David,

e). In this we can see the same principle, even though they are not parallel events, as Abraham's oldest servant being sent only to Abraham's family to find a wife for Isaac. Because of the promise given to David, Messiah can only come from his lineage – both through the bloodline and with the legal right to David's throne.

4). Even though both these lineages make Mary and Joseph the obvious one to be the parents of Christ, we must not forget that Mary is the one the angel approaches first, and all subsequent events are then based on her faithful acceptance of that which is spoken to her – which is of course exactly what she does. She does have a choice.

a). And in this we would hear the echo of the words spoken by Rebekah to Abraham's oldest servant - Ge 24:58 *Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."*

b). And Ruth to Naomi - Ru 3:5 *And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."*

c). And the conditional outcome for the Children of Israel at Sinai Ex 19:5 *'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*

5). Now Mary's faithful obedience to the word of the Lord did not of itself mean that she had a complete understanding of the events in which she was involved. The Word of God who became flesh would also plunge to the depths of His mother's soul - Lu 2:34 *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 35 "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

a). Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

b). We would do well to remember that it is the Seed of the woman who is born without sin, not the woman who bore the Seed.

6). Also notice this when the Lord is twelve years old - Lu 2:43 *When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; 44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. 48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." 49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. 51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

(Teach this)

7). They did not understand the things He said to them – and we must therefore assume that as with His disciples they had not believed all that the prophets had spoken concerning Him.

a). And there is the suggestion that His mother and certainly His brothers had serious doubts about Him.

b). Look at this series of events recorded in Mark's Gospel –
Mr 3:20 *Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." 22 ¶ And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.".....31 ¶ Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. 32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." 33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."*

c). And then in - Joh 7:4 *"For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*

8). And as after His death and resurrection the scriptures were opened to His disciples, we would assume by extension to His mother and His brothers also.

a). And this would be borne out by their presence in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, waiting for the promise of the Father –

Ac 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

9). Now we have spent some time today focusing on mother Mary because there is so much in her experience that is paralleled in our own. Do you remember the list of things we noted from our Luke scripture?

a). Obviously she is of the seed of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob Well exactly the same thing can be said of us - *Ga 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

i/ As Christ is of the physical seed of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, being of the tribe of Judah, so our positional standing 'in Christ' gives us that same lineage, not by birth but through faith –

Ga 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

b). She is a virgin – And this is the exact terminology that is used in scripture to describe those who make up the church. We will remember the wise and the foolish virgins - *Mt 25:1 ¶ "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*

c). She is betrothed to a man from the house of David – And so are we. As the Holy Spirit currently searches within the ranks of the eternally saved for the Bride of Christ, so those who have responded to this call could be described as betrothed to Christ – who is a man from the house of David. The One in fact who is the greater Son of David - *2Co 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

d). She is highly favored by God – And there is no doubt in the enormity of that which God has offered us, that we can consider ourselves as highly favored. Not that we in any sense deserve that favor, but God has bestowed His favor upon us irrespective of what we may deserve.

i/ We are the ones remember who have been offered, 'so great a salvation' – the salvation of our souls.

ii/ Who have been offered an inheritance in a heavenly land - *Heb 3:1 ¶ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling,*

iii/ Who have been called to be coheirs with Christ to rule and reign with Him through the time of the Millennial Kingdom and into the endless ages of eternity beyond - Ro 8:17 ¶ *and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

iv/ 1Pe 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

e). She will be overshadowed by the power of the Highest – Now there is of course no sense in which we have become Divinely pregnant, but it is as a result of a sovereign act of God that life has been breathed into that where there was only death.

i/ In exactly the same way that we see the Holy Spirit hovering in - Ge 1:2 *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

ii/ So the Spirit of God hovered over our darkness ready to bring light where it had not existed before - 2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

iii/ And that which is born in us is Spirit - Joh 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

iv/ And there is a continual process of being 'born from above', as the Spirit of God opens the word of God to us – something that is not revealed to us by flesh and blood, but by our Father who is in Heaven.

f). The One to be formed in her will be given the throne of His father David and will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end. Again, Christ is not literally born in us, but the scriptures clearly speak of us being transformed in to the image of Christ.

i/ Note this scripture form - Eph 4:14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ—*

ii/ And in - Ro 8:29 ¶ *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

iii/ And finally, the whole idea summed up in - Ga 4:19 ¶ *My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,*

g). When the angel departs she goes with haste to the hill country
i/ The hill country is associated with the high ground and can be understood in the same sense as a mountain in scripture. It is Lot we will remember who goes down into the cities of the plain, leaving Abraham in the Hill country.

ii/ And we will remember the warning given to Lot before the impending destruction of those cities - Ge 19:17 *So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."*

iii/ And then there is faithful Caleb who will receive his inheritance in the land - Jos 14:12 *"Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day;*

iv/ And to move this into our own experience, we would see this as fulfilling the command that the Lord gives in - Mt 6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,*

v/ Once we have heard the word of the Lord concerning His coming Kingdom, and our inheritance within that Kingdom then our focus also needs to be the hill country - Col 3:1 ¶ *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

vi/ And we are also headed for a specific city – the city of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah – the city of the Great King – the New Jerusalem.

v/ The same city that our father by faith, Abraham was looking for - Heb 11:10 *for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

vi/ Ga 4:26 *but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

h). And her character is marked by her own words - *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."*

i/ The words of Mary here need to reflect the determination of our own heart – we must choose to be faithfully obedient, allowing the word of God to be our direction and our focus.

ii/ Remembering always that we are participating in God's plan – He is not participating in ours.

iii/ We must have that single minded determination that we saw in Rebekah and Ruth - Ru 1:16 *But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go;*

And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.

10). And we will note that God's choosing of His Church to be the recipients of the Kingdom of the Heavens is not arbitrary. He had taken this realm of the kingdom from Israel in order to give it to a new nation who would produce the fruits of it. Exactly as he had already set out in the foundation in - Ge 2:21 ¶ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

11). And as we look back on our experience we will realize that there was a time when we did not believe all that the prophets had spoken concerning the Christ. We had no problem with His suffering and death, but we hadn't understood anything concerning the events that were to follow.

a). So just as with Mary, His brothers and the disciples, it has been the Lord, in a similar experience to the road to Emmaus who has opened our eyes to understand the scriptures, so that we can plainly see that everything written about Him in Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

12). And we find ourselves now, in the likeness of Mary and the others waiting in the upper room at Pentecost, waiting for the promise of the Father.

a). Not the sending of the Holy Spirit, but the promise of the sending of His Son, that His Kingdom may be established on the earth and in the Heavens.

b). And while we watch and pray, we must wait in one accord, with one mind.

c). Understanding that it is - Col 1:27b.....*Christ in you, the hope of glory*

13). To close for this morning let's go back to Mary and the Lord's brothers trying to see Him. This time as it is recorded in Luke's Gospel.

a). Lu 8:19 *Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." 21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."*