

The Parable of Motherhood



The Nurturing Heart of God

Both fatherhood and motherhood reside in the divine—in God. The mother-heart of God is not as visible but without it we would not have a chance in growing up into the image of Him who made us.

A. The Mother of All Living *Gen 3:20*

No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you—life.

1. Adam had already named his wife 'Ishah' [woman] *Gen 2:23*
2. Adam now prophetically names his wife "Chavah" [Eve] the mother of all living. The Heb root for Chavah is 'life.'
3. Literally the verse says, "And Adam called his wife's name **life**." Without Eve there would be no life including eternal life. Her name 'life' was a confirmation of the promise in *Gen 3:15* that the seed of the woman would break the serpent's [Satan] head.
 - a. The prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus *Matt 1:23* and his death, burial and resurrection.

B. The Nature of Life *Gen 4:1; Psalm 139*

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

1. Conception and birth — God created the 'nurturing' process within a woman. Once life is conceived her whole body, soul and spirit responds to the life within. She provides everything necessary for life. God creates within the womb. *See Psalm 139*
 - a. The New Birth: We receive life; we do not initiate it—spiritual life emanates from relationship. "I know my sheep, and am known by My own." *John 10:14*

C. The Nurture of Life

A mother understands what a child does not say.

1. Spiritual Mothers: *John 19:26-27* "It is God's intention that every woman should function as a mother in society--as a spiritual mother, of which physical motherhood is a paradigm. The Lord Jesus spoke to his mother from the cross: "Woman, behold your son," indicating John the disciple. Then, to John: "Behold your mother." John was of course not Mary's biological son, but the Lord, addressing her as "Woman" to acknowledge her full-orbed womanhood, then assigned her to John as his spiritual mother. [*Elaine Stedman—A Woman's Worth*]
2. The Mother's Example in Discipleship: *Gal 4:19* Paul uses the example of conception, labor and birth to communicate his care for those who he ministers to—a symbol of the 'nurturing' care of motherhood which extends beyond the womb.
3. God's Love—A Mother's Love: *Jer 31:3* God speaks through Jeremiah and literally says, "I have loved you with the old love—everlasting love." The word 'love' is in the **feminine** form and communicates God's nurturing-mother-heart for His people Israel—and for us.
4. Mother's Without Children: *Isa 54:1* There is rejoicing for the woman with no children as God will provide 'spiritual children' for you to 'nurture' in the way of the Lord.

Spiritual Motherhood

Gen 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

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."

Joh 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" :27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...

Jer 31:3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved [*Heb feminine form*] you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Isa 54:1 "Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.

