

Five Women who changed the World, Part 2 of 2

Ordinary women with extraordinary faith

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Summary:

This is the conclusion to Five women who were vital parts in the Messianic lineage of Yeshua, our king of Kings. The Davidic-Messianic line will indeed change the world. Glean some fascinating insights into each of these women and learn lessons that can change your life as well. (Note there are other sermons about and for women you can find in 2005 in the months of February, April and September 2005). Whether Gentile or Israelite, all of these women needed God's grace – but all five women helped change the world.

Key words: sermons by Philip Shields, Five women in Jesus' genealogy, Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, Ruth, Mary the mother of Jesus. Rahab the harlot, David and Bathsheba, Uriah, Boaz, Philip Shields minister, Yeshua's family tree.

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Shalom, brothers and sisters, and welcome to Light on the Rock. This is Philip Shields, a minister of Messiah and your brother in Christ, with another teaching from the Scriptures. Here, our aim is a closer relationship with our heavenly father as well as our Savior Yeshua.

I'm focusing **on five amazing women** in this 2 part sermon. There've been thousands of sermons about men of the Bible. Now it's the women's turn—5 amazing women. But if you have lived among these 5 women, my guess is that most contemporaries would have considered them quite ordinary. But somehow they end up among the elite five mentioned by name or referred to in Matthew's genealogy of the Messiah. Why are we talking about them?

- To see the miracles Yehowah performed to **be sure the birth of His Son** as flesh and blood happened, and happened at the right time. Satan constantly tried to stop it.
- We can receive encouragement from seeing what Elohim can do with ordinary people. You and I are also "ordinary" people. If we submit ourselves fully to Yah, what could He do even in all of us ordinary people today?
- To see the powerful impact of women in Messiah's genealogy.
- To encourage you Gentiles to understand that at least 3 of the 5 women named by God Most High in Yeshua's genealogy – are GENTILES. Our Father has not left out you Gentiles. You're part of Yeshua, and He's part of you.
- And MOST OF ALL, to remind us all of the amazing grace of our great Creator. *It's astonishing how Yehowah took awful sinners – AWFUL sinners in some cases – and includes even them in the family tree of His sinless, holy Son of God. This is a sermon about people who did very bad things in some cases, but were able to be transformed by God into the stuff from which legends are born. But these were not*

“legendary” people – but REAL women, ordinary women whom God chose to shape the course of history. They can inspire all of us. Men: all of us.

So if you have “stuff” in your past – as in fact we all do, I do and you do – I hope today’s teaching will refresh your heart, give you hope, and help you put all your faith in the redeeming power of our Master and Savior to transform us to vessels HE can use.

By the way, as I’m preparing this—is the date of “the 2nd Passover”. I’ve also written a blog on it (be sure to check out the short blogs on this website). It showcases our wonderful God who allows those who missed the first Passover due to ritual uncleanness or traveling-- to do it one month later—a 2nd chance, if you will. I got that thought from the folks who are putting together the “Messianic Bible Project”.

Today we’ll conclude this 2 part series with a quick review then finishing up with the last 2 women mentioned in Yeshua’s family tree. You might think you know these women already, but I’m confident you’ll learn some new things about them too.

FIRST OF ALL – who were the first 3? Let’s do a quick review.

TAMAR

She’s the Canaanite daughter-in-law of Judah. Out of Judah was to come the Messiah. That means Judah had to have children who had children. But his first two sons were slain by Yehowah himself. The lineage of Judah would have stopped right there. But Tamar took extraordinary measures to have a promised child and ended up tricking Judah into sex. Judah was reluctant to risk losing a 3rd son. After all, his first two sons had lost their lives – from God directly- after involvement with Tamar! Tamar was the common denominator.

Tamar’s importance is in being the first woman in the lineage from whom Judah produced an heir whom God would use—Perez -- to start the Davidic-Messianic line.

She dressed as a temple prostitute (implied by the Hebrew), and Judah wasn’t thinking right -- and the result were twins, including Perez, out of whom came the Messianic line. So – as awful as it seems – the holy Messianic lineage starts with Judah thinking he is having sex with a prostitute and hoping to get away with it. But we still read of it today.

Jacob (Judah’s father) had prophesied that ROYALTY, the Law and the Messiah would all come out of Judah!

Genesis 49:10

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until **Shiloh** comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Isaiah 11:1 says a Rod will come from the stem of Jesse (David’s father).

Isaiah 62:11 says surely out of ZION (Jerusalem/Judah) your salvation (yeshua) is coming... Daniel 9:25 speaks of rebuilding Jerusalem – then “Messiah the Prince shall come”.

So TAMAR stepped up, had sex with her father in law to keep the family line going after he failed to give her his 3rd son as her husband. The one at greater fault here was Judah – not Tamar.

NEXT UP WAS RAHAB THE HARLOT

The first woman mentioned “played the harlot” to have a child. The second one was an actual Canaanite harlot. I hope as many of you who recognize you’re a sinner, as we must all come to recognize, are receiving some hope and encouragement that we have a forgiving God when we humble our souls and seek His grace. Then what He can do with that repentant sinner is astonishing. So don’t give up on God, and don’t give up on what He can do with you regardless of your past. Sin is sin. All sin – if unrepented – will keep you out of the kingdom of God. Don’t think you’re any better than any other sinner. As long as any sinner repents deeply, God has her covered and will see you in Paradise. (Remember what Christ said to the thief on the cross?)

Rahab understood that our first allegiance is to our God, the one true living God – not to the nation or city-state you were a part of. She risked her life to confess the living God, hide the 2 spies who had come to stay with her, and helped them escape. She was a harlot. A Gentile with a despicable, shameful past – but she’s only one of 2 women included in Hebrews 11 Hall of Fame of faith. The other is Sarah.

She tied a SCARLET CORD to her window, identifying her in the Passover season as one who believed in the God who could turn our sins, though they be as red as scarlet, into pure white, like snow (Isaiah 1:18). Scarlet, the color of the redeeming and covering blood of the Lamb of God.

One writer described her story thus: going “from the dunghill to glory”. She apparently married one of the 2 spies- Salmon – and had children that led to Boaz and eventually king David and the royal line.

If you deeply repent, it doesn’t matter what your PAST was. God is terrific at keeping things past. It’s mankind who has a hard time letting people they consider to be “low-lives” move on. God is all about how we end up. That’s what counts. Rahab ended up faithful, strong, brave – and openly confessed the one true Living God. That’s what counts. And Yah CHOSE her to be among the honored people in His Son’s family line.

RAHAB did not continue to stew over her past forever and ever. She moved on. **No doubt, it would have been natural even after her acceptance into Israel, for her to feel regrets and even hate herself** for what she had been, for everything she had done, all the marriages she had affected, all the covenants with spouses she had helped men to break, the broken hearts of the wives who eventually found out their husbands had been unfaithful.... I’m sure, she must have thought about all this later.

ALL of us, if we understand our own sins, the pain and turbulence our sins have left in their wake – all of us should be able to understand some of this pain. But Rahab, in faith, moved on. God bless her. Even a hunk of junk like Rahab could not only be salvaged, but made new. Not only made new, but included in the very LINEAGE of our king.

My brothers and sisters, what does this tell us about our Great GOD??? So whatever your past has been, give it to God. He will cast it as far as the east is from the west. He will accept you, if you bring your heart – all of it, even if broken into a zillion pieces. “A broken heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” – a lovely message from David’s own repentance in Psa. 51.

And any of you who would look down on a changed and repentant Rahab, or a changing and repentant adulterer or any other sinner . . . are you more righteous than GOD?

Apostle Paul recognized her story is all of our story. He said his best was just so much garbage, so much dung – see Phil 3. Got it? That's you. That's me – compared to the perfection that is God. And that is why we have to understand that when we pray "In Jesus' name" (Or "In Yeshua's name"), we are coming before the Most Holy of Holies of and by the authority of the Christ himself – covered by our future Husband's righteousness. That's what I want. I want the best Christ can do, not the best I can do. My track record on my own is miserable. But if I can move on now powered by the life of my Messiah, maybe even you and even I can get somewhere.

One of my favorite verses is Phil 3:9-11 where Paul said he did NOT want his own righteousness, which is from the Torah/law – but that which is the righteousness of God, which we are given by faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Please read it for yourself. It's there, clear as day.

Tamar moved on. Rahab moved on. These 2 Gentile women let their past be past and their faith was extraordinary and propelled their names to be names that will be remembered forever.

Next up was RUTH – yet another Gentile mentioned in the Messianic line!

I hope to give an entire sermon soon on the book of Ruth, since it is centered on the time we are in now – between Passover and Pentecost and barley harvest. Traditionally the book of Ruth is read on Shavuot/Pentecost. Tradition (which I'm careful of) also says King David was born – and died – on Pentecost. So here are some hi-lites in the meantime:

Ruth – a Moabite princess. Various Jewish sources say she was the great-great granddaughter of King Balak and granddaughter of Eglon, both Moabite kings who bedeviled Israel. We can't prove it, but -- you'd never dream you were reading about stuck-up royalty as you read Ruth. No, she's a humble, hard-working, loving daughter-in-law taking care of her aging mother-in-law. How beautiful it is when adult "children" honor and consider the feelings of their moms.

As a foreigner, she would have stood out. As a descendant of Balak, she would have been despised. But Boaz sees a gem working out in his fields.

Here are the main points that should be said about Ruth in terms of the genealogy:

- **The story of RUTH is a picture of the LOVE story between Yeshua and HIS Bride. Boaz pictures God marrying someone who started outside the promises (she was a Moabite) but got grafted into Israel. *RUTH represents the time when all people – whether Israel or Gentile – all people who profess the Living God will be brought into ONE body, and one family of GOD! Gal. 3:26-28***

So Ruth's inclusion in the story is absolutely vital and helps us understand that all people from all countries can be part of the family of God.

RUTH professed her belief in the one true YHVH God, and with that she even married into the princely line of Judah through Boaz – and became an ancestress of Yeshua! There's no free pass into the promises. Even those who are born as

Israelites or even Jews, even THEY must first be grafted into the “Israel of God”. There are no free passes into the Kingdom. Whether Jew or Gentile, we each have to confess Yeshua as our king and Savior and THEN we become an inheritor of the covenant made with Abraham – whether you live in Myanmar, China or Israel! Please listen to my 2 part sermons on “Encouragement for Gentiles” which proves this. You can also read Gal. 3:26-28, Romans 2:28-29; Romans 9:6-9 and more.

- **Again: Ruth is yet another Gentile** – a key figure in the line of David and Messiah. So physically, both of them were definitely part Gentile from their genetic tree anyway. So Gentiles, take heart. With Ruth, you are now 3 for 3 of the women mentioned in Christ’s genealogy. Three of the 5 so far are GENTILES.
- *Another lesson: Don’t let what your forefathers did keep you down too long.* I hope my daughters and son will do far better than I ever did. That shouldn’t be hard. Remember, “Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and HE will raise you up”. In His time, in His way. Just do good – like Ruth did, commit your life and your ways to YHVH and He will direct your paths. Sometimes, admittedly, it seems His paths take us down some rough roads even when we do all I’ve just said, but usually God is more likely to assist and reward those who rely on Him, cry out to Him, and ask for His help. If you do it humbly and in faith, you and God make a new path in spite of any shameful things your dad or forefathers had done or been.
- *Ruth shared her life and her questions-- again, humbly – with her mother-in-law.* I say to all of us: Show your parents honor by including them in your decisions, sharing your life with them, asking them their opinion. If you are thinking of marriage, or buying a home or the big decisions of life especially, ask your Mom and Dad for counsel. That’s not often done nowadays. If you watch recent commercials carefully: kids are shown educating their parents. I think that is sick. And white males – especially dads – are often shown as stupid bumbling idiots. What a stain and a sin!

Ruth shared her life with Naomi – and Naomi’s counsel was good. Many times, young people, we aging parents might have something we can share with you; things we’ve learned from the pain we’ve been through mostly.

Much more will be said about Ruth in a sermon coming up.

Let’s move on to yet another woman in the genealogy. This next woman is not mentioned by name, but is referred to, so there’s no question she’s in there. You know her as Bathsheba. Her Hebrew name was BatSheva, which means “Daughter of the Oath”. Very interesting!

BATHSHEBA (BAT SHEVA)

Matthew 1:5-7

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*.**

She’s actually not mentioned by name here – but no mistaking who is meant. We know it is Bathsheba. SO let’s read thru the story and glean the big lessons especially in this season.

Matthew refers to her as “the wife of Uriah”, that is, until David called her come to his bed to commit adultery with him. You know the story but we’ll uncover some info you may not have heard before.

I’ve heard many, many sermons that put a lot of the blame on Bathsheba but the Bible itself gives no cause to make that assertion. She was someone else’s wife and David had no business calling her to his bed. Period. I’m not excusing her either. They both sinned. They both committed adultery. So I hope none of you let her off the hook either. But it would have been intimidating to have ignored the king’s command. I’ve even heard it told that Bathsheba enticed HIM by bathing nude in his full view – as it’s told.

In any case, *both* of them - the man David and woman Batsheba-- committed adultery. In Biblical law, both should have been stoned to death for this adultery (Lev. 20:10).

Now let’s learn a bit more about her wonderful husband **Uriah**, the Hittite.

URIAH:

- A Hittite, a Gentile – from their forefather Heth, a son of Canaan (Genesis 10:15). So Uriah was also a Canaanite. It was from “the sons of Heth” that Abraham bought his burial ground (Genesis 23). Hittites rose to prominence and power at various times in the history of the Middle East.
- One of the top 30 personal guards of David, one of his top 30 commanders and among the most loyal of his fighting men. He would be like a Delta Force commander today, or leader of “Seal Team Six”. He’s called one of the “mighty warriors” in 1 Chronicles 11:26, 41.
- NOT commonly known, is that He took a Hebrew name **Uri-Yah which means, “The flame of YHVH”, or “My Light is Yehowah”**. So he was a devoted worshipper of the one living God!
- Now did you know this? **Bathsheba’s FATHER – ELIAM – was a contemporary fellow officer with Uriah** and was also among the elite top 30 officers/soldiers in the land?

2 Samuel 23:24, 35, 38

24 Asahel the brother of Joab was **one of the thirty**;

35 **Eliam** (Bathsheba’s father!) the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite...

38 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, **39 and Uriah the Hittite**: thirty-seven in all.

So get this: Uriah was someone who brushed shoulders in the war room with Eliam, Bathsheba’s father! Her dad and Uriah were commanders in the army of Israel. It would seem to me that Bathsheba was a young woman.

- NOT as commonly known is this: **Bat-sheva was also the granddaughter of the wise man, David’s counselor, Ahitophel**. Remember her father was Eliam, one of the top 30 men of David’s elite guard. Eliam was the son of Ahitophel, making Bathsheba the granddaughter of Ahitophel

2 Samuel 23:34

Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite...

We learn later that AHITOPHEL rebelled against David and joined the rebellion of Absalom. Why would Bathsheba's grandpa do that? Could it be that he had lost all confidence in David who had forced his granddaughter into a treacherous thing with him, ending in the brutal death of her beloved husband? She mourned Uriah's death. I believe Ahitophel was shocked, hurt, angry, bewildered, dumbfounded – all of the above. He was a wise man. When Absalom secured him to his side – years later – this is what it says about Ahitophel's wisdom:

2 Samuel 16:23

Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

The details of the story:

2 Samuel 11:1-5

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ("we are tempted when drawn away by own desires and enticed. Desire -- sin -- death" – **James 1:13-15**)

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, **the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah** the Hittite?"

4 Then David sent messengers, **and took [Heb: *laqach*] her**; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.
[NOTE: she was TAKEN; she did not voluntarily seduce David!]

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

WHY WOULD HE NOT GO ..

Why did Uriah refuse to go have sex with his wife after being gone from her and in battle with his men? First of all -- the obvious reason he gave: it simply wouldn't have been right for him to be having a great time while his fellow soldiers were risking their lives and camped in a field. But there could be more. There were laws and rules about soldiers who had had recent sex.

Deuteronomy 23:9-11

9 "When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourself from every wicked thing. 10 If there is any man among you who becomes unclean by some occurrence in the night, then he shall go outside the camp; he shall not come inside the camp. 11 But it shall be, when evening comes, that he shall wash with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp.

1 Samuel 21:4-5

4 And the priest answered David and said, "There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women."

5 Then David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was consecrated in the vessel this day."

Back to the story in 2 Samuel 11, let's pick up at verse 14 now.

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." 16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, 19 and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, 20 if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' — then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. 23 And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. 24 The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

This was the one big stain on David's record. It was not just the adultery with Bathsheba. I don't like to say it that way because it puts half the blame on Bathsheba. The way GOD says it – is 'the matter of Uriah the Hittite.' IMPORTANT: the sin with Bathsheba was unplanned, was spontaneous, not controlling hormones. The sin of killing Uriah was cold-blooded, premeditated, and was far more serious. The greater sin was murdering Uriah.

1 Kings 15:4-5

4 Nevertheless for David's sake Yehowah his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; 5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, **except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**

Still, Bathsheba was in bed with David. Here's what the LAW said was to happen:

Leviticus 20:10

"The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer AND the adulteress, shall surely be put to death."

God's law was just and equal: Both David and Bathsheba were to be stoned. But God was merciful and upon David's admission and contrition/repentance, they were both allowed to live and both allowed to be part of the Messianic line.

But in spite of this LOW, LOW point in David's life, and Bathsheba's life, SHE is one of 5 women referred to in the ancestry and lineage of the Messiah. How could something this shameful, from a king doing something this reckless, be allowed in the Messiah's lineage? Because of Psalm 51. I recommend you make a note to read Psalm 51 carefully. It's David's prayer of repentance over the murder of Uriah and for taking his wife.

Our sins are "powerwashed" away in the blood of the Lamb. There were consequences for David. He lost the boy born of that union with Batsheba. His sin – which he thought was secret and hush-hush-- has been widely known by billions of people ever since. His concubines were raped by Absalom openly on the palace roof (2 Samuel 16:21-22). War, murders among brothers and other problems never ceased from David's household. So David was forgiven but there were some consequences. Folks – sin kicks us hard, real hard, long after the pleasure of the sin for a moment is over with.

David was all heart, but he also committed several serious sins. We read of his murders (more than Uriah died), we read of his adultery, his treachery to this day – but all that has been power washed away in the blood of the Lamb of Passover. David also caused the death of 70,000 Israelites when he numbered Israel (2 Samuel 24).

In spite of all this, BATHSHEBA was chosen as one of 5 – the number of grace- - 5 women, who were listed in the genealogy of the Messiah. **Maybe our God is also telling us, "My grace is mightier than your sin.** My love covers your shame and your sin. And most of all, I am NOT ashamed of anyone I have forgiven. Come, be part of my lineage. I'm happy to have you be my Family!"

I think that's awesome! That IS what our Messiah and our heavenly Father are saying.

And I will add, the rest of us family better be learning from Master that past is past, and that we should love and accept one another just as He has.

Something I find encouraging from several of these women: they teach us all this lesson...no matter your shameful deeds, if covered by God's grace upon our repentance, move on. They somehow were able to move on. David moved on too. SO did Bathsheba, so did Rahab, so did Tamar. We can't keep wallowing in our sins or in regret. Let's not waste one more second – no matter what people say and do - - let's not waste one more second feeling despair and depression over anything in the past that is past. That is buried and washed away. That is past.

Let's once more read Hebrews 2:10-11 – where we're told that Messiah is not ashamed of us but very willing to call us his "brother and sister". Halleluyah! You're amazing, our Saviour!

Hebrews 2:10-11

"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies [that's God] and those who are being sanctified [that's us!] are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren."

If the King of Kings is not ashamed of you or me, if we've repented of our shameful sins, *then why should any of US be ashamed of any other repentant brother or sister who has put their past in the past?* When we are "of One" – of Elohim – part of Him and He is part of us, and we are part of the holy BODY of Messiah, HOW could you be ashamed of HIM?

Let me say it clearly: If you are ashamed of a brother or sister in Christ, you are ashamed of Christ! (Repeat)

WHY would I say such a thing? Because if that brother or sister is PART of the body of Christ, who are we really ashamed of? Is any part of the Lord's body unholy or shameful? We are parts of His body! Are we understanding why it's so important to really wash one another as Christ has washed us, and put the past as in the past and let that brother or sister move on with joy and with the joy of acceptance by their kin in Christ? Are we getting that Passover message? *Nothing else happens* until we understand and partake of the real meaning of Passover.

Now by the power of His spirit, we fight sin. We get back up and into the fight when we fall and stumble.

Romans 6:15-19

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, *denying ungodliness and worldly lusts*, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that **He** might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

So Batsheva (Hebrew spelling) also teaches us that we move on after repentance and God's grace is bigger than our sin.

Finally, we come to the last woman named in the genealogy: of course – His mother!

Mary (Hebrew: Miriam), MOTHER OF YESHUA

Mary's real name – her Hebrew name – is Miriam, or Miryam. That name – oddly enough – means “obstinacy, rebellion”. Other commentaries say “Bitter”. That seems to fit into Simeon's prophecy that “a sword shall pierce your own soul also” (Luke 2:34) that the thoughts of one's heart would be revealed. This Mary, we find several times, is said to have PONDERED the words and things going on around her (Luke 2:19, 51).

There's a lot of legend that has grown around this young woman. She is said to have been a virgin – and of course I believe that – who gave birth to the son of God. But then we're told various things I cannot go along with:

- That she remained a perpetual virgin. Why? There's no point in it. There's nothing evil about the marriage bed. Scripture is clear that Jesus had at least 4 brothers and 2 sisters – maybe more (see Matthew 13:55-56). In fact, Yeshua is called her 'FIRSTBORN' son (Matthew 1:25; Luke 2:7). Why wouldn't scripture say 'only son'?
- That she was immaculately conceived and sinless. More on this later. I totally reject that.
- That she was taken bodily up to heaven. No, this cannot be and I totally reject that.

So now let's learn the truth about Mary.

Imagine being a sweet young lady with your whole future ahead of you, and you can't wait to be fully married to the man of your dreams – Joseph. Then an angel she'd never seen before tells her she's going to conceive. Let's read it in Luke 1:26 onwards. Something remarkable here: as ordinary as you think you might be, if you are pleasing God, HE knows you!

Yeshua, the promised Messiah, had to be born of the seed of David. Mary provided that. Joseph did too.

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated **to the gospel of God** 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 **concerning His Son** Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David according to the flesh**, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

So we have Tamar listed because she was the FIRST woman who got the lineage to Christ started – and we have Mary listed, as she was the FINAL woman, the mother of Yeshua.

Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel **Gabriel** was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [Gabriel – an arch angel, who stands in the presence of God – Luke 1:19; Daniel 8:16; 9:21 – Daniel had also seen this arch-angel.)

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 (YESHUA in Hebrew)

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.**"*

Important to note here: the Holy Spirit was the POWER of the Highest used to bring the pregnancy about (verse 35), but the FATHER of Yeshua is God the Highest. GOD Most High is the father – not the holy spirit!

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.

A big lesson to any of you teenagers and young adult women: be strong in God and don't ever wonder if He knows you.

So many – especially those in the Catholic religion – consider her the Blessed Virgin Mary. But also consider what she went thru. There are a lot of misconceptions and just plain wrong teachings about Mary. Let's set a few of them straight.

- She had very unusual and strange proceedings concerning her pregnancy. She was undoubtedly considered a fornicator by many. Even Yeshua had to listen to the taunt – "WE were not born of fornication" (John 8:41). They were calling Him illegitimate! No doubt Mary heard the taunt that she was a fornicator too – over and over!
- In the prayer called the "Hail Mary" (I'm not Catholic), the prayer is to MARY, who of course is dead and awaiting the resurrection. The prayer begins, "Hail Mary, full of grace..."

*But Mary is not the one full of grace. THAT is something reserved for her SON, Yeshua – John 1:14 "and the Word became flesh...only begotten of the Father, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH". Again, that is spoken of Yeshua, not Mary. Luke 1:30 – the angel tells Mary, "you have found favor (grace, charis in Greek)." **So she is the***

OBJECT of grace, not the spring from which grace flows. Do you see the difference?

- Many people pray to Mary as the intercessor or mediatrix to God or Jesus. There are some problems with that. We have but ONE mediator, and He is Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men**, the Man Christ Jesus”

YESHUA is the One who is our Advocate in the face of Satan’s taunts (1 John 2:1; Romans 8:34), not Mary, not any deceased saint, not any dead pope, NO ONE but Jesus (or Yeshua as I say).

- Some refer to her as “the Blessed Virgin”. True, she says in Luke 1:48 ‘all generations shall call me blessed, but that is just saying we consider her blessed. It doesn’t mean that “blessedness” becomes some sort of title.

The source of ALL blessedness is –once again-- Yeshua – not Mary
Psalm 72:17. Psalm 72 is a Messianic psalm. I recommend you read all of Psalm 72.

Psalm 72:17 – “... all shall be blessed in Him, and all nations shall call HIM blessed.”

- When Mary went down to see Elizabeth, Elizabeth’s baby – John – leapt for joy when Mary spoke. Mary then spoke very inspired words for anyone, especially a young woman. I’m referring to Luke 1:46-onwards, again. Her words – called the Magnificat, or Song of Mary –are one scripture after another! But what I want to focus on is this: She focused on magnifying GOD, not herself. She was quite humble. She knew full well that she was flesh and had sin. Do not believe the unbiblical teaching that Mary was without sin. Only Yeshua was without sin. Mary needed a Savior too and says so!

Luke 1:46-50

46 And Mary said: "My soul **magnifies the Lord**,
 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**. [she knew she needed a Savior too!]
 48 For He has regarded *the lowly state of His maidservant*; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And **holy is His name**.
 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Frankly this reminds me of Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel 1-2. Hannah – another great, great woman of the bible, full of spirit, full of the word of God. She was a woman who loved to praise Yehowah, to worship. A great example for us all. Mary was cut from the same cloth.

You know the story how Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to register, and the baby is born there. Forty days later they are to present a sacrifice for a burnt offering and a pair of young doves for a sin offering. **We know they were very poor**, as they could not even afford a young lamb – so they offered a pair of turtle doves, a poor man’s offering (Luke 2:22-24).

Our real spiritual family

After the flight to Egypt – then back to Nazareth – they make the Passover trek to the temple when He was 12. We hear nothing of Joseph after that. But it is interesting that Yeshua –

always honoring his parents—does at that time make it clear that His real Father is his HEAVENLY father. Several times after this, Yeshua will make clear who our REAL family is—who is our real Father, our real brother, our real sister?

So His Mom Mary –probably with some frustration in her voice – asks Him why He didn't let them know he wasn't with them but was staying at the temple. Here Yeshua makes it clear that SHE needs to learn this lesson. She needs to start seeing the spiritual family we are all a part of when Yehowah opens that astonishing door! At this point he identifies His true Father.

Luke 2:48-50

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.

When my daughters were baptized, I gave each of them a hug and said, "Welcome to the Family, sister". I didn't say "daughter" in that instance for a very important reason: even more important than them being my daughters, they were now my spiritual sisters, and we all had the same father. Mary had to see that Yeshua is now going to focus on the work His heavenly – his REAL father—wanted. He is also gently telling Mary here that she cannot dictate his divine actions from here on out.

Mary, as His mother, probably had some issues with this initially. **So Mary is in the line-up because of course she's the mother of Christ... that's a given. But she's also in the line=up for all the things her experience teach us.**

- Mary gave up her own life dreams and subjected all that to the will of God. "May it be to your handmaiden as you have said" – as she said to Gabriel. WE have to learn to put OUR will aside and get in step with God's will.
- She had to be willing to be mocked and ridiculed by man-- as a "chosen" vessel of God. So will we. We have to learn the same thing. You give up Christmas and the many other pagan holidays, and keep Sabbath instead of Sunday, don't eat unclean meat anymore and refuse the things of the flesh like sexual lust and seeking after "mammon".... Just see how far you get before the derisive comments start.
- SHE had to learn who her real priority family is... and it's the SPIRITUAL family. At Gabriel's visit, she's told 'your baby will be the son of GOD'. Then when Yeshua was age 12 and had been left at the temple, HE had to remind her who his real father was. Then again, at the wedding Feast at Cana, Yeshua had to remind her again – "What have I to do with you? My time has not yet come." (The miracle of Cana in John 2 was a foretaste of the crucifixion – the 6 earthen jars were for purification, and the water to wine is a clear reference to His purpose).

Mary's response was perfect and a lesson to us all. She told the servants at Cana, "Whatsoever he tells you, DO IT." She still speaks to us now. We must all learn to do what Master says!

But there's more: the one we must pray to and listen to is Yeshua and God our Father – NOT Mary. Every believer note: our allegiance is solely to Yeshua, not to

Mary! She's dead and buried, awaiting the resurrection. She'd be embarrassed and horrified to see the worship people have been giving to her! Horrified.

Another time, Yeshua was teaching when someone told him his mother and brothers were outside. His response – in my words – ‘my brothers and sisters are you are those who do my father's will’ (Matthew 12:49-50).

Finally, when it was all said and done, from the cross, Yeshua affirms the familial relationship of loving respect and caring for his mother -- by basically asking John to look after Mary as his own Mom (John 19:25-27). So many young people today lack this respect and affection for their parents. God have mercy on us.

John 19:25-27

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 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.

This verse above seems to tell us that John spared her having to see her Son, the son of God, die. I used to think Mary was there until His death – probably inspired by some Michelangelo masterpiece. But a literal reading says, ‘*From that hour he took her to his own home*’. Think of the kindness and thoughtfulness of our Savior. It's incredible here. Most of us would hate to die alone and would love the presence of Mom in our pain, no matter how old we get.... Or is that just me who feels that way? But he knew His mom was hurting badly and so made a way for her to have some respite. In any case, Mary the Mother of Jesus is not mentioned among those who say where he was buried – Mark 15:47. Mary Magdalene and her sister- Mary the mother of Joses - were there, but not his mother. And Yes, when we read of Mary of Clopas, that is Mary's sister or half-sister.

Finally she is last mentioned in the book of Acts in Acts 1:14 –

Acts 1:12-14

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, **with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**

Here's Mary, by now a woman in her 50's, worshiping as one with the 120 others, as v 15 says. Notice she's referred to in scripture as **“the mother of Jesus” – NEVER as the “mother of God”** in scripture. Never. Did you know that?

It was to these same special 120 initial believers, including men and women, to whom Yehowah sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. ALL 120 – including the WOMEN, which included Mary – SPOKE, as the Spirit gave each of them utterance (ACTS 2:1-4). I want you to consider that. Whatever our understanding about women speaking publicly in church, HERE – in Acts 2 – the women spoke. Peter confirmed (Acts 2:14-21) it was a fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2 that says even the women and young maidservants would prophesy – and Peter thought they

were obviously prophesying. We saw already how Mary certainly could speak under inspiration, as in her spirit-inspired greeting to Elizabeth when she went to visit.

But we caution again, Mary was an extraordinary woman in so many ways. There's simply no denying that and no need to. The only caution I mention is this: scripture is careful to be sure we know she was his mother but otherwise she is given NO special consideration in the early church. She is not the leader, she is not the one anyone prayed to, she did not perform any miracles – no, she was a flesh-and-blood human being who sometimes sinned, just like the rest of us, and who needed her Son's saving grace, just like the rest of us. Give me scriptures that show otherwise – or believe scripture that says ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God" – except Christ, the son of God, in whom was no sin. 1 Peter 2:22 "who committed no sin...". He was tempted in all points, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15; see also 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5 and many more). So no one has been perfect except Yeshua. Mary – as exceptional as she was – was a sinner who had to repent of her flesh and sins, just like the rest of us. Don't put ANY human on such a high pedestal that you think he/she is simply too nice to sin, or to have wrong thoughts, or lusts, or bitterness or improper desires.

I'm looking forward to meeting Mary – but I will not worship her. We worship GOD, and HIM ONLY do we serve, as Yeshua said to Satan (Matthew 4:10).

SO that concludes our study of five ordinary women who grew to do and be extraordinary – and I will be honored to meet each of these wonderful women of God. They have a lot to teach us all – men and women alike.

So what can we "take away" from this study?

I hope you picked up some interesting tidbits about each of these women – the Levirate marriage, the scarlet cord and Rahab, Bat Sheva (Hebrew spelling) – meaning 'daughter of the oath', how Uriah and Batsheva's father were part of the military chiefs of staff under David, how Ahitophel the wise man was Batsheva's grandfather. We also got encouragement that even with serious, serious ugly sins in our record, if we commit them all to Yeshua, He power washes them away in His blood and can still make us vessels fit for His honor. To HIS glory. It's HIS doing. It's HIM doing it.

And in fact, something I take away from this is – sometimes it almost seems like God purposely picks those that people have cast off. Moses – the murderer –on-the-run, a felon. The 12 apostles – from ordinary fishermen, from a despised lying/cheating tax collector (Matthew), one was a zealot (someone fighting the Romans), and one may have been a priest (I think Judas may have been a priest as he was able to go into parts of the temple only allowed to priests), and so on. Paul was a murderer by his own admission (Acts 22:4; Acts 9:1). So these women – Rahab the harlot, Tamar the would-be harlot, Batsheva the unfaithful wife who allowed her king to take her, Ruth the descendant of despised Moabite kings, and Mary – five wonderful women, teach us so many things.

God willing, the next teaching will be an in-depth study of RUTH. That entire book is traditionally read on Pentecost (Shavuot). Be sure to be checking out the short blogs too. There's good stuff in there too. Until next time, your brother in the faith—may Yehowah bless you and keep you, and may His face beam with joy when He thinks of you, may He watch over you and fill you with His spirit, and may you have peace/shalom in Him. Remember I love hearing from you.