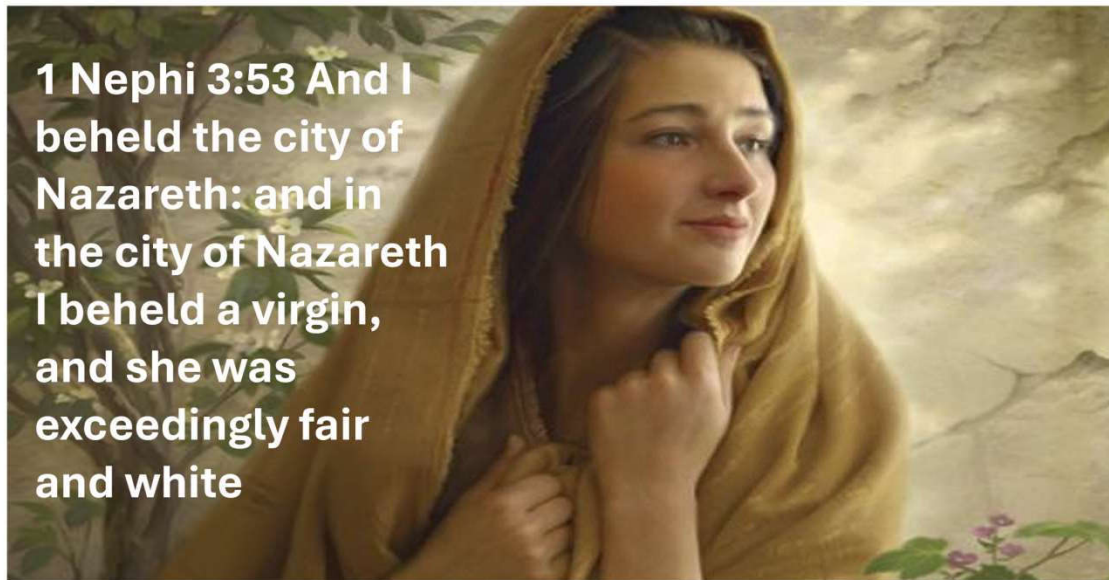


Mary the Mother of Jesus
October 7th 2025



**Mary's story is the Christmas story and the Easter story also.
So, let's journey together into these stories
and look at them with fresh eyes.**

1 Nephi 3:

54 And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?
55 And I said unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.
56 And he said unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God?
57 And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless I do not know the meaning of all things.
58 And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.
59 And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit;
60 And after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!
61 And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

Isaiah 7:

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel

It's About More Than Mary = It's About the Plan of Redemption, Which She Played a Part in



“Without the **shedding of blood** there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22), and that’s why the symbolism of the scarlet thread in the Bible is significant. The scarlet thread is the theme of atonement found throughout the pages of Scripture.

Theologians and Bible students sometimes refer to “the scarlet thread running through the Bible.” By this they mean that the Bible’s theme is **Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for the redemption of mankind.**

The blood of Christ runs throughout the entire Bible, symbolically.

The Plan Starts in Heaven = **Genesis 3:1** And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, **That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning;**

2 And he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.

Genesis Continued



3 But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.



Last words in Matthew 27:54
It is finished thy will is done



Gen. 3:4 Wherefore, because that Satan **rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man,** which I, the Lord God, had given him;

and also, that **I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten**

I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan.

5 Yea, even

the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.



The Battle Came to Earth

Revelation 12:12 And after these things I heard another voice saying, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, yea, and they who dwell upon the islands of the sea! **for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.....**

17 Therefore, the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ



Genesis 3:6-7,10 6 And now, the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field, which I, the Lord God, had made. 7 And Satan put it into the heart of the serpent, for he had drawn away many after him; and he sought also to beguile Eve, for he knew not the mind of God; wherefore, he sought to destroy the world. . . . 10 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die; for God doth know, that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil

Scarlet Thread of Sacrifice Runs All Though the Scriptures It is Seen in the Animals Killed in Eden to Provide Garments for Adam and Eve



Genesis 3:27 **Unto Adam, and also unto his wife, did I, the Lord God, make coats of skins, and clothed them.....**

31 So I drove out the man, and I placed at the east of the garden of Eden, cherubim, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life



Genesis 4:4 And Adam called upon the name of the Lord, and Eve also, his wife; and they heard the voice of the Lord, from the way towards the garden of Eden, speaking unto them, and they saw him not; for they were shut out from his presence.

5 **And he gave unto them commandments, that they should worship the Lord their God; and should offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering unto the Lord.**

6 And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days, **an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam**, saying, Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him, I know not, save the Lord commanded me.

7 And then the angel spake, saying, **This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth;**
8 **Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest, in the name of the Son. And thou shalt repent, and call upon God, in the name of the Son for evermore.**

9 And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will.



Adam Understood the Plan of Redemption Even That Jesus Would Come to Be a Sacrifice, Hence Adam Was Baptized by Water and the Spirit, Symbolic of Christ's Death & Resurrection

Genesis 6:58 And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves.

59 And I have given unto you another law and commandment; wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God.

60 For no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name; and the name of his Only Begotten is the son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time.....

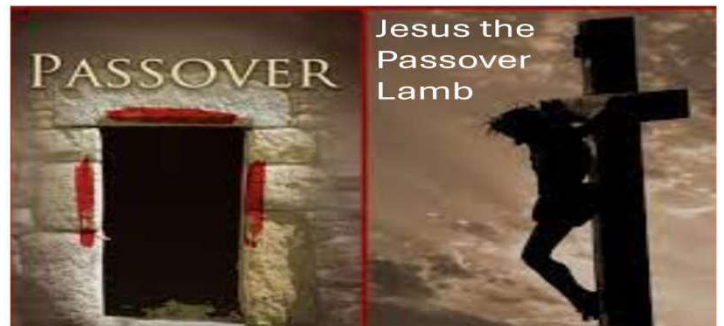


The Scarlet Thread Runs All Through the Scriptures

- The ram that took Isaac's place on the altar of Moriah,
- The Passover lamb,
- The institution of the sacrificial system,
- The scarlet rope of Rahab,
- The Garments of the High Priests



FROM THE BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET
YARN THEY MADE SPECIALLY WOVEN
GARMENTS FOR MINISTRY IN THE
SANCTUARY, AS WELL AS THE HOLY
GARMENTS FOR AARON, JUST AS THE
LORD HAD COMMANDED MOSES.
- EXODUS 39:1



The scarlet thread runs all the way up to John the Baptist's declaration, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) and to the foot of the cross where Jesus says, "It is finished" (John 19:30)

Alma 5:17 But behold, the Spirit hath said this much unto me, saying: Cry unto this people, saying, Repent ye, repent ye and prepare the way of the Lord, and walk in his paths, which are straight:

18 For behold, the kingdom of heaven is at hand,
and the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth.

19 And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed, and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God;

20 And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind;

21 And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith, **He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people:**

22 And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities. 23 Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh, that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me.



Mary Became a Part of God's Great Plan of Redemption

Mosiah 1:97 For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity

to all eternity, **shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay**



102 And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary.



Mary Put Her Life on the Line

Luke 1: 28 And the angel came in unto her and said, Hail, thou virgin, who art highly favored of the Lord. The Lord is with thee, for thou art chosen and blessed among women.

29 And when she saw the angel, she was troubled at his saying, and pondered in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God.

31 And behold, thou shalt conceive, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David;

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel; How can this be?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, Of the Holy Ghost, and the power of the Highest. Therefore also, that holy child that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son, in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her who is called barren.

37 For with God nothing can be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmade of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary Lived in Nazareth

Nazareth was located on a hill in lower Galilee overlooking the fertile Jezreel Valley, 65 miles (105 km) north of Jerusalem. Archaeology indicates that first-century Nazareth was more like a village than a city or even a town, with an estimated population of around 400–500.

Most of the people who lived in Galilee struggled to survive by tending livestock, and working the land just to put food on the table for their families and to pay their taxes. No mosaics or fancy marble were found in the ruins in this area.

The first-century houses that have been excavated appear to be modest one-story abodes with two rooms, a thatched roof, and a small courtyard..



Described By = Gaye Strathearn
Associate Professor of Ancient Scripture, Brigham Young University

Mary was a peasant girl living in a rural village, far from the religious center of Jerusalem—with its temple, priestly aristocracy, and wealth.

Even as a young girl, she would have worked beside her mother and the other women of the village, weaving cloth, cooking, gathering firewood, collecting water from the household cisterns or village wells, and working in the fields—all to help her family survive from day to day. **But she was much more than that, on the inside she was a young woman of great faith.**

Mary's Story is = The Cost of Discipleship

Mary's story is a timeless reminder of the costs and blessings of discipleship..... the early Christian church gave Mary the title of *theotokos*, the **"bearer or mother of God"**² as a reminder of the important part that she also plays in the Father's plan.....With her impending wedding, Mary had probably thought about the possibility of having children in the future, but would Mary have ever thought that she, a peasant young woman from Nazareth, would be the mother of the Messiah? Probably not. **The point is, that calls of discipleship, often require alterations to our personal life plans.**

She was from the house of David (*see Luke 1:32; Romans 1:3), but that meant little under the Roman occupation. **After all, she was just a young woman from a peasant family, living in an insignificant village.** As Nathaniel would later ask, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46).

A Disciple's Willingness

Mary's response in the story epitomizes, in my mind, the commitment and outlook of a disciple: **"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word"** (Luke 1:38). "Handmaid" indicates that Mary has chosen to accept the call that God has extended to her.

This statement is Mary's version of what her Son will say in Gethsemane, **"not my will, but thine, be done"** (Luke 22:42). It seems clear that at this point in her journey, she cannot possibly understand all that will be required of her

God has always asked His covenant children to do difficult things. Mary was no exception, and neither are we. Our challenge is to have the faith to submit our will to His, to accept His calls with faith that His Spirit will magnify us in His service."



The Cost of Discipleship

Esther was willing to die

Mary was Willing to die

Lucy Mack Smith was willing to die

Oswald Chambers: **"At the back of it there lies the central citadel of obstinacy, I will not give up my right to myself- the very thing God intends you to give up if ever, you are going to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."**



Dietrich Bonhoeffer: **"When Christ calls a man, He bids him to come and die."**



John MacArthur: **"Many people want a "no cost" discipleship but God offers no such option."**



Billy Graham: **" Salvation is free but discipleship will cost you everything you have."**



Corrie Ten Boon: **"The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration but its donation."**



Are You Willing to Bear the Cross

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 Therefore, settle this in your hearts, that ye will do the things which I shall teach, and command you.

29 For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have money to finish his work?

30 Lest, unhappily, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish his work, all who behold, begin to mock him,

31 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

And this he said, signifying there should not any man follow him, unless he was able to continue;



Nazareth= Branch or Shoot = * Isaiah 11:1

The name Nazareth likely originates from Hebrew and Aramaic roots. In Hebrew, it is often observed as “נצרת” (Natzrat), and in Aramaic, it appears as “ܢܨܪܬܐ” (Nasrath).

The meaning of the name is commonly interpreted as “branch” or “shoot.” It is connected to the Biblical prophecy in Isaiah 11:1, which speaks of a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, symbolizing hope and new beginnings. Thus, the name Nazareth can be seen as embodying the themes of growth, renewal, and divine promise.

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod (or a shoot) out of the stem (or stump) of Jesse, and a Branch (or a descendant) shall grow out of his roots (* Prophecy Fulfilled)

Deeper Understanding in Hebrew = A shoot (*hōṭēr*) shall come forth (*yāṣā'*) out from the stump (*mīgēza'*) of Jesse (*Yīshāy*), and a branch (*vēnēṣēr*) shall grow out of (*yīpērah*) his roots (*mīshārāshāv*).[15]

Strong's = Branch = 5342 = Descendant

Mary's & Joseph's Linage = * Was of the House of David

David's Origin: David, son of Jesse, was from Bethlehem in the tribe of Judah. His ancestry traces back to Judah, the fourth son of Jacob, fulfilling the prophecy that the scepter (royal authority) would come from Judah (*Genesis 49:10).

Davidic Covenant: God promised David that his house, kingdom, and throne would be established forever (*2 Samuel 7:12–16). This covenant became the foundation for the Jewish expectation of a Messiah—a future ruler from David's line who would bring justice and peace (*Isaiah 9:6–7; Jeremiah *23:5–6).

- **Matthew's Genealogy (Legal Line through Joseph)**
- **Starts with Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah**
- **Continues through David → Solomon → Rehoboam → ... → Joseph, the husband of Mary.**
- **This shows Jesus' legal right to David's throne through His adoptive father Joseph.**
- **Luke's Genealogy (Biological Line through Mary)**
- **Traces back from Jesus through David → Nathan (another son of David) → all the way to Adam.**
- **This emphasizes Jesus' bloodline connection to David through His mother Mary.**

We are Sons and Daughters of the King of Kings

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God; only to them who believe on his name.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption; whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be named with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We Are the Sons and Daughters of God

When we know/remember that we are a child of God it brings us a sense of identity and purpose. It gives us peace, hope, and courage in the face of adversity. It allows us to claim the promises of God as our own for God is our Heavenly Father and our heritage comes from Him.

We enter into His family through faith, belief, repentance, baptism and obedience. It is a life long commitment and at times requires sacrifices on our part but as Paul says the glories ahead are worth the sacrifice.



Remember Who You Are



"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

"So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir." Galatians 4:7

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:7

More Ruins at Nazareth looking Over the Jezreel Valley



Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39 And in those days, Mary went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda,

40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb.

42 And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, and she spake out with a loud voice and said,

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And why is it, that this blessing is upon me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

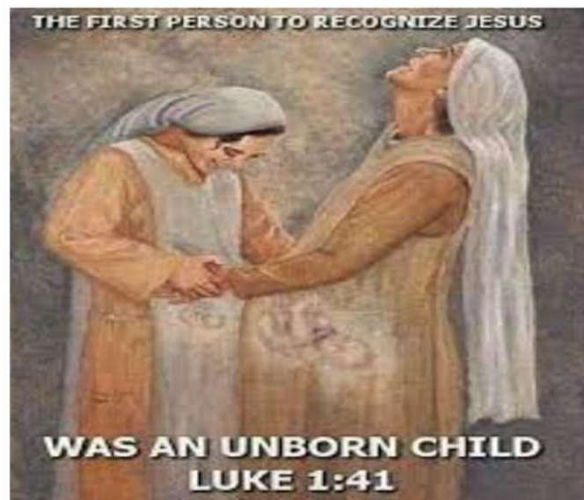
44 And blessed art thou who believed, for those things which were told thee by the angel of the Lord, shall be fulfilled.



The First Person to Recognize Jesus was an Unborn Child

• **Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb.**

• **Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations**



Luke 1:

45 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 46 And my spirit rejoiceth in God my Savior. 47 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 48 For he who is mighty hath done to me great things; and I will magnify his holy name, 49 For his mercy on those who fear him from generation to generation. 50 He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 51 He hath put down the mighty from their high seats; and exalted them of low degree. 52 He hath filled the hungry with good things; but the rich he hath sent empty away. 53 He hath helped his servant Israel in remembrance of mercy, 54 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever. 55 And Mary abode with Elizabeth about three months, and returned to her own house.

Mary and Elizabeth Cousins and Mothers Together

- **Luke 1:7 Elizabeth was barren and they were both well stricken in years.....**
- **13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard, and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.**
- **14 Thou shalt have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth.....**
- **17 And he shall go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**



Next, We Look at Joseph =
He Was Part of the Plan

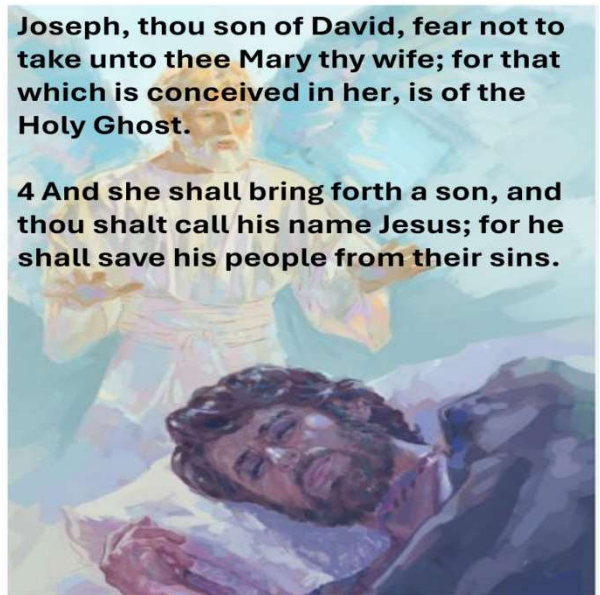
Matthew 2:1 Now, as it is written, the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise. After his mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

2 Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

3 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a vision, saying,

Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost.

4 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.



Going to Bethlehem Fulfilled Prophecy

***Micah 5:2** But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, **yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**

***Matthew 3:5** And they said unto him, It is written by the prophets, that he should be born in Bethlehem of Judea, for thus have they said **6 The word of the Lord came unto us, saying, And thou Bethlehem, which lieth in the land of Judea, in thee shall be born a prince, which art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come the Messiah, who shall save my people Israel.**

***Luke 2:1** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all his empire should be taxed. 2 This same taxing was when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

3 And all went to be taxed, every one in his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David,)

5 To be taxed, with Mary his espoused wife, she being great with child



Jesus, the Son of God, Born in a Stable and Laid in a Manger

Mosiah 8:28 And now Abinadi said unto them, I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people



Luke 2:6 And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was none to give room for them in the inns.

I'm sure this was not how Mary envisioned giving birth. If still in Nazareth she would have had her mother and a mid-wife to attend her. She must have wondered what God was doing; but being born in the stable, a humble and lowly birth is symbolic that Jesus came for all men, even the lowliest of mankind.

It signifies God's intimate involvement with His creation and the great love He has for each one of us no matter our standing in society, we are all precious to Him. Although Jesus was born to be the King of Kings, He chose to come into the world in a lowly stable, showing what kind of King He would be—one who values love, service and sacrifice above all. One who would humble Himself to wash His disciple's feet.

Born in a Stable Called “Tower of the Flock”

A passage in the Mishnah verifies the conclusion that the flocks of sheep in Bethlehem were destined for Temple sacrifices.

In Bethlehem the area was known for providing sacrificial lambs for Jerusalem and the Passover.

Sacrificial lambs were placed in a stone manger to protect them.

Migdal Eder, translated “*Tower of the Flock*” (Micah 4:8), was a look-out post located just north of Bethlehem, the city of David.

What made the tower special was that the bottom portion was used as the sheep care stable that served as a manger where Jerusalem’s sacrificial lambs were birthed and inspected.



Symbolized in the Manger =



The place “Migdal Eder” first appears in Genesis 35:21 where Jacob buried Rachel after she gave birth to Benjamin. In its earliest days, the tower of Migdal Eder was a military structure **but in the time of Jesus it had become the Tower of the Flock where the Levitical shepherds would inspect the sacrificial lambs.**

And those swaddling clothes? Why, they were for the lambs to protect them from getting bruised so they could be sacrificed ‘without spot’ according to the law.

**Jesus is the lamb
‘without spot and blemish’
Peter 1:19).**



Three Things to Consider

1. The angels came to the shepherds who had a specialized skill set, **shepherds who were trained in inspecting the sacrificial lambs in the stone manger of Migdal Eder.**

2. Have you ever wondered how the shepherds knew where to go? When the angel said **“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in manger”**
The shepherds knew exactly where to go to find the baby Jesus.



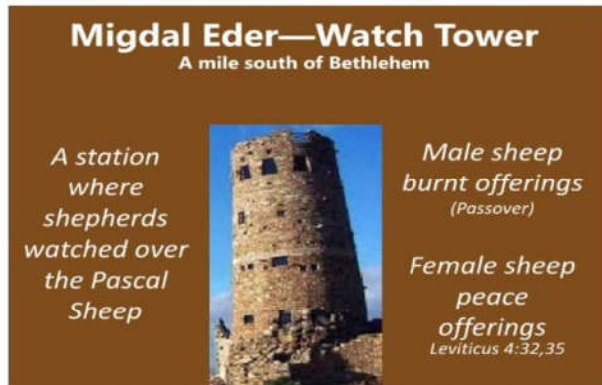
3. **“The name of the LORD is a strong tower, the righteous run into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 18:10**

When the Bible tells us that the ‘name of the Lord is a ‘strong tower’, it’s the same word ‘Migdal Oz’, as where Jesus was born.

The Mishnah tells us during Passover; thousands of lambs were brought in from the fields by shepherds from the Tower of the Flock **(from Bethlehem)** through the Sheep Gate to be sacrificed by the Levitical priests on the alter at the Temple.

The first-century Jewish historian Josephus records that during one Passover in Jerusalem, about 256,500 lambs were sacrificed, each lamb representing a group of worshippers (often 10–20 people).

Migdal Eder



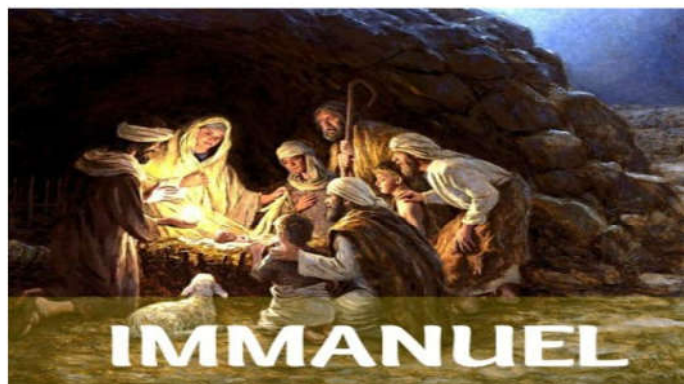
For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Messiah. **A lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19)**

Shepherds Abiding in a Field

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Luke 2:15-18

The Son of God was born and wrapped in swaddling clothes just like the lambs, and placed in the stone manger **to be presented for inspection by the Levitical shepherds. That's why the angel of the Lord called shepherds, to inspect the baby Jesus according to the Law of Moses.**



Luke 2:

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen, **they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.** **18** All they who heard it, wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds; **19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.** **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, as they were manifested unto them.

God Sent Another Verification that Jesus Was the Messiah

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus; which was so named of the angel, before he was conceived.

22 And when the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished; they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

23 As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male which openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;

24 And to offer a sacrifice according

to that which is written in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.



Luke 2: 25 And behold, there was a man at Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child, even Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel . . .

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 Yea, a spear shall pierce through him to the wounding of thine own soul also; that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, and had lived with a husband only seven years, whom she married in her youth,

37 And she lived a widow about fourscore and four years, who departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers, night and day.

38 And she, coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him, to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Anna Recognized Jesus as the Messiah



Matthew 3:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
2 Saying, **Where is the child that is born, the Messiah of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.**

3 When Herod the king had heard of the child, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests, and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them, saying, Where is the place that is written of by the prophets, in which Christ should be born? For he greatly feared, yet he believed not the prophets.

5 *And they said unto him, It is written by the prophets, **that he should be born in Bethlehem of Judea, for thus have they said,**

6 The word of the Lord came unto us, saying, And thou Bethlehem, which lieth in the land of Judea, in thee shall be born a prince, which art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come the Messiah, who shall save my people Israel.

The Wise Men

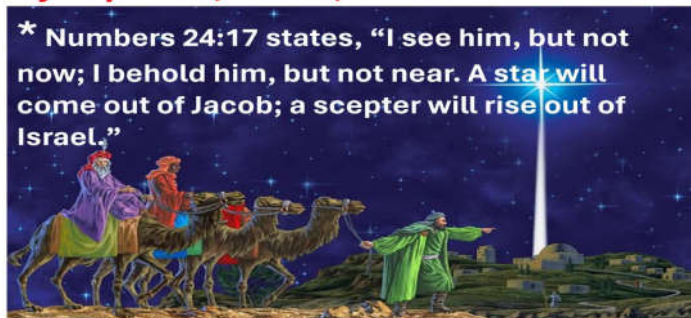
7 Then Herod, when he had called the wise men privily, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found the child, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 **When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was.**

10 **When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.**

* Numbers 24:17 states, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel."



The Wise Men Arrive

Matthew 3:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 **And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.**



Jesus Was Not a New Born Baby When the Wise Men Came

The Bible uses the Greek word *brephos* when referring to Jesus in Luke 2:12, 16 (the night He was born). *Brephos* means either a newborn or a preborn baby. In Matthew 2:8-9, 11, 13-14, 20-21, when the wise men visit, the word *paidion* is used for Jesus, which means a small child. It can mean an infant, but generally not a newborn.

Herod had asked the wise men when they first saw the star—he ordered his men to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem *two years of age or younger*, based on the time the wise men had given him.

Thus, we can conclude that Jesus was between the age of three months at the earliest and two years at the latest when the Magi came.

Fleeing to Egypt = The Battle Continues on the Earth

Matthew 3:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord, appeared to Joseph in a vision, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and tarry thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Matthew 3:14 And then he arose, and took the young child, and the child's mother, by night, and departed into Egypt; *15 And was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord, by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son.

*Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Map to Bethlehem and into Egypt and Back



Just as Satan Sought to Destroy Jesus and the Children in Bethlehem, He seeks to Destroy Our Children today

We Are Living in Times When Satan is Seeking to Destroy Our Nation, Our Church, Our Families, Our Children and Everything Good

Helaman 5:137 And they were much disturbed, **for Satan did stir them up to do iniquity continually; yea, he did go about, spreading rumors and contentions upon all the face of the land,** that he might harden the hearts of the people against that which was good, and against that which should come.

3 Nephi 1:40 **And thus did Satan get possession of the hearts of the people again, insomuch that he did blind their eyes, and lead them away to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a foolish and a vain thing.** 41 And it came to pass that the people began to wax strong in wickedness and abominations.

Revelation 12:12 **And after these things I heard another voice saying, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, yea, and they who dwell upon the islands of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

Satan Still Seeks to Destroy Our Children

NBC News = Research from the journal JAMA Pediatrics tells us that:

“Children in the U.S. are dying at higher rates than in other wealthy, developed countries”..... Dr. Steven Woolf, one of the researchers, said “The chances of a child surviving to age 20 are now decreasing.....

Woolf pointed to four factors that may explain the gap: firearms, suicide, drugs and car accidents.” In addition, the CDC reported = drug overdose and poisoning increased by 83.6% from 2019 to 2020 among children and adolescents, becoming the third leading cause of death in that age group.

On high mortality for children under 1 year old Woolf said “Another is that the homicide rate for U.S. infants is relatively high compared to peer countries like England or Canada. Babies under 1 year old accounted for more than half of the excess deaths.”

Woolf said, “ such deaths are often associated with abuse or neglect, including cases of “what was once called shaken baby syndrome, where children are violently shaken or disciplined and the impact is fatal.”

We Need to Be Knowledgeable and Wise

John Hopkins = **Suicide is the third leading cause of death in young people. For youth ages 10 to 14, suicide is the second leading cause of death. The CDC reports that: Youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 years are at risk.**

Boys are 4 times more likely to die from suicide than girls.

Girls are more likely to attempt suicide than boys.

Guns are used in more than half of all youth suicides.

National Library of Medicine = **An independent direct association was found between heavy social media/internet use and increased suicide attempts in seven studies**

American Child and Adolescent Psychiatry = **Children and adolescents spend a lot of time watching screens, including smartphones, tablets, gaming consoles, TVs, and computers. On average, children age 8-18 in the United States spend 7 1/2 hours a day watching or using screens. They Recommend = Until 18 months of age limit screen use to video chatting.**

American Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Cont.

Between 18- and 24-months screen time should be limited to watching educational programming with a caregiver.

For children 2-5, limit non-educational screen time to about 1 hour per weekday and 3 hours on the weekend days.

For ages 6 and older, encourage healthy habits and limit activities that include screens.

Turn off all screens during family meals and outings.

Learn about and use parental controls.

Avoid using screens as pacifiers, babysitters, or to stop tantrums.

Turn off screens and remove them from bedrooms 30-60 minutes before bedtime.



Let Us Watch and Be Sober

1 Thessalonians 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.....

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil



We must be vigilant over our children!

That statement “watch and be sober” = to be like a soldier on watch, not asleep but alert and on the job, and of course, praying without ceasing.

**It’s not just our children but we must be very careful ourselves what we watch & how much screen time we partake of
Satan is happy if we are wasting our time,
and become addicted to screen time.**

Stay Alert and Sober the Battle Continues Today

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

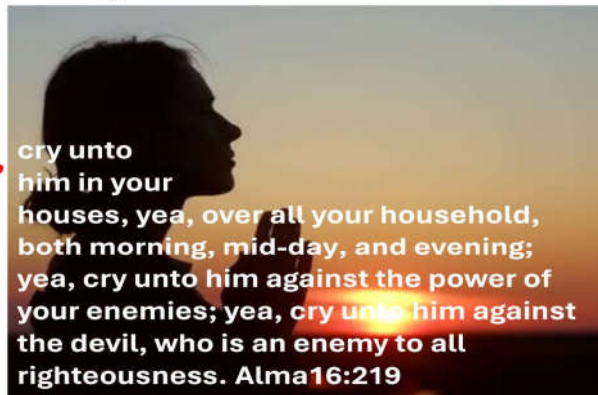
13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.....**After you get your armor on how do you go to war ????????**

18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints**

Alma Called us to Battle in Prayer

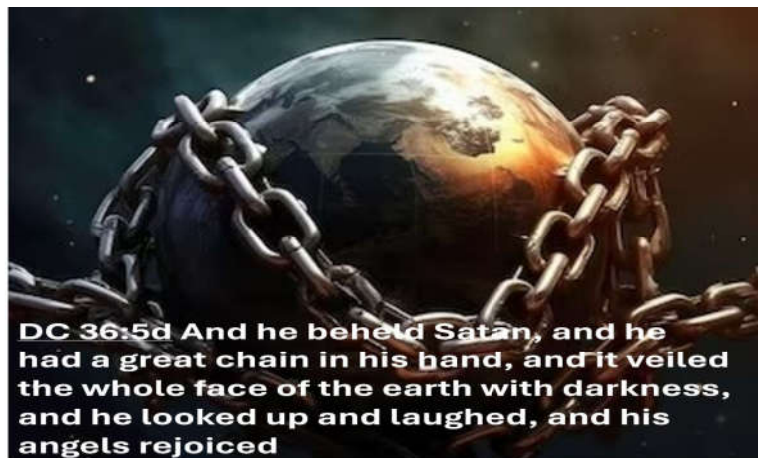
Alma 10:28 But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and **watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear**, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord

Alma 16:238 I also **exhort you my brethren, that ye be watchful unto prayer continually, that ye may not be led away by the temptation of the devil, that he may not overpower you, that ye may not become his subjects at the last day: for behold, he rewardeth you no good thing.**



We Live in a War Zone

DC 3:1e but be diligent unto the end; **pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan, that do uphold his work.**



Prayer and Praise is Key in Our Spiritual Battles

Sec. 22:13 And it came to pass, that Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell; nevertheless, calling upon God he received strength, and he commanded, saying, Depart hence, Satan; **for this one God only will I worship, which is the God of glory.** (note the declaration to Worship God and then Praise of God taking place here)

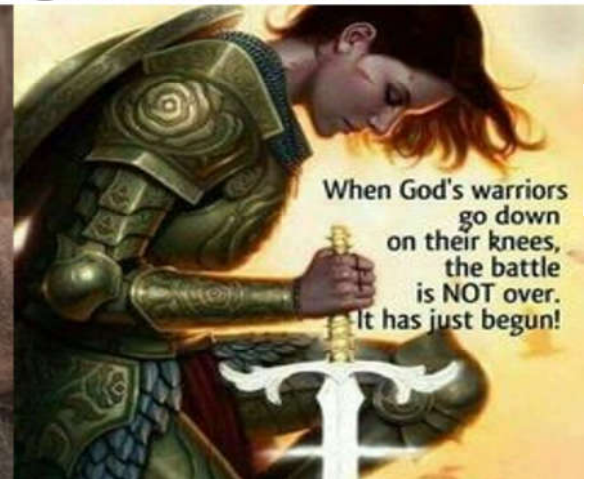
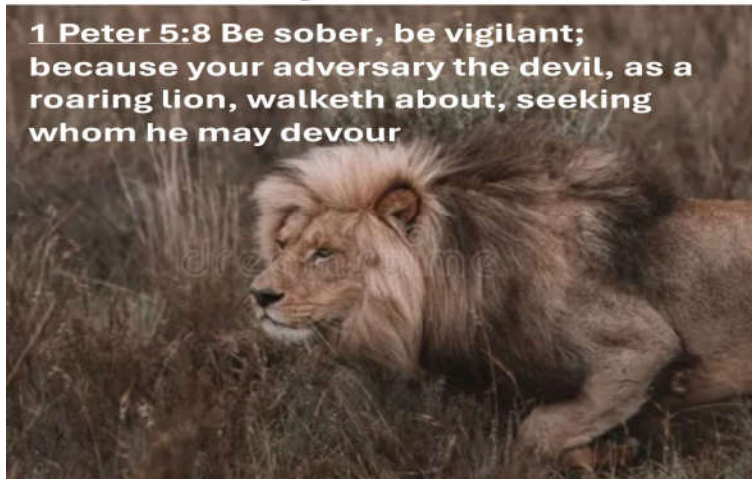
14 And now, Satan began to tremble, and the earth shook, **and Moses received strength and called upon God in the name of the Only Begotten, saying to Satan, Depart hence.** (Moses received strength as He Prayed, Worshiped and Praised God and Satan departed)

15 And it came to pass, **that Satan cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and departed hence; yea, from the presence of Moses, that he beheld him not.**

Prayer and Praise Send Satan Running Away

Prayer is Where You Fight the Battle

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour



Let Us Become Mighty Prayer Warriors Mighty in Prayer and Mighty in Action

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded**



Be the kind of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning, the devil says: "Oh no! She's up!"

Ephesians 6:10-11; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Psalm 44:3-5; Psalm 143:2-3; Psalm 3:3



The Return to Nazareth

Matthew 3:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a vision to Joseph in Egypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for they are dead who sought the young child's life.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea, in the stead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither; but notwithstanding, being warned of God in a vision, he went into the eastern part of Galilee;

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene. Also, *Hosea 11:1 Out of Egypt I have called my son

Jesus As a Boy

Matthew 3:24 And it came to pass that Jesus grew up with his brethren, and waxed strong, and waited upon the Lord for the time of his ministry to come. **25** And he served under his father, and he spake not as other men, neither could he be taught; for he needed not that any man should teach him.

Jesus in the Temple at 12 Years Old

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. **41** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem, after the custom, to the feast. **43** And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind, in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not that he tarried; **44** But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among his kindred and acquaintance, **45** And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. **46** And it came to pass, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, and they were hearing him, and asking him questions. **47** And all who heard him were astonished at his understanding, and answers. **48** And when his parents saw him, they were amazed; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. **49** And he said unto them, Why is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not that I must be about my Father's business? **50** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. **51** And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. And his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Mary scolds Jesus and Jesus' point to the fact that, as God's Son, he must tend to his Father's affairs, not those of his human parents. Although He was obedient to His parent's, I wonder if here in the wisdom given to him, he is attempting to prepare them for the future.

Even after all things they had experienced, they still did not comprehend completely Jesus' mission or understand the plan and purpose of God for Him, yet they had faith, which accepted what it could not understand, and waited patiently for clarity, but Mary did ponder on the things that had taken place.

Are not we the same today? We get certain concepts set in our minds and we fail to see beyond our own plan and purpose.

We too must have the faith to wait it out and see what God will yet do.

First Miracle = Water into Wine John 2:1-10

Water Into Wine = Transformation

- **Rabbit Sobel** = The miracle of turning water into wine was a miracle of blessing, abundance, and transformation. God transformed something ordinary into something extraordinary, just as He does with us when He touches our lives and transforms us into new creations. We are turned from water into wine. The old passes away, and the new comes

Jesus takes the ordinary and turns it into something extraordinary, because He wants you to live out of His overflow (He turned water into wine).

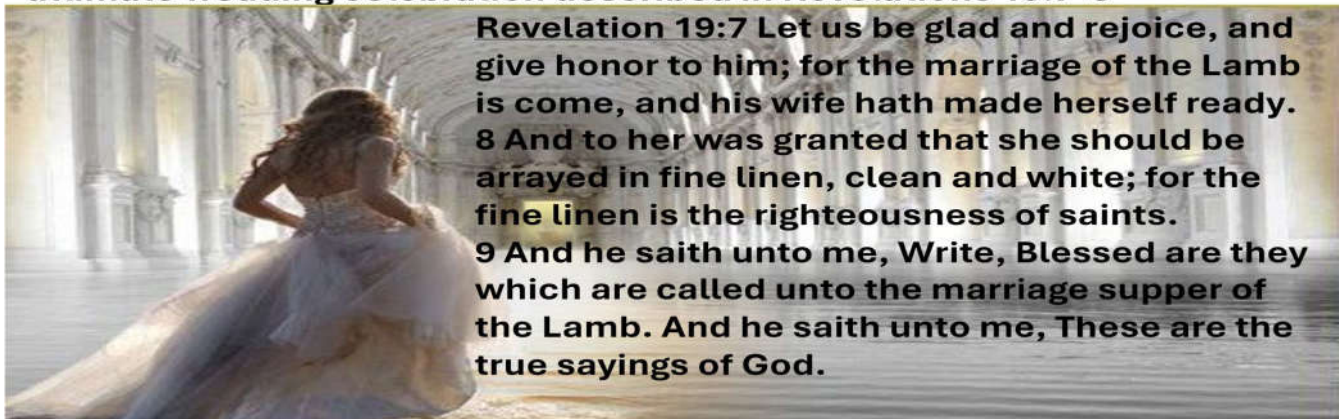
Jesus wants to renew you so that He can do something new in you (He revealed to Nicodemus the miracle of rebirth).

You can stop wandering aimlessly or feeling stuck in your current situation, but instead experience abundant life and healing (He healed the man at the Pool of Bethesda).

God wants to bless you abundantly so you, in turn, can bless others and sow into His kingdom (Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish).

Why a Wedding

Jesus could not forget the events that were yet in the future. He was undoubtedly thinking of them when He performed His first miracle at a wedding feast. I think He was giving us a short preview of the ultimate wedding celebration described in Revelations 19:7-5



Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Family and Jesus

Matthew 12:40 And while he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

41 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

42 But he answered and said unto the man that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?**

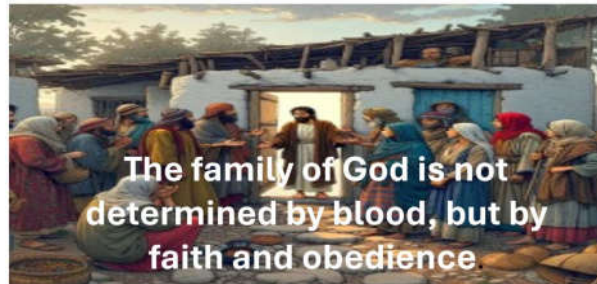
43 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!**

44 And he gave them charge concerning her, saying, I go my way, for my Father hath sent me.

And whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

He clarified by pointing at his disciples and saying "For whosoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Jesus is pointing out here that as wonderful as the family relationships are, and a blessing, the most important relationship we have is with our Lord and Savior.

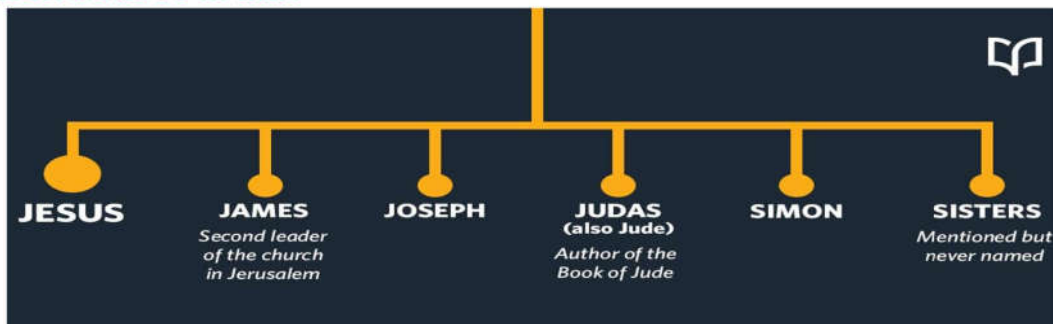


Family of Joseph and Mary = Jesus's Siblings

Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him."

John 2:12 "After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days."

John 7:3 "So his brothers said to him, 'Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.'.....5 For neither did his brethren believe in him"



Mary at the Cross

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!**

27 Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.**



The Crucifixion

**Jesus Last words
Matthew 27:54
It is finished thy
will is done**



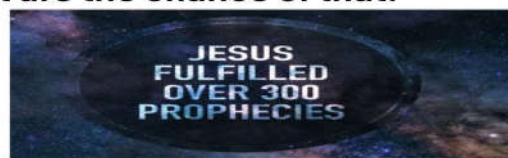
Jesus's Birth Life and Death Fulfilled More than 300 Prophecies

Josh McDowell in "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" quotes Peter Stoner in "Science Speaks" saying: the probability of one person fulfilling only 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That very large number is stated as one hundred thousand trillion.

A staggering number. Stoner illustrates: If you took silver dollars and laid them across the state of Texas two feet deep. Now mark one of them and stir up all the silver dollars across the state.

Blindfold one man and he can travel anywhere in the state and bend over and pick up the marked silver dollar, what are the chance of that.

That is the same chance the prophets had in writing just 8 of the 300 prophecies and getting them correct.



Prophecy Fulfilled

Concerning the crucifixion it was not yet known anywhere in the world when the Old Testament Prophets described the crucifixion of Christ

Isaiah 53:9 *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sinMatt.27:28-33

Zechariah 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.....John 19:34

Ps. 34:20 * A bone shall not be broken.....John 19:33

Psalms 22:1 *My God, why hast thou forsaken me? My God, hear the words of my roaring; thou art far from helping me God, hear the words of my roaring; thou art far from helping me.....Matt.27:50

Psalms 22:15 *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws.....John 19:28

Psalms 22:16 *For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.....Mat. 27:47
Luke 23:33, 24:39,

Psalms 22:18 *They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture..... Luke 23:34

Ps. 69:21 *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.....John 19:30

Jesus Christ was the Passover Lamb of God and it is illustrated in the daily sacrifice known as a “continual burnt offering” that took place twice a day: at 9:00am, (known as the Tamid), and at 3:00pm (also known as “the Evening Sacrifice”). During these times an unblemished male lamb was sacrificed and bread and wine was offered. (This is dictated in Numbers 28:1-8 and in Exodus 29:38-42.)

Luke 23:44-45 *Now it was about the sixth hour (noon), and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened...(Three O'clock)*

Jesus was crucified on the day of Passover. At 9:00 that morning as the lambs were being prepared for sacrifice, Jesus was nailed to the cross Mark 15:25. Then at 3 O' Clock when the lambs are slaughtered Jesus died. Rather Passover or not, they offered prayers every day and prayed what they called the "*Eighteen Benedictions*" between 9am & 3pm

1. *The 6th Benediction:* According to Jewish tradition, at 9am and 3pm, **the Jews in the Temple would have been praying for the forgiveness of sins:** "Forgive us, O our Father, for we have sinned; pardon us, O our King, for we have transgressed; for you pardon and forgive. Blessed are you, O Lord, who is merciful and always ready to forgive."

2. *The 7th Benediction:* **the Jews in the Temple would have been praying for redemption:** "Look upon our affliction and plead our cause, and redeem us speedily for your name's sake, for you are a mighty redeemer. Blessed are you, O Lord, the redeemer of Israel."

3. *The 15th Benediction:* **the Jews in the Temple would have been praying for the coming of the Messiah:** "Speedily cause the offspring of your servant David to flourish, and let him be exalted by your saving power, for we wait all day long for your salvation. Blessed are you, O Lord, who causes salvation to flourish."

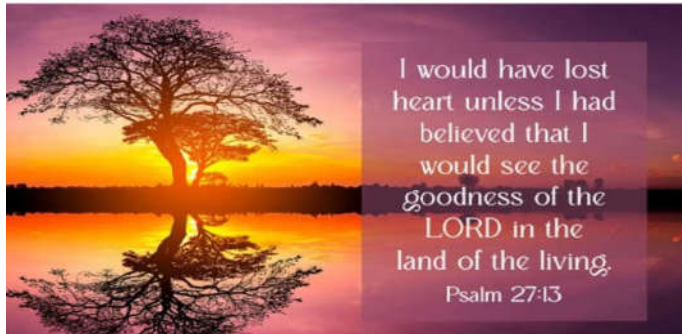
4. *The 2nd Benediction:* **the Jews in the Temple would have been praying for the resurrection of the dead:** "You, O Lord, are mighty forever, you revive the dead, you have the power to save. You sustain the living with loving kindness, you revive the dead with great mercy, you support the falling, heal the sick, set free the bound and keep faith with those who sleep in the dust... Who resembles you, a king who puts to death and restores to life, and causes salvation to flourish? And you are certain to revive the dead. Blessed are you, O Lord, who revives the dead."

It was a Horrible and Dark Day for the Followers of Jesus



Wait On God

Are you in a dark time, have you lost hope? The scriptures tell us to hope, not to despair, but wait and see what God will do. A new day is coming; God has a plan for you filled with His goodness and Blessings.

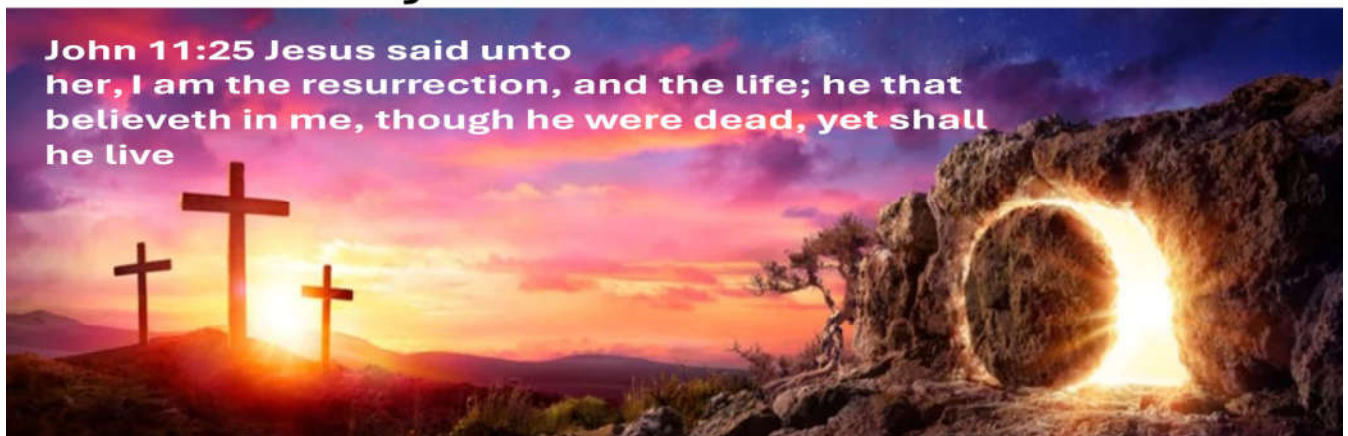


Psalms 27:13 thou wouldst deliver my soul into hell. **(This reflect God's deliverance from deep distress both physically and spiritually)**

14 Thou didst say unto me, Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart; wait, I say, on the Lord



A New Day Dawned for The Whole World



Victory Over Death

I Cor. 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave,



He is Not Here

Luke 24:3 And they entered into the sepulcher, and not finding the body of the Lord Jesus, they were much perplexed thereabout;

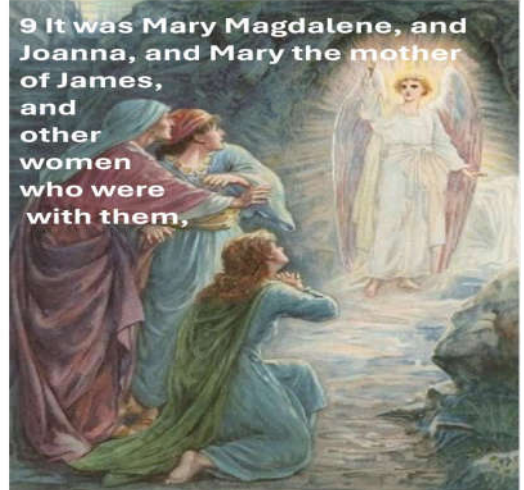
4 And were affrighted, and bowed down their faces to the earth. **But behold the angels said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?**

5 **He is not here, but is risen. Remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,**

6 **Saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?**

7 And they remembered his words,

8 And returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest



Luke 24:11 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher and went in, and he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves; and he departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Mark 16:8 Now when Jesus was risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils; **9** And she went and told them who had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

The Tomb Was Empty the Plan Was Completed

Alma 9:42 Now if it had not been for the plan of redemption, which was laid from the foundation of the world, there could have been no resurrection of the dead;

43 But there was a plan of redemption laid, which shall bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, of which has been spoken.



Victory Over Death

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25

***"But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."* Hebrews 10:12**

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15:55

Resurrected Jesus Was Seen By Many

Acts 1:3 To whom also he showed himself alive after his sufferings by many infallible proofs, **being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.....** 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon

9 And when he had spoken these things, **while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven**

1 Corinthians 15: 6 After that, he was seen of about five hundred brethren at once



Matthew 28:18 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost



Day of Pentecost

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, **they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother 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 brethren.**

Three Thousand Souls Were Saved That Very Day

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it rested upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is the End of Mary's Story But Not of Her Son and His Disciples



This is where our story of Mary ends. We do not hear anything else about her. But I am sure that she remained a fruitful worker in the Lord's vineyard all of her life. I could just hear her say, oh don't write about me, write about Jesus, it is him that people need to know about. Keep the focus on Jesus.

Elbert A Smith's Writing on Mary the Mother of Jesus

When Mary was crowded out so there was no place for her in human habitation, and she must needs lay herself down on the straw in the manger—and the Son of God, from the courts of glory, crept into her arms, He became her stewardship. She taught him—the One who should teach all men. When she took Him to the Temple to be blessed Simeon took Him from her arms and said, “Mary, because of him a sword shall pierce through thy very soul.**”**

Think you that during those forty days and forty nights when He wrestled Satan in the wilderness, Mary slept? And when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Twelve Apostles could not keep awake, not one hour to watch with Him, when they who had the stewardship of priesthood all slept; do you think Mary slept? And when she saw Him hanging on the cross...No, she did not have the stewardship of priesthood; **but the great High Priest of our profession...was a woman's stewardship.**

Mary Set A Example for All of Us Today

The Christmas Story centers around her. She is there at the cross, She is there at Pentecost. Elbert A is correct in saying she carried out a great stewardship.

Today we need to be reminded of our great stewardship as we look at our own lives. We to have a calling, we are called to give our all as Mary did.

In 1995 a message was given at the Montana reunion reminding women of their great responsibility. Jeff Van Bibber read this message in 2024 at the Stone Church, at the Elders Conference evening preaching.



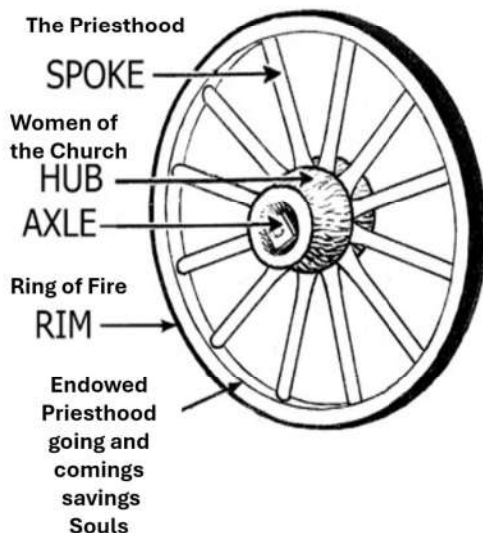
The Message: "The Lord would speak to His handmaidens this morning, He has looked deep into your hearts, and He knows the desire of your hearts. You are unable to comprehend the magnitude of your responsibilities. **He desires you be the "Mothers in Israel" and the "Daughters of Zion". He would liken His Kingdom to a wheel. In the center is the hub, the "Mothers of Israel" and the "Daughters of Zion" will be that hub.**

The spokes are the priesthood and if you are not there and faithful in your support of your companions the spokes will be broken, and the work will not be accomplished. **Recognize the responsibility He has placed upon you. Sanctify your lives and prepare yourselves to become the center of the great spiritual movement that is now being placed.....** and the rim of the hub will be that ring of fire that only the priesthood the endowed priesthood will be able to go out into the sinful world, under His power and protection and be able to pass to and from bringing those sanctified souls within this rim.

Accept this responsibility, pray and fast that you will be among His chosen handmaidens to be a part of the marvelous movement and your families shall be blessed and your children shall be blessed and great shall be your joy and great shall be your reward which even shall be eternal life with your Heavenly Father."

“The price of Zion is not trivial. It is no easy matter to overcome the weaknesses of our own nature—not a light thing to divest ourselves of self-interest and to truly walk in the steps of the Savior. WE get so concerned with material things, with comfort of body and mind, that we do not go out to find the ones who need us and the help we could offer. We fail to drive out the unlovely spirits of envy, pride, or faultfinding It is going to take the aroused interest of every church member in every latter-day saint home to purify his or her own little corner of the kingdom, beginning at the innermost core What price Zion? Indeed, a desirable thing is worth the price it costs; and if, in our self-examination, we find we have evaluated Zion too cheaply, let us awakeThe women of the church can—through humility, study and faithful effort—be given a vision of their part in the plan of God for saving His people in the latter days.”

The Mothers of Israel and The Daughters of Zion Are the Hub



You Are Called to Be the Hub = This has been true down through the ages.

Church History Vol.2 p. 571 – “A society has been formed by the ladies of Nauvoo for the relief of the poor, the destitute, the widow, and the orphan and for the exercise of all benevolent purposes.” Joseph said for each woman to: increase her faith and personal righteousness and save souls. They were to serve their community but never lose sight of their families and homes, teaching their children to pray and walk uprightly.

The Relief Society women were told by the Prophet: that the same organization existed in the ancient church. This was another example of God restoring things that had been lost. recorded in the minutes of the Relief Society by Eliza Snow

The Women of the Church Carry Great Responsibility

During the sixth meeting Joseph, the Prophet, addressed the group saying: **“That if they lived up to the principles upon which the Society was formed, the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates.”**

History of the Relief Society 1842-1966 p. 21

At the ninth meeting Joseph Smith again instructed the women by quoting Jesus **“Ye shall do the work which ye have seen me do.”** He then said, **“These were the grand key words for the Society to act upon.”** He also instructed that the society **“is not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls.”** p.22



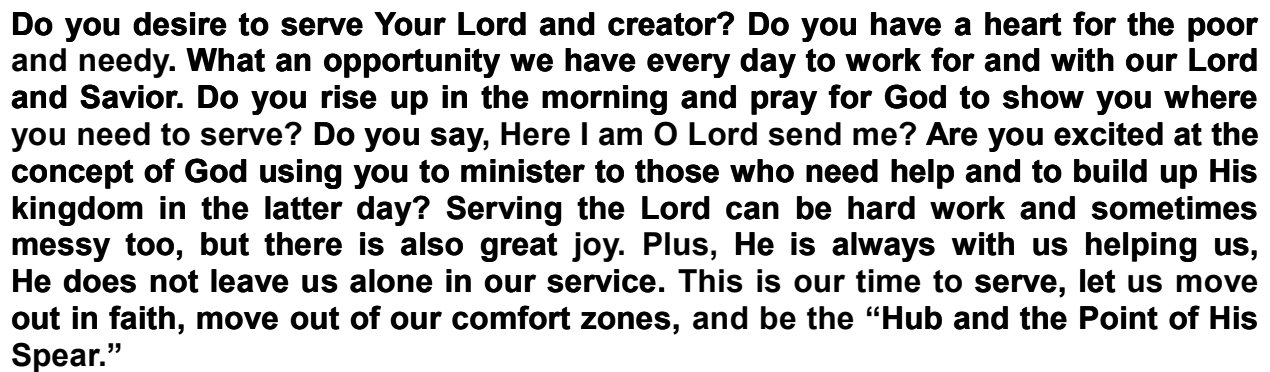
We Are Called to Become the Point of God's Spear

- Flash Card # 149
- Rise up and through
- Prayer, Fasting and Study
- Become the Point of God's Spear
- **A Military term meaning direct and lethal part of an attack. The leading edge, the point of contact in a military operation.**
- **It is the soldier who first enters the battle area. It is the forefront, the spearhead. God's Weapon**



Deborah
Mother in
Israel and
the Point of
God's Spear

Mosiah1:149 when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of Your God.

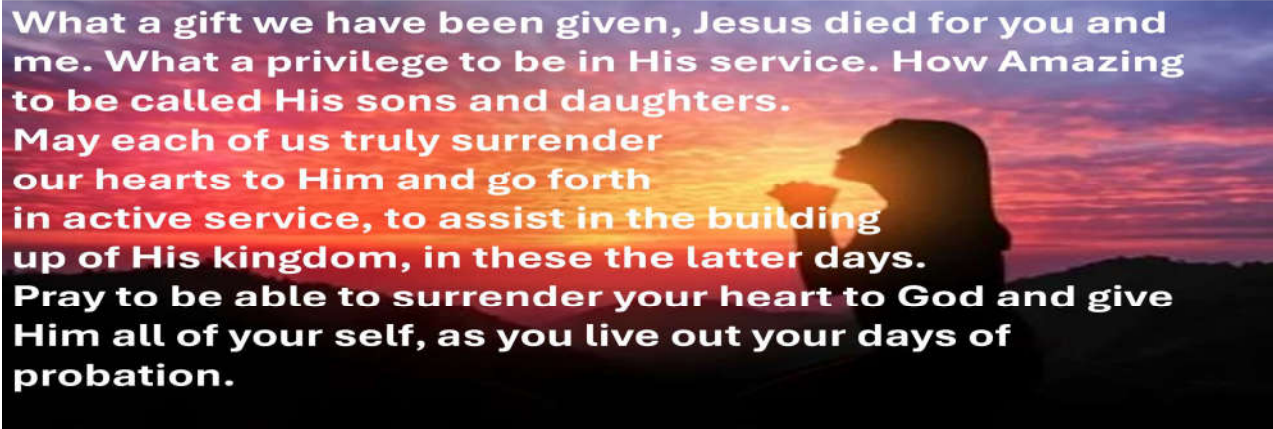


Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmade of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her

**And whatsoever ye do
in word or deed,
do all in the name of
the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God and
the Father
by Him.**

Colossians 3:17

Victory Starts in Prayer



What a gift we have been given, Jesus died for you and me. What a privilege to be in His service. How Amazing to be called His sons and daughters. May each of us truly surrender our hearts to Him and go forth in active service, to assist in the building up of His kingdom, in these the latter days. Pray to be able to surrender your heart to God and give Him all of your self, as you live out your days of probation.

Are We Ready to Sacrifice All for Christ

DC 64:5a Behold, now it is called today (until the coming of the Son of man), and verily **it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people; for he that is tithed shall not be burned (at his coming); for after to day cometh the burning: this is speaking after the manner of the Lord**

DC 130:7d and both in private and in public expenditure carry into active exercise **the principle of sacrifice and repression of unnecessary wants**

DC 59:2e **Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit**. 2f And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day; for verily this is a day appointed unto thee to rest from thy labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High;

2g nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days, and at all times

Mary Surrendered All = Are You Ready to Surrender All For Jesus

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust him, In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me Jesus take me now.

**I surrender all, I surrender all
all to thee my blessed Master,
I surrender all**

**Alma 13:53 I will give away all
my sins to know thee,**

He Died for Us, Let Us Make the Commitment to Live for Him

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill faraway stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, the old rugged cross so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear lamb of God left His glory above, To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true. Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share.

So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it someday for a crown.