

Our Mother - Heavenly Jerusalem

©2025 Mike Whyte

Copyright Notice: this document may be used freely for personal study, preaching, and teaching.

No part of it may be used under any circumstances for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage.

The **Christian Calling** brings a person into a **Family Relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ our brother**. The **New Testament Church** was created as a “**Mother**” to protect the children as we grow. The “Mother” is metaphorically identified as “**Heavenly Jerusalem**” (Gl4:26, Hb12:22-23a). **Abraham** is designated the “Father of the Faithful”. He is the “**spiritual progenitor**” of all human beings who will be **granted the gift of eternal life** (Hb11:8,10). It is only through the New Testament Church, the City of the God, Heavenly Jerusalem, that Christians can attain salvation (Is60:14b,16b,18b).

The Mother of All and God the Father: From the beginning, God made clear that the purpose of human life was all about “family” (Gn3:20). The metaphor of “motherhood” in relation to the New Testament Church is exemplified in the lives of **Hannah and Mary**. The “**Church**” as a “**mother**” defines **a safe place for Christians to “grow up”**, “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” (Rm8:29, Pp4:3b). The concept of “**The God Family**” is emphasized by Jesus as a fundamental purpose of his coming (Lk10:21-24, Eph3:11,14-15).

Abraham – the Father of the Faithful: The **second promise to Abraham** specifically looks to the Messiah, the establishment of the Church, and the work of the Church to bring salvation to humanity (Gn12:2b-3, 15:5, 17:4). The “**blessing**” is the Messiah: the First Advent made propitiation of sin possible; the Second Advent will complete the blessing by bringing salvation to all humanity. Descendants as the “**number of stars**” include **all True Worshippers**. Abraham is the “spiritual father” of all True Worshippers. The “**multitude of nations**” began with the Gentiles receiving the Gospel and will extend to **each and every person in all nations over the whole world** (Rm4:9b,11b,13,16-17a, Gl3:6-9,14,16,26,29, Is49:5-6, At13:46-47, Lk2:30-32).

Spiritual Israel: The New Testament is clear and specific that **physical descent is irrelevant for Salvation** – the physical nation of Israel has been superseded by the **New Testament Church**, “**spiritual Israel**” (Rm2:29, 9:6-8, Cl3:11, Gl5:6, 6:15-16, Pp3:3). The **Prophet Isaiah** looks to the Spiritual Jerusalem (Is62:1-3,6b-7,11-12). **Hannah** identifies God’s ability to reverse the fortunes of people (1Sm2:5). The theme is picked up by **Isaiah** and alluded to by **Paul** (Is54:1, Gl4:26-27). The “**barren one**” represents the **New Testament Church**. Israel was “married” to YHWH. Israel became enslaved to sin: the nation produced no fruit. The New Testament Church **has been producing “children of God” for two thousand years** – the “desolate one”, i.e., “not married to YHWH”, has produced more than “her who is married”, the nation of Israel. At the resurrection, the **New Testament Church** will become the “**Bride of Christ**” (Rv19:6b-9a). The rest of Isaiah chapter 54 is a prophecy of “The New Testament Church”, “Spiritual Jerusalem” (Is54:4-8,11-14a).

The Bride of Christ: One of the last images in the Book of Revelation is the final vision of the “Church” as “**New Jerusalem**”, the **Bride of Christ** (Rv21:9-11). This is of course a “metaphor” for **the working relationship that Jesus Christ, as King of kings, will require of each of us as members of the Family of God**. A primary focus of Jesus’ training of the Apostles and other disciples in their preparation to **build the New Testament Church** was to **understand the required Family Relationship** (1Jh2:1-2a, 3:1a,2, Jh14:7a, 10:30,38b). Almost all the New Testament documents record that “**heresies**” and **general misinformation** were starting to circulate (1Jh2:18-19a, 4:1). Anything that does NOT square with what the Bible actually says, is to be rejected (Mt7:15-16a, Ez13:1-3, Jr23:16). In his last letters, the **Apostle Paul** is specific to **avoid traditions, speculations, empty controversies, and “myths”** (1Tm4:7a, 1:3b,4, 6:3,4b-5a, 2Tm2:23,14a, 4:3a,4, Titus 3:9, 1:14). Jesus’ last teaching to the Apostles, as recorded by John, ends with the admonition “**follow me**” (Jh21:19b). Jesus is making the point alluded to by Paul, “**the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ**” – the whole Bible is the recorded “words of our Lord Jesus Christ”. To “follow Jesus Christ” **we must strive to understand all his words and distinguish the truth** from “traditions”, “speculations”, and “myths”. No where is this more important than in understanding the “Family Relationship”.

Jesus’ New Commandment: The **commandment “to love”** is NOT new (Jh13:34, 15:12, 1Jh2:7-8, 4:21). It is **made new by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit** (Mk12:28-31, Rm5:5). Jesus’ point is that as Christians we need to develop “family love” for one another (Mk3:31-35, Jh15:13, 10:11, 1Jh3:16, 2Jh5-6).

God is Love: The “family” is going to get very large – we need to develop the ability to love each and every human being, just as God does: **love needs to be at the basis of our innermost being** (1Jh4:7-11,16,21, Jh3:16-17).

The Plan of God is all about Family – the divine being known as “**God the Father**” is the head of the Family; the New Testament Church is metaphorically, “**The Mother**”. Abraham, “**the Father of the Faithful**”, is the progenitor of “Spiritual Israel” which will eventually encompass many nations – all humanity. The New Testament Church is metaphorically called “**Heavenly Jerusalem**”, many prophecies look to this role. The New Testament Church is metaphorically identified as the “**Bride of Christ**” establishing the working relationship required of every person to be granted the gift of eternal life. **Jesus requires us to know and live by every word of his** – the entire Bible. The love of God extends to each and every human being – **through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can become like God: God is Love**.

The material is based on the paper “True Worship of the True God” available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>.

The PowerPoint slides are located at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>.