

Mary & The Kingdom of God

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Mary was a True Worshipper of God. Mary was carefully prepared and chosen to be the mother of the Messiah (Lk1:35,38). **Mary embraced her role** and poured out her innermost feelings in her prayer (Lk1:46b-48). After Jesus was sacrificed, **Mary was one of the primary witnesses** to his life, death, and resurrection (Mt28:1bβ-2,5-6a,7a).

Mary – the Mother of the Messiah: When Mary was first told of her role as mother of the Messiah, she was of course troubled but **quickly accepted her responsibility** (Lk1:26b-35,37-38). **Jesus' birth was difficult** (Lk2:1,4-7). While Jesus was just few days old, the shepherds arrived (Lk2:8a,9a,10a,11,16-17); then, the wisemen; and, the attempt by Herod to kill Jesus (Mt2:7,16, Rv12:4b-5a). The family had to flee to Egypt until the death of Herod (Mt2:13-15a,19-23a).

The Remnant Community: **The religion of God** contained in the Bible **had been utterly corrupted** by the Priests, the Sadducees, and the Scribes, the Pharisees. Starting with the work of Ezekiel, God had prepared **a True Remnant to prepare for the First Advent**. Mary and Joseph were part of the True Remnant Community, as were **Zechariah** and **Elizabeth** the parents of John the Baptist (Lk1:5-6, Mt1:18-19,24). After Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Nazareth, they needed to perform the sacrifices for purification from childbirth (see Leviticus 12), so they went up to Jerusalem where they encountered two more members of the Remnant Community, **Simeon** and **Anna** (Lk2:22a,25-26,27bα,28a,36a,37b-38).

Mary's Awareness of Her Role: Mary made careful note of the sayings of others and the events of Jesus' youth (Lk1:41-43, 2:18-19,33-34a,40). **We can only speculate on the details of Jesus' growing up**, but Mary's role and her feelings are clearly revealed in her prayer, **The Magnificat** (Lk1:46-55 ESV):

My [being] magnifies the Lord, and **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior**, for he has looked on **the humble estate of his servant**.

For behold, from now on **all generations will call me blessed**; for **he who is mighty has done great things** for me, and **holy is his name**. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has **scattered the proud** in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has **brought down the mighty** from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and **the rich he has sent away empty**.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
as **he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever**.

Jesus' Brothers and Sisters: Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters (Mt13:53-56). **Jesus' brothers were NOT privy to his divine nature** (Jh7:3-5). After the resurrection, they were converted (At1:14).

Mary – a True Witness: Mary was one of several women who witnessed the **crucifixion** (Mt27:55-56, Jh19:25-27). Mary observed the location of Jesus' **burial** and was among the first to go there after the **resurrection** (Mt27:57-61, 28:1-2,5-6a,7a). After Jesus' presentation to God the Father, Mary touched and worshipped Jesus (Jh20:1a,11a,16-17, Mt28:9). Mary was an eyewitness to the death and resurrection of Jesus and was among the group at **the first Pentecost** (At1:6-8,12-14, 2:1).

Mary was carefully prepared and chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Mary was part of the True Remnant prepared by God as the community in which Jesus, as a child, would grow up. **Mary was a willing servant of God:** she embraced her role and cherished the memories of Jesus as a child. In her prayer, **The Magnificat**, Mary pours out her innermost feelings as Hannah had done in her prayer – the prayers have much in common. Mary stood faithfully by Jesus at the **crucifixion**. Mary was a key witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. **Mary is an example to all True Worshipers of faith, commitment, and love.**

Some Common Themes of Hannah and Mary		
Theme	Hannah	Mary
inner most being	My heart exults in YHWH	My [being] magnifies the Lord
salvation	I rejoice in your salvation	my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
humility, contrition	the feeble bind on strength, raises up the poor, lifts the needy	the humble estate of his servant, exalted those of humble estate
the Plan of God	YHWH will judge the ends of the earth	all generations will call me blessed, has done great things
the Nature of God	there is no rock like our God, YHWH is a God of knowledge	he who is mighty, holy is his name
retributive justice	bows of the mighty are broken, the wicked shall be cut off	scattered the proud, brought down the mighty, the rich he has sent away empty
God's promises	give strength to his king, exalt the horn of his anointed	he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever

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>.