

ONE GOSPEL

Act 1:14 ... Mary the mother of Jesus....

Proverbs 31:10-16

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.



Mary the Mother of Jesus

Isaiah 7:14

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

What a beautiful story: the birth of the Savior here on earth. The story begins with Mary, a virtuous woman, chosen by God as promised, to bear the precious child Jesus, God's only begotten Son.

There were many virgins in the days Mary was called: *"There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. 9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that*

*"FOR WE PREACH NOT OURSELVES
BUT CHRIST JESUS THE LORD,
2 CORINTHIANS 4:5"*



Proverbs 31:17-23

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.” (Sng 6:8, 9)

The LORD Called Mary

What a beautiful story: the birth of the Savior here on earth. The story begins with Mary, a virtuous woman, chosen by God as promised, to bear the precious child Jesus, God’s only begotten Son.

There were many virgins in the days Mary was called: *“There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. 9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.” (Sng 6:8, 9)*

When I was a child, I remember a brother in my church who was very shy, single, and hardly spoke with anyone. Then one day after about 2 years of attending the assembly, he spoke. He testified that he had asked the LORD for help in finding a wife, and that he asked the LORD that she be like the virgin Mary. My sister and I looked at each other, but kept our thoughts in our minds.



Proverbs 31:24-31

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Much later I realized the importance of his prayer. The Bible tells us “*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*” (Proverbs 31:10) “*She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.*” (Proverbs 3:15) “*And, “...a prudent wife is from the LORD.”*” (Proverbs 19:14) And, *(A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. (Proverbs 12:4))* *(Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD. (Proverbs 18:22))*

Mary was precious. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, we are told that God sent His angel Gabriel to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and that the virgin's name was Mary.

There the angel came to her, and said, “Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” He told her that she had found favor with God and that she would conceive in her womb, a son, which she would call Jesus. That He would be great, and be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God would give Him the throne of his father David.

The angel told her that her son would “reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” And Mary asked the angel, the method she was to conceive since she was not married. The LORD looks at the heart of a person and knows the inner thoughts of the heart, regardless on how we form the question. There was no doubt in her question that God would do as He said; she only asked because she was single and was curious as to how she would conceive without a man.

The angel answered her, that “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow

thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Now Mary knew that she would conceive a son through God not man; that the God of miracles would work a marvelous work in her.

Mary was also told that her cousin Elisabeth who was called barren, had conceived “a son in her old age and that it was now the sixth month with her, for with God nothing shall be impossible.”

We do not know Mary’s age nor her looks, but we know she was precious and spiritually beautiful. She told the angel, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” No doubt, no worries, no fear. *(There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. (Proverbs 20:15))* And, *(For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. (Proverbs 8:11))*

What God spoke, He would accomplish. She knew she was chosen by God to carry His Son; that He would protect her from everyone who tried to harm her. No matter that the law of Moses required her to be stoned because she was with child unmarried; no matter that her fiancée would question their agreement to marry. God would take control of all events in her life; her only concern was to please the LORD.

All her life Mary knew that man could not enter the holy of holies in the Temple except the High Priest, because the presence of the LORD was there. All her life Mary knew that the High Priest could only enter into the holy of holies in the Temple after specific cleansing for sin. And here she knew that the power of the Most High would overshadow her, and that she would carry the Son of God, whom God had promised would come, the Messiah.

All her life Mary had learned from the Scriptures that God was, and is, the God of miracles. Mary knew, that the child her cousin Elisabeth was carrying, was because of a miracle God had done. She knew God had done the same with Abraham and Sarah, and others in the Scriptures.

The Bible tells us Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda, to visit Zacharias and her cousin Elisabeth. And as soon as she saluted Elisabeth, the Bible tells that the the babe (John the Baptist) Elisabeth was carrying “leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth 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.” She knew that the child Mary was carrying was God. She said, “And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? “

She said that as soon she heard Mary’s voice “the babe leaped in my womb for joy.” A mother knows her child when she is pregnant. Knows when the child moves, kicks, is at rest. Here Elisabeth knew that the child leaped for joy at the presence of the LORD Jesus. And she said, “And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.