

MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE

By Peggy Stevens

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DEDICATION

*To my husband, Wayne, and Diane, Debbie, and Jim,
for their love and encouragement.
The Playwright, Peggy Stevens*

STORY OF THE PLAY

MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE brings to light the stories of many mothers, some known, some not, who, in their unselfish and courageous ways, helped to shape the destiny of their children.

A mother is very honored in the Bible because she was responsible for rearing the family. The phrase, "and his mother was," appears 20 times in II Kings, and II Chronicles. The word "mother" appears in the Bible 300 times. The word "mother-in-law" only 11.

Unfortunately, some women were listed as tattlers and busybodies, while others were young widows or Greek widows. Women in general, in biblical times, were regarded as "things," just like cattle, flocks and household goods. This presentation gives an oral insight into some of the special females in biblical history who, as mothers, had a great influence on the course of human events. They were more than just "things" to be owned, for these mothers, in their courage and love of the Lord, passed down lasting inherent goodness and courage to their children. In so doing, they helped to further Christian beliefs and moral standards in that day and age.

The various monologues, dialogues and group conversations show the depth, wisdom and love of these exceptional women.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Scene 1: Mary and Elizabeth

Mothers of Jesus and John the Baptist.

Scene 2: Ruth and Naomi

Mother and Grandmother of Obed.

Scene 3: Lois and Eunice

Grandmother and Mother of Timothy.

Scene 4: Leah

Mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar,
Zebulun and Dinah.

Scene 5: Rachel

Mother of Joseph and Benjamin.

Scene 6: Group of Mothers

Tekoah (*Who convinced David to forgive Absalom
and let him return to his native land*), Rufus'
mother, Hiram's mother, Samson's mother.

Scene 7: Rebekah

Mother of Jacob and Esau.

Scene 8: Bathsheba

Mother of Solomon.

Scene 9: Salome and her Friend

Salome was the mother of James and John.

Scene 10: Jochebed

Mother of Moses.

Scene 11: Noah and Job's Wives

Scene 12: Esther

NOTE: If some of the monologues appear to be too long,
they can be made into dialogue by inserting a friend of the
main character to help carry the lines.

STAGING: The stage settings are simple, as are the
costumes. No modern shoes, jewelry or eye glasses
should be worn. Sheets or drapes of various colors suffice
for the clothing.

Scene 1

MARY AND ELIZABETH

(AT RISE: The TWO WOMEN are holding this conversation in the home of Elizabeth.)

ELIZABETH: Mary, you are blessed among women, as is the child in your womb. I know you must be filled with wonderment that all this has happened.

MARY: I am, Elizabeth. I keep thinking that I am not worthy of
so great a joy. And you, my friend, aren't you happy to be carrying a child, also?

ELIZABETH: Yes, Mary. I still cannot believe it to be true. I am truly blest to conceive in my old age. I am certain it will be a boy. An angel has revealed his name will be John.

MARY: Does Zacharias agree with that?

ELIZABETH: My husband has not been able to speak for months now. He should not have laughed at what the Lord God revealed to him. I'm sure, once the child is born, that he will agree with the name of John.

(LIGHTS dim or black out. MARY and ELIZABETH are on stage when LIGHTS come up, but it is many years later.)

MARY: I'm glad you could come for a visit, Elizabeth. I have missed you. How is John?

ELIZABETH: He is filled with joy about being able to prophesy the coming of the Lord. Your dear Jesus is close to his heart and has always been so since He was born.

MARY: I often think back to the time Joseph and I thought we had lost Him when He was only twelve. We had journeyed to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When we finally found Him in the temple, He gently reminded us that we should not have worried because He was only doing His Father's business. At the time we did not understand what he was trying to tell us.

ELIZABETH: John, as you know, preached in the wilderness for many years. He was preparing the people for the time when Jesus would be among them. He kept telling them that although he baptized them with water, there would be One to follow who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Now that Jesus is teaching and preaching, He has said so many kind words about our son, John the Baptist.

MARY: I remember one speech in particular that truly touched my heart, as I know it must have touched yours. Jesus was talking to a great multitude and He said, "I have sent My messenger before you, and he will prepare your way for you. For I say to you, among those born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

ELIZABETH: *(Nodding)* Yes, I recall the speech, and it gave me joy. *(Pats MARY'S hand)* I am growing old and weak. I feel I will not be around to see my son much longer. You would indeed put my mind at peace by agreeing to watch over him when I am gone.

(Both WOMEN rise to leave stage.)

MARY: I promise to be there for him as much as I can, Elizabeth. Jesus will also be a comforter to him.

Scene 2

RUTH AND NAOMI

(AT RISE: Both WOMEN carry jars for water, but let them rest on the ground or on the edge of the well.)

NAOMI: Have you ever regretted coming to my homeland of Judah, daughter? It has meant much to me to have you near, but do you sometimes get homesick for the country of your birth?

RUTH: *(Reaches out to touch HER MOTHER-IN-LAW gently)* When your son, Mahlon, who was my dear husband, died, I felt empty and alone. I knew you must be feeling the same way. You had come to my country with your husband and sons because of the famine in Judah. You were trying to survive in a strange land and suddenly you were left alone. We shared our grief, and I knew that even though Moabites were not welcome in your homeland, we could travel together and be a comfort to one another.

NAOMI: You were brave to agree to live in Judah, and to accept our faith. I am happy that you found Boaz. He is an honorable man who cares for you deeply. Your son, little Obed, is the light of my life. Some think he is mine, I fuss over him so much.

RUTH: *(Smiling at NAOMI and shaking a finger)* You, dear mother-in-law, are quite the matchmaker. *(Laughing)* Gleaning in his fields was an opportunity in a strange land, but you slyly decided to play cupid by suggesting ways to win his heart.

End of Freeview

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