

Pregnant Women of the Bible



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A compilation of conversations on different
pregnant women in the Bible

This is a collection of glimpses from the life of various pregnant women in the Bible.

After each woman, is a collection of prayers.

Scripture readings are from the KJV unless stated otherwise.

I found the story of these and many pregnant women interesting and equipping while I was pregnant and many years down the line, I have studied them with other pregnant women.

This mini book is a compilation of such conversations. May you find it a means of blessing as you journey through pregnancy.

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. Ecclesiastes 11:5

1.

Eve

Gen1:28: *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Eve was the first pregnant woman ever. Before the fall of man, God blessed Adam and Eve and called them to be fruitful, multiply, subdue and replenish the earth. So, I see that the purpose of the woman, Eve's conception, was to enable her to carry out the above mandate, and not just to procreate for the purpose of doing so.

The woman's conception post the fall

Gen3:15: *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Even after her fall, God's intention was still to work through her seed as seen in Gen 3:15 (above).

Gen 3:20: *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

At the fall, even the man turned towards the woman and affirmed her motherhood.

Gen4:1: *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*

It was as if Eve knew that there was purpose in her childbearing post the fall, though it appeared that she did not fully understand this prior to it. Afterwards Eve conceived and gave birth to a son, and named him Cain, because she had gotten a man from the LORD.

Eve understood that children are God's heritage, and she probably thought that this was the seed that will bruise the head of the Serpent. For Eve it was as if pregnancy, was a reminder of the declaration of God in Gen 3:15.

Gen4:25-26: *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said*

she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. ²⁶ And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

Eve conceived and gave birth again to another son, and named him Seth, for she said God had appointed me another seed.

I am seeing that pregnancy and delivery for Eve was like a ministry, a means of seeking for the seed that will definitely bruise the head of the serpent. Even when her son, Cain killed his brother, she still hoped to bear that seed that will bruise.

It seems to me that she has a sense of her conception, so she conceived with the declaration in Gen 3:15 in mind. It is as if the blessedness in Gen 1 to be fruitful, multiply, replenish etc is been pursued by Eve in conception and delivery.

Down to me, today's pregnant woman

I am seeing that conception is a great opportunity. It is indeed an opportunity to share in the mystery of God. A privilege for my womanhood to contribute the seed that will co-bruise the enemy's head with the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus became that Main SEED of the woman, and as many children of Christian women who partner with Christ through him bruise the enemy's head and continue the blessedness of God in Gen 1. This is the purpose of my conception.

Prayer

- ♦ Lord, make me a pregnant woman that seeks the SEED.
- ♦ Eve came, conceived and delivered her babies, but unfortunately it was as though she brought forth for trouble. Since the plan of God is that my seed should possess the gate of the enemy, help me to see the baby in my womb beyond foetus, but instead, a seed with great potential for God's kingdom.

2.

Mrs Cain (Cain's wife)

And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. Genesis 4:16-17 KJV

What struck me first was the husband of this pregnant woman, Cain.

This woman, though her name is not mentioned, was pregnant for a husband who went away from the presence of God, that means the child was conceived out of God's presence.

So, Mrs Cain conceived for a man who was accursed, who was also outside God's presence, and eventually she delivered, probably still out of God's presence. Mrs Cain named the child Enoch, which means dedicated, and I wondered, dedicated to who or to what?

Cain later built the first city on earth in the name of this son,

Lesson

I am seeing that it is not enough to conceive and deliver and even dedicate a child, but the question for me is, in whose presence was the child conceived, and who was the child dedicated to?

The life of the child's father matters so much, my baby's father must be a man who has a stake at the Threshold of God, a wanderer he must not be.

The problem that we have in our society today came as a result of fathers who have wandered away, so, boys are raised single handedly by single mums. Though dedicated as babies in our churches, though bearing Christian names, their fathers are men who have left God's presence and therefore abandoned their responsibilities at home.

Prayer

- ♦ Lord, help me to continuously dwell in You, so that the seed conceived in You will continue to grow in Your presence.
- ♦ Help me not to build monuments in my children's name when I actually have no building in You.
- ♦ Let child naming or dedication not just be a religious tradition for me, but let it be an outward expression of the God in whose presence I conceived, carried the baby to term and delivered, and in Whose presence, I will nurture and raise the child given to me.
- ♦ Cause my husband to be a man in Your presence, and a man with godly visions for our children.

3.

Hagar

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. ²And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. ³And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. ⁴And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. ⁵And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee. ⁶But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thine hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. Gen 16:1-6

Hagar was so to say a surrogate mum. She was brought into motherhood probably against her wish. When she became pregnant, she despised her mistress, in verse 6, she fled from home and went into the wilderness for shelter from domestic abuse.

Hagar's exceptional experiences during her pregnancy

While pregnant, Hagar had angelic encounter when she was away from Sarah and Abraham.

Hagar had the privilege to see and commune with an angel who gave her detailed information regarding the son in her womb.

For example, in verse 11 onward, Hagar received God's blessings and His thoughts concerning the child she carried. She was told the gender of her child.

She was told the name of her child; he was to be called Ishmael, meaning "God will hear". This name says a lot to me.

She was told the lifestyle of this child. Surprisingly, Hagar interceded not to "God who will hear" for this unborn child of hers as she heard of the future of that child, instead, she named God, "the God who sees me"

She was probably consumed with her personal problem and neglected the details given to her concerning the child in her womb.

Hagar gave birth to a son indeed as spoken by the angel of the Lord, still, she did not turn towards God to make petitions for this child's future.

This child, Ishmael became as the thought God revealed to Hagar through His angel while in the wilderness. Today, Ishmael is still a menace to our society!

Could Hagar's intercession for Ishmael have changed his destiny?

Jabesh in 1 Chronicles 4:9 cried to God for a change and God heard him, this same God could have heard the cry of Hagar also just as her son's name meant.

Therefore, as a pregnant woman, you have the responsibility to intercede for your unborn child.

Prayer

- ~ Show me Your thoughts for the child in my womb.
- ~ Deliver me from complacency and negligence.
- ~ Make me a praying mother for my unborn child.
- ~ Help me to release this child into their future through prayer.
- ~ Cause me to name my child with mission and vision.
- ~ Cause me to raise this child in accordance with Your plan/agenda

4.

Mrs Sarah Abraham

In Gen 17, God spoke concerning the seed of Abraham, who was Sarah's husband.

And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. Genesis 17:15-16, 19 KJV

So, ever before Sarah's conception, God had planned to give Abraham a seed, and Sarah, the wife of Abraham was indispensable in God bringing about His will for Abraham. We also know that there was desperation for a child in the home of Abraham and Sarah to the point of Sarah roping Hagar in.

So, in the above scriptures, we see that God spoke concerning Sarah becoming a mother, and He had a time for everything, even the conception of Isaac in Sarah's womb.

Another thing is that, ever before the conception of this child, God gave Abraham the not yet conceived or unborn baby's name, and God intended to be in covenant with Isaac, the future child of Sarah.

If only pregnant women know the pre-counsel of God for their children, how wonderful it will be. I believe this will affect the way women carry their pregnancy and the raising of the child.

By the time we get to chapter 18, Abraham entertained some visitors, and Sarah played her part too in this hospitality.

So in verse Gen18:9 -10 we read

And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

From the above scripture, we see that God re-instated what He said in chapter 17. Sarah was to have a son within a year, and it will happen whether Sarah believed this or not.

And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. Genesis 21:1-3

KJV

So, Sarah conceived, she became pregnant as promised, that means as she went about, she might look at her growing tummy and say, this is a visible evidence of God's promise. Her pregnancy was a testimony to the existence and faithfulness of God.

Let us look at:

Her physical body in view of her pregnancy

She was quite old; she was probably fragile, not very strong like a young woman, she was in advanced menopausal stage. So, humanly speaking, her physical body was not conducive for carrying a baby to term. She was frail and might be unable to carry the child comfortably. If she lived in our generation, she will definitely be assigned a consultant or many consultants and would have been advised strongly to abort the child.

But in Hebrews 11, we read: *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.* Hebrews 11:11-12 KJV

Though her body was frail, yet, her faith was strong. Conceiving Isaac and carrying Isaac to term was done through faith.

She received strength to conceive.

She received strength to carry the pregnancy.

She received strength to deliver the child.

Why? She judged the One who promised her, faithful. Can a pregnant woman be as hopeful as Sarah, who believed against hope, who looked to God for daily strength, who brought her hormones before God who promised her? A pregnant woman's view of God during her season of pregnancy and beyond is very critical.

Sarah conceived and delivered her baby though she was past the age of childbearing.

Her personal responsibility

If we look at her son's naming in Gen 21:1-3, we will see that Sarah gave her husband the role of naming the child, and the child was named according to what God gave him.

Children must not be named aimlessly, but instead be named in accordance with God's agenda for our children.

Let us look at Sarah Post delivery.

And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age. Genesis 21:6-7

Her postnatal response

Sarah looked back after conception and delivery, and gave God thanks, for she knew that God has given her Isaac against all medical belief. This indeed is the doing of the Lord, and it is marvellous in our sight.

Thought for the pregnant woman

Why do you desire to have a child? Is it to maintain your space in your marriage? Or is it to live up to societal expectation? At some point, Sarah was under societal pressure to have a child, so she took her maid and gave her to her husband and then, a baby was born, but that was still not God's plan.

Your life is not another woman's life, therefore, when to conceive and deliver is in God's hands. God has a purpose He wants your child to fulfil. He also has a set time for your child to come into the scene.

Though Hagar had a child before Sarah, yet, it was through Sarah's seed that the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Prayer

- ~ Help me to seek Your face for my unborn child.
- ~ Make known to us Your name for this child, for as his name is, so is he.
- ~ Cause the birth of this child to bring many to laughter as You through us connect them to You, the Giver of life.
- ~ Cause me not to look at my age nor science for explanation, but rather, give me the grace to look to You who opened my womb.
- ~ As this child is born, help me not to raise him/her in competition with other children.
- ~ Cause me to see the uniqueness of my baby.

5.

Mrs Rebecca Isaac

And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. Gen 24:60

Prior to Rebecca's marriage to Isaac, there was a prophecy spoken concerning her, and this prophecy was the promise God spoke to Abraham in Gen 22:17

If you read Gen 25, you will see the genealogy of Abraham and when you get to Isaac, Rebecca's husband, you will see that his wife Rebecca was barren, and Isaac had to entreat the Lord for his wife, and God heard him.

Husbands are particularly important before God for the conception of their wives and bringing it to term. He must stand as authority for her.

Let us consider the characteristics of Rebecca's unborn babies

In Gen 25:22, we read And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. Genesis 25:22 KJV

We see that the unborn babies in Rebecca's womb struggled with each other. This tells us that babies are active in the womb and already developed some inborn personalities.

Rebecca was sensitive to the activities of her unborn children, and as she felt it wasn't normal, she took the matter to the Lord. And this is very crucial for a pregnant woman, one must always remember that the child in one's womb has a Maker, and you can always go to Him when you sense anything fishy concerning the unborn child. What the doctors say must be taken back to the Giver of the unborn child.

In verse 23, the Lord answered Rebecca who went to Him regarding the babies in her womb; God did not leave Rebecca in the dark. He told her the number of children in her womb and their destiny.

Again, I see divine ultrasound, unlike the medical one, God's Own ultrasound tells not just the gender of the child but also their purpose and sometimes their name.

Rebecca's delivery

Rebecca finally delivered twins indeed, and even at birth the twins were seemingly at loggerhead. Again, I am seeing that we can become aware of the attributes of a child at birth. One

aspect that is standing out to me is that babies are not born as saints, they have developed many characteristics from the womb. Ps 58:3

And as a mother, you have the responsibility to know your child's character traits from the womb and begin to present your child before God as you watchfully nurse him or her.

You cannot expect your child to be born as a new creation, but rather, this baby is coming with the residue of Adam, even from the womb, he will be born a sinner, but part of your role as the mother, will be to bridge the gap between your child and God.

The pregnant woman is meant to be an intercessor both pre and post pregnancy/delivery. And in this, Rebecca failed, for later on we will see how Rebecca chose Jacob as her favourite and her husband chose the other. The only two children they had did not have a good relationship with each other right there under their roof.

Personal lessons for the pregnant woman

- i. Motherhood is not only for conception and delivery.
- ii. Communing with God regarding your child must be a lifetime commitment, you must not back off at any moment.
- iii. It is not enough to be a stay at home mum, or a career woman, but God desires that every mother, whether working or full-term housewife, to be a keeper at home.
- iv. Your relationship with your husband precedes the one you have with your children, so do not let them come between you and him.

Prayer

- ~ Help me to be spiritually alert at every junction of my pregnancy and delivery journey.
- ~ Help me to defer to You over any matter that pertains to my children.
- ~ Let it not be that my bringing forth raises a bone of contention between me and my husband and let my motherhood always operate from the Cross of Christ.
- ~ Help me not to play favouritism between my children, nor put my marital relationship below my relationship with my children.
- ~ Let all the children that will pass through my womb be a plus to Your Kingdom and not sorrow.
- ~ Let my husband's priestly duty be a continuous one, and enable his spiritual sight not to become dim.
- ~ Help me to continue to be the helper that You ordained me to be to my husband both in pregnancy and post pregnancy.

6.

Mrs Leah Jacob

We know that Leah was sponsored into marriage by her father, as the culture did not permit the younger one to marry before the oldest, so Leah became the wife of a man who did not love her.

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. Gen 29:31

When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, He enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless.

The first thing that I am seeing is that it is God that enables a woman to conceive. God gave Leah conception in order to compensate her for the love she lacked from her husband.

Could it be that Leah had been asking God to give her a child in order to be loved by her husband?

And I think this is a cry that characterises the lives of many married women who have no children in their marriages. They feel that if only they had children, then their husbands would love them, or their place in the marriage will be secured.

Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery." Surely my husband will love me now. Gen 29:32

Here, we see that conception and delivery for Leah was a means to secure love from her husband, forgetting that it is God that owns the heart of men.

She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too.' So she named him Simeon. Gen29:33

Again, we see that each time she was pregnant, her concern was not the life of that child but rather how that child was a way of getting her husband's love.

Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.' So he was named Levi. Gen 29:34

I kept seeing the trend for Leah's pregnancy, she was not getting pregnant as a means to further God's Kingdom, but rather as a means to promote self. Pregnancy is a privilege to share in the mystery of God, and pregnancy for a Christian woman must never be self-centred but God centred.

She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'This time I will praise the Lord. ' So she

named him Judah. Then she stopped having children. Gen 29:35

Finally, at pregnancy four, grace found her, she felt the need to praise the Lord. This is actually the reason why we conceive. Revelation 4:11 says *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

After the birth of Judah, we saw that Leah stopped having children, but by the time we get to Gen 30, she entered into rivalry with her sister, and she put her maid in the family way.

God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. Then Leah said, 'God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband.' So she named him Issachar. Gen 30:17

Again, from the above scripture, I am seeing that Leah indeed troubled the Lord to give her conception again, this heart cry was not to bear children to promote the kingdom but to ascertain and establish herself in her marriage.

Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. Then Leah said, 'God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honour, because I have borne him six sons.' So she named him Zebulun. Gen 30:19-20

At the birth of the sixth son, Leah was still giving birth for "self" and not to bring glorify or honour to God in her conception and childbirth.

Even though she realised her son was a precious gift, yet she did not honour Him who gave her the precious gift, nor desired to release that gift into God's hands.

Sometime later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah. Gen30:21. So, finally, we see that Leah had her seventh child. In total, she had six sons and one daughter. What a great privilege!

A case to consider regarding Leah's pregnancy

- ♦ Seven times she was given the privilege of sharing in the deep things of God through pregnancy, six times out of seven she saw pregnancy as a means to establish herself.
- ♦ We know what became of Dinah, Leah's only daughter, and Reuben her first child.
- ♦ Leah had the privilege of God listening to her cry, but it was unfortunate that her cry was for 'self'.
- ♦ All the pregnancies God granted Leah was squandered on self except Judah, no wonder the Messiah came through that lineage.

Imagine what God could have done through her conception and child rearing, God was putting in Leah's womb forth Patriarchs and Matriarch, but unfortunately, she had no eyes to see in order to behold the wonders of the deep things of God.

Conclusion

When a woman lacks spiritual eyesight, even though she gets pregnant, and delivers children,

she will only do so to her own selfishness, as she will see no purpose of God in her conception.

Food for thought while pregnant

- ◆ Do I know how God wants to display and tell His story through my conception?
- ◆ Do I know how God wants to display His beauty, royalty through my conception?
- ◆ Do I know that God wants to make my daughters as pillars and my sons as sturdy oaks

My knowledge of the intention of God for my pregnancy will in the long run affect how and what I do with my pregnancy and child rearing. It all falls back to me the mother, the one that carries the unborn and the hands that rock the cradle.

Prayer

1. Lord, make me a woman who understands the deep things of God.
2. Cause me to receive Your vision for my motherhood.
3. Let not my life be a hinderance to the patriarchs and matriarchs of faith that You want to raise through me.
4. Perfect my sight, so that I can see conception, delivery and child upbringing as a ministry of partnering with You in raising Your future stakeholders.
5. Let my motherhood not stop at a noble thing, but let it become Your means of excellence.

Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Prov 31:29 NIVUK

7.

Bilha

And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb? And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. Genesis 30:1-8

Food for thought

What an unfortunate thing to be roped into matters that do not concern me. Just like Hagar, we see Bilha become so to say a surrogate mother for Rachael; she became a mother possibly against her wishes.

She bore children that she herself had no power over, another woman had to take over her children, her voice was seemingly silenced in pregnancy and in delivery.

Another person named her child for her.; she was there, but absent in her children's naming.

Her child was used as game in sibling rivalry over a man. She conceived, brought forth but was not active in the lives of her sons.

This reminds me of women who gave birth to children and leave them at the mercy of another to raise for them. Some travelled miles and left their children with baby sitters or minders.

In as much as I believe in communal upbringing of a child, yet, I believe it is the mother's role to safeguard the destiny of her child in God's hands., and when child minders or baby sitters have to be involved, it must be done with God's direction.

Prayer

~ Let no other take my place and my role in my children's lives.

~ Preserve me so that I can labour indeed over these treasures You have entrusted into my hands.

~ Give me the boldness to speak out for my children.

8.

The Hebrew women

And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. Exodus 1:9-12

A bit of the history of the Hebrew women

The Israelites had lived in Egypt for many years, when a pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph or his history. This Pharaoh became threatened and made life miserable for the Israelites. Why?

- ~ Pharaoh felt the Israelites were growing in number and mightier than the Egyptians.
- ~ He felt the Jews would multiply, and it will come to pass, that when war breaks out, the Israelites will join forces with their enemies and fight against them. This will provide them a way of escaping from Egypt.

Let us look at What Pharaoh did

- ~ He set taskmasters over the Hebrews to afflict them with their burdens.
- ~ He demanded the Hebrews to build treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses, and this may have involved the women too.
- ~ He made their lives bitter with hard bondage
- ~ He made them serve with rigour.

It was under this hostility and severe maltreatment that the Hebrew women got pregnant.

Let us explore further.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiprah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the

men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Exodus 1:15-19

From the above verses, we see that these Hebrew women were under severe affliction, and while undergoing that, they became pregnant and Pharaoh liaised with the midwives. Why?

~The enemy's outrage was against the children of the Hebrew women, and are we not Hebrew too through what Christ did for us in His death?

~ He knew that in their multiplication is the conquering of the Egyptian kingdom (the enemy within).

~ He was fearful; he was not moved when any woman got pregnant like Peninah, but he knew that when true christian women became pregnant, they posed a great threat against his kingdom.

Due to the thought of Pharaoh concerning the Jews in Egypt, he collaborated with the midwives (Shiphrah and Puah). Shiphrah means beautiful, how beautiful it is that God placed a beautiful midwife on the path of the Hebrew women, and Puah means radiant, splendid, again I see how God in His Sovereignty put in the path of the Hebrew women splendid and radiant midwives. These midwives, though in an ungodly land, feared God and saved the babies of the Hebrew women.

Things to hold on to

1. The enemy is against the seed of the Hebrew woman, which we are through Christ's death at Calvary.
2. Every opportunity to get pregnant for a Hebrew woman puts the enemy in fear and anxiety.
3. The enemy understood the impact Hebrew women's children can have upon his kingdom, but do you know this too?
4. No matter how smart the enemy is, God is faithful to His own.
5. He can work through the heart of christian or non-christian midwives to secure His pregnant woman.

Another thing to consider are the differences between pregnant Hebrew women and other pregnant women?

- i. The Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered before the midwives come in unto them. (Exodus 1:19).

This reminds me of the story of my first pregnancy, my labour was short, and the delivery was quick, that must have been God. For my second child, it was amazing, I had her in the car before we got to the hospital.

As a pregnant woman, you must talk to the Lord on the type of midwives you long for during delivery. You must also trust God to give you the grace that supersedes that of the Hebrew women who delivered quickly; the women broke medical record. Hallelujah!!! You can trust God to do much more than that for you too.

Before we leave the Hebrew woman, let us consider a few roles of midwives to pregnant women.

- ◆ They work with you while you are pregnant; overseeing your health and that of the child in your womb.
- ◆ Midwives can be a source of great encouragement, and they can also be a source of great discouragement, but you must guide and guard your heart with the word of God..

A personal story

For my first child, God gave me a sister in our church as my midwife on the day of delivery, I called her when my labour started, and she picked me up on her way to work as she was on duty, she took me to the delivery suit, and she was the one that delivered me.

And like I said, for the second one, God Himself was our Midwife, that was what we asked for, and He did beyond our prayer. After birth, the midwife that we took my child to said this was the type of delivery they desired, and they felt I might have lost too much blood, but by the time they did blood test everything was fine. Our God reigns.

Prayer points

- ~ Thank You for the privilege of being a part of Your recruiting agents, as You are recruiting future soldiers through Your Hebrew women.
- ~ Let this pregnancy connect me deeper with You the Chief midwife.
- ~ In Your mercy, give me godly midwives who will know and do Your will during my pregnancy and my childbirth.
- ~ Help me not to cave in to fear, but rather to know that the one Greater than Pharaoh dwells in me.
- ~ I commit my delivery day and the staff unto Your hands, let them align their will with Your will concerning me and the baby in my womb.
- ~ Lord, preside over my delivery day and the environment, for the earth is Yours and the fullness therefore.
- ~ Let all that work with me through this pregnancy be splendid, beautiful and pleasant.
- ~ Thank You for what You have already done through Your Son's death at Calvary.

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not

cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, _I will extend peace to her like a river, _and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. Isaiah 66:7-12

9.

Jochebed Amram

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.
Exodus 2:1-4 NIVUK

Her family background

Jochebed was a Levite and she married a Levite. So, she got married and got pregnant within God's covenant.

The time in which Jochebed was pregnant

She got pregnant at a time when getting pregnant was a risk to the Jews. It was a time when any Jewish woman who fell pregnant would be under surveillance, it was difficult for pregnant women at such a time; the gender of the baby will put the family at risk, as the baby will have to be killed if a boy.

So, we see that Jochebed became pregnant at a time when the decree was made against the birth of baby boys. Any Egyptian woman could get pregnant and have a fearless pregnancy, but for the Jewish community in Egypt it was a great threat.

And this is still the case today, the enemy is not happy to see Christian women become pregnant, particularly women who understand what it means to be a believer in Christ.

Despite that difficult season for pregnant Jewish women in Egypt, Jochebed still allowed God to grant her conception, and she carried the baby to term against all odds.

Lessons from Jochebed

~ She was fierce

~ She was missional

~ She probably chose to agree with God and ignore the prevailing circumstance or myth that surrounded pregnancy.

~ She had a plan for the baby ever before she gave birth and I believe that was the reason why she was able to keep Moses safe for 3 months.

~ She also knew when to let Moses out of the house and where to take him to.

~ I believe she was seeking the face of God to know what she should do for her unborn child if he was to be a boy.

~ This was not her first child, yet, I see a woman who combined her past experience with her faith in God to produce a Moses that was so to say 'born to die' like many other babies would have, but her tactfulness and faithfulness preserved her child.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.' Exodus 2:7, 9-10 NIVUK_

Her motherhood

Jochebed must have been a very good mother, like I said, she combined her experience with her faith in God at a very delicate time in the history of the Jews in Egypt.

Another thing we see was that she raised Moses with the support of his big sister Miriam. Jochebed did not ignore Miriam's need, she also carried her along in the life of baby Moses to the point that Miriam could stand as babysitter for little brother by the river. Miriam could also negotiate for the safety of her little brother and the involvement of her mother in little Moses's future upbringing. I commend Jochebed's diligence, vision and focus.

The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born to the Levites in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam. Numbers 26:59 NIVUK

Another thing that I am also seeing, looking at the above scripture is the fact that Jochebed was born in the land of slavery, she knew what life was like there, she knew what it meant to grow up in Egypt. Here she is now, bearing children in the same land of her birth.

Do you see why I believe that her past experience coupled with her faith played a key role in Moses' conception, birth and upbringing? I believe she must have prepared her children by making them aware of the state of the land where she grew up in and where her children were also growing.

It is such a shame that a generation of mothers became pregnant in the same land where they were born and grew up in, but they remained ignorant of the wisdom to apply to protect their children's heart from what is prevailing in their environment. Jochebed would have used all her knowledge to equip her children.

And finally, Hebrews 11:23 NIVUK confirms to me that Jochebed was a woman of faith and unusual vision for her son, Moses. The verse says *"by faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict."*

No wonder she was fearless, missional, tactful and purposeful.

Prayer

- ~ Lord, let Your choice of bringing me into Your covenanted family not be a waste.
- ~ Let the death of Your only Son continually form a fierce heart in me as a pregnant woman.
- ~ Give me Your architectural design and pattern for my unborn child despite what this generation looks like.
- ~ Cause me to daily know that I can actually raise godly children in this ungodly environment.
- ~ Let my past experience of childhood be a room in Your hand to help my children grow well.
- ~ Give me eyes that see what You have already done, and not what the enemy is doing.
- ~ Help me to be a godly mediator between my unborn child and their siblings.

10.

Tamar of Judah

Tamar was married to Judah's son, but Er was a man of bad conduct, so God killed him, then, Er's brother was to remarry Tamar in order for a seed to be raised in remembrance of Er, but unfortunately, the second son of Judah was also irresponsible, so God killed him. And Tamar was eventually sent back to her father's house.
Genesis 38:6-11

Tamar was the daughter in law of Judah, her father in-law Judah had a wrong impression of her after the death of her husband, therefore, she was to go and continue widowhood in her father's house till Judah's youngest son became old enough to take Judah as his wife. In reality, Judah was not going to give his son to Tamar, he only sent her to her father in disguise.

While in widowhood in her father's house, she heard of her father in-law going to where his sheep was been sheared, and Tamar went in disguise, and had a one-night stand with her father in-law and that was it, she became pregnant.

Lesson 1

Tamar was desperate to bear the seed for her dead husband, she was desperate to bear seed for Judah's lineage, and she subjected herself to whatever it would cost her, even if it meant sleeping with her father in-law. Note that I am not condoling Tamar's action.

This brought to my heart the labour of many women to be mothers of babies. Some have gone to various length in order to be able to conceive. We must be grateful for the gift of conception.

Now in Gen 38:27-30 we read *And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb. And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first. And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez. And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zerah*

Lesson 2: Tamar's time of travail

For Tamar, the time of travail came, she who had never travailed before came to the time of travailing. At delivery time, she gave birth to twins: she who never had a child was carrying within her womb, twins. So, on the day of travail, she was travailing for two children, though in same womb, but with different destinies.

The midwife played a role

So, while Tamar was in travail, there was a midwife who took and bound upon the child that was about to come out first, a scarlet thread, saying, this came out first.

The thing that I am seeing again is the midwife's role, she only worked by sight, she could not perceive the agenda of God, seeing the effort of Zerah to come out of mummy's womb made the midwife take action, she believed that he was the firstborn, thereby putting the scarlet Thread on him. And indeed, how many pregnant women are confused because of midwives with no vision, they could only see the immediate, they had no eyes to see beyond the present.

The scarlet thread is a good thing to bind upon the child's hands, but you should only put it on the child that is out of the womb. How many Christian families raised their children with assumption, thinking their children have laid hold on the scarlet thread, children who are not yet born again.

We have all sorts of self-help books and web resources for pregnant women and nursing mothers, different ideas on bringing up children in the way of the Lord. May the Lord preserve our ways from the path of midwives with good intentions but no godly visions.

The twins

i. Zerah: He was about to come out first, and he had the scarlet thread put on his hand, he was probably coming out with his hand instead of his head first, but unfortunately, he had to withdraw. The Bible says no man who lays his hands on the plough and looks back and is fit for the Kingdom of God. Zerah, whose name meant dawning or shining, retreated back, so he did not see the dawning of earth first. He was not willing to be a forerunner; he was comfortable in the womb unless someone goes and tries it first. Though a baby, but lacked inner strength to pave way, so, though he had the scarlet thread on him, yet, he drew back.

ii. Pharez or Perez: his own name means "burst forth." Though the midwife never thought he will come out first, yet, he was brave to burst forth, he was bold to come out of his mother's womb and to step unto earth.

Through Perez, the Scarlet Thread of God came to earth as Perez was one of the great grandparents of the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion

Tamar married and longed to leave a footprint in Judah's lineage, and she indeed conceived and gave birth to twins one of whom was Perez the great grandparents of the Lord Jesus. Her motherhood was not in vain. Her pregnancy and travail was not in vain.

Prayer

1. O Lord, O that You will help me to see the way You see.
2. O that You will perfect my sight that I can see as You see.
3. Help me to see as You see concerning the seed in my womb.
4. Rid me O Lord of strange midwives, who only act on their own knowledge and experience and lack understanding of Your will for my baby.
5. Help me not just to settle on all information and resources, but help me to be wise to know Your perfect will for my child.
6. O that the scarlet Thread become not a mismatch in my lineage, perfect the work You did in Your Son in all my children.
7. Lord, if Tamar was passionate to produce a seed in Judah's lineage, help me too to be passionate to contribute godly seeds into Your lineage.

11.

Hannah Elkannah

1Sam1:1-6 reads *Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tobu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: ²And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. ⁴And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: ⁵But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁶And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.*

We are introduced to Hannah

i. Her home

She was a barren woman, for God shut her womb, and her husband brought in a mistress into the home. She was under pressure to produce a child in her matrimony and her husband's wife, Peninah, was making life miserable for her.

ii. The church

Life in Shiloh was terrible and contrary to God's will. The sons of the priest (Phinehas and Hophni) were pains in God's heart and in the heart of God's people. Such was the situation of the church at the time when Hannah was barren.

In the midst of all the above, Hannah took her petition before God and cried out.

1 Samuel 1:11 *And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

I am really captivated by Hannah's vow, she vowed and said, O Lord of hosts, *if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

So, in the midst of Hannah's affliction and the state of the church(Shiloh), Hannah asked God for a man child, he was not asking God just for a baby, but a man child, that means, she was

asking for a child that will be man enough to address any issue, for Phinehas and Hophni were men but childish, they were childish men, men who dishonoured the Lord.

What are you seeking as a pregnant woman is what God seems to be asking, are you wanting a child or one who is man enough to do God's will? This is because a man who remains a child cannot do God's work effectively.

1 Samuel 1:19

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her.

Here now, we see Hannah, having prayed, God heard her and remembered her. Note that it was Hannah God remembered, God remembered her and gave her conception.

1 Samuel 1:20

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.

Hannah having been remembered by the Lord, conceived, and the time finally came to give birth, we can see that there was the delivery time for Hannah, as it will be for every pregnant woman, this day is the day all pregnant women look forward to.

The boy was named

When the day of delivery came for Hannah, she gave birth to a son, and she named him Samuel which means "God hears"

So each time she called the name Samuel, she was witnessing to her needy community that God hears. What a name, sometimes women give name to their babies because the name is famous, lovely, it is the name of someone they respect or love etc, but Hannah named her son to remind the watching world around her that God hears. Motherhood is a mission indeed!

1 Samuel 1:21-22

And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever.

Hannah having given birth to her Samuel, now we see religious Elkanah, who was Hannah's husband about to go for the annual journey to Shiloh. Hannah felt it was not enough to go to church, nor dedicate her son at church, or go to fellowship as believers, but she saw the need to say "I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever."

As a result of the above statement, let us consider the goals of pregnancy as stated by Hannah.

1. Weaning a child: Hannah made a resolve to win her son, Samuel, she was going to wean him from this world and its standards, to wean him from the flesh and wean him from the

Adamic lineage, and make sure he enters the lineage of Our High Priest, who is Christ Jesus.

2. I will bring him to appear before the Lord: What labour, what focus, to see your new born baby as one that you can wean off all he needs to be weaned from and then bring him to appear before God, for all babies are born with the fallen nature, they are not born again, and the labour of the pregnant woman is to seek the Lord's face for how that child of hers can be weaned and become a bearer of Christ.

This is the goal of procreation, to bring every child that God gives us back to Him, for mankind was hijacked by sin in Eden's garden. Any motherhood that is not after this mission is undertaking useless labour, for a child that grows to be successful in life, but does not know the Lord is not truly successful. Each mother must labour in prayer and point her child to the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross, and God is faithful to bring that child to faith.

Samuel, that man child that Hannah asked the Lord for, remember she did not ask for a child-ish man, therefore, God did his part of making sure Samuel became a man, he became a man in God's hands who set the record straight in his generation.

1Samuel3:19

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Prayer

1. Thank You for opening my womb.
2. Let this baby in my womb be a man-child indeed.
3. Let this child not be another addition to earth's population, but a man-child in Your will and plan for such a time as this.
4. Make me a mother that collects Your will to give my children.
5. Let me not go the way of Peninah, who was just having children and not raising them for the Lord.
6. Help me to know how to wean this child that You are entrusting into my hands from this world.
7. Help me to lead this child back to You his Maker and Redeemer.
8. Let my motherhood produce for You children who will fulfil Your mandate for mankind in the beginning.

12.

Mrs Manoah

At a time when the people of God turned away from God, and they were handed to the Philistines as a punishment of their act, it seemed to me that God was seeking for a deliverer for His people.

The people of God fell into the hands of their enemy, yet, God had to wait for a child to be conceived and given birth to in order to deliver his people from the captivity of the Philistines.

So, it was in the midst of that need of a deliverer that we are introduced to Mr and Mrs Manoah. Let us consider Mr and Mrs Manoah briefly.

Who were Mr and Mrs Manoah?

√ They were Israelites from the Danite's family.

√ They also lived in captivity.

√ They were barren.

Mrs Manoah had an angelic visitation.

Mr and Mrs Manoah were in captivity. Mrs Manoah was visited by God's messenger. Let us look at the angelic visitation.

The messenger identified her with bareness.?

The messenger assured her that she will have a son.

The angel gave her instruction both for the pregnancy season and after the birth of the baby.

From the last issue above, I see that godly instructions must not only be for duration of the pregnancy, but even for post pregnancy.

What were the instructions?

No razor shall come on his head.

The child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb.

He shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Mrs Manoah was so fortunate to receive instructions both for her pregnancy and thereafter. She was prepared for the child she was to give birth to.

The unborn child must be a Nazarite, and as such, no razor must touch his head, and he must eat no unclean thing, nor should he take strong drink.

For me, if the above instructions were brought forward and applied now, it would be like been instructed as to the type of education the child should receive, and what to involve him in, and what not to involve him in.

Samson was to be a nazirite from birth till death, but unfortunately, he defiled his consecration. How often we have heard stories of children raised in Christian homes, but went away to choose wild lifestyles

Another thing that stood out for me is the fact that the angel of God only came to Mrs Manoah on both occasions, and Mr Manoah was not available at both times. Nonetheless, she communicated with her husband. She submitted her vision into her husband's custody. A pregnant woman must indeed learn to work alongside her husband while pregnant and even thereafter.

In verse 12 of Judges 13 we read, *And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?*

So, we see that Mr Manoah asked for direction on the upbringing of their son when he is given birth to, and it was his enquiry that brought about the things Mrs Manoah needed to be aware of, us too.

From the instruction given in order to know what to do with the child, I see that the womb that carried the child must also be consecrated.

Note that it was not Mr Manoah who should desist from these things, but instead his wife, the one who carried the baby, but the instruction was brought under her husband's supervision.

The do's and don'ts of the baby to be born was committed to Mrs Manoah who would have passed it on to her husband.

And that which pertains to her was given under the surveillance (?) of her husband.

Judges 13:13 -14 reads *And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.*

From the above, let us quickly take a glance at the regulations for Mrs Manoah

- She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine.
- She may neither drink wine nor strong drink.
- She may not eat any unclean thing.

From the above, I am seeing that the depth of Samson's consecration hinged on Samson's mum's consecration. Therefore, as a pregnant woman, you must careful how you live both during pregnancy and thereafter. This is so important, for in Judges 13:13-14 her husband was

told twice *Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.*

So her husband had a great role to play in the safety of Mrs Manoah in pregnancy and the future of their son.

Prayer

~ Make me and my husband, people who long to hear from You in Your word.

~ Withhold not from me and my husband the instructions needed for this child that You have given us.

~ Unite me and my husband's heart together concerning Your directions for this child.

13.

Mrs Elizabeth

Zechariah

Who was she?

Luke 1:5-7 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

- She was a Levite?
- She was a minister's wife (and this may mean that she helped the congregation in their child naming, dedication etc.)
- She was barren
- She was old.
- She was a spirit filled woman
- She was righteous and blameless

Luke 1:5-6 tells us that both Elizabeth and her husband were righteous and blameless in the commandment of God.

Luke 1:13 NIVUK But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.

From the above scriptures, it shows that Zechariah had been asking the Lord for a child. So, while presenting the people's petition before God, he lifted his desire also. And God eventually visited Elizabeth and her husband, and she became pregnant.

Lesson from her pregnancy season

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. Luke 1: 24-25

- She hid her herself in the first five months of her pregnancy.
- She adorned the Lord with her pregnancy giving praise back to Him.

My main focus on Elizabeth is her ability to hide herself for five months. She did not see her pregnancy as a means to answer all her enemies (remember Rachael and Leah).

I believe those 5 months of seclusion were indeed times of grace for her. She must have been seeking God for herself, her motherhood at old age, her son to be.

And in her seclusion while pregnant with John, she was preparing John for his own future seclusion, for John had to dwell in the wilderness till the day of his showing forth (Luke 1:80)

Mum secluded herself in pregnancy, son secluded himself after birth too.

You will also notice that her husband had received their son's name and purpose ever before conception.

Pregnancy indeed is a time to seek Him, the Giver of pregnancy.

The second thing for my focus is in Luke 1:58-59 NIVUK which says Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah

- Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah.

The absent father

Since Zechariah was muted, his role seemed reversed, and I am seeing neighbour's coming in to name the child for him.

When husbands are not taking their responsibilities, the community arises to do his responsibility for him, and most times it will be to his detriment. But thank God for Elizabeth, a woman in the gap.

Remember she had secluded herself for five months, so no wonder she knew what to do when the neighbours and cousins took over.

Remember that Elizabeth was to give birth to a son with a great purpose, and now we are seeing neighbours stepping in to name the baby, Zechariah junior. These are people who knew not what God had spoken concerning the child, they did not know that a name plays a great role in the life of an individual.

Verses 71 to the end also stood out for me. Elizabeth having stood up for her son and her husband, his lips were loosed, and he began to speak prophetically concerning the child John.

Prayer.

1. Lord, help me to see the need to daily consecrate myself.
2. Christ said, I sanctify myself for their sake, help me to also know how to seclude myself for the sake of this child.
3. Make my husband a priest for this unborn child.
4. Reveal Your blueprint to my husband even as You did for Zechariah.
5. Keep my heart humble and grateful to be part of carriers of Your deep things(pregnancy)
6. Keep my heart bound to you as I receive Your will and purpose for this child.
7. Help me to exemplify biblical consecration unto this child just as Elizabeth was unto John.
8. Help me to be mindful of the things I do now while carrying this baby in my womb, for this will have an effect on this baby even after birth.
9. Just as John came as a forerunner for Christ, let this child be Your forerunner before the Great day of Your coming.
10. Jesus, keep me near Your Cross.

14.

The woman in Revelation 12

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: ²And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. ³And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. ⁵And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. Rev 12:1-5

In verse 1, the above scriptures described what heaven saw of this pregnant woman as great wonder.

We see the activity of heaven and that of the dominion of darkness over this pregnant woman. Why? Verse 5 says she was to “**give birth to a peculiar child, a child that will rule the world with iron rod.**”

In verse 4, we saw the enemy stood against her at her birthstool, but God also was on standby on her behalf. Her son was snatched to heaven ever before the devil could act.

This is an assurance that God will hold your child fast, the child in your womb, is in His hands.

Our focus

I want this pregnant woman's post-natal experience to become more of your focus.

This woman having given birth to this great son, Rev12:6 says *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

What can we see regarding this woman's post-delivery?

- i. She fled into the wilderness: Just like Elizabeth, who went and hid herself before her son was born, and for this woman in Revelation 12, she fled away to the wilderness, why? She had a place prepared for her by God.

It is my prayer that you also may know this also, that as a pregnant woman, God has made provision for your post-natal, there is a place He had carved out for you to come to.

- iii. Another thing from that verse 6 is that she has to be fed for a season, that means the nourishment needed for that season was already provided.

In the plan of God, He has prepared all you need for post child delivery, He has a package for your emotional health, physical health and spiritual health. You must not neglect this provision. As for this woman, she fled to where God had provided for her, of her own will, she was not forced there.

The challenge of pregnant women post delivery

Post-delivery season can be a time when nursing mothers lose touch with God as the day to day care of a new birth overwhelms them, therefore may find it a bit difficult to spend time with God.

Let us look further into the life of this Revelation 12 woman's post-natal experience/life

iv. Duration of her care in the wilderness

In Revelation 12:6, we see that God had made provision for this woman for a certain period of time; the provision was made for the first 3 years of her motherhood. Is that not amazing?

And verse 13 of Rev12 also caught my attention, and it says *"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child."*

I am seeing that the enemy of every woman is also the enemy of their child(ren). He who came in the beginning against the first home, is still going about today. I am seeing that every christian pregnant woman must not relent as a woman or a mother as pregnancy is not an end to itself, but only a means to an end.

The enemy had an understanding that the woman's contribution will destroy his kingdom, the boy will rule the world with iron rod, that is, the tyranny of sin will be thoroughly dealt with by the son, and the enemy will not agree with that plan.

Therefore, he will continue to engage in warfare against the woman and the seed that she will bring forth. Hence the reason why every pregnant woman must stand on the right platform as they raise their child after birth. The Cross of Jesus Christ must constantly be the foundation of your life as you also raise your child after birth.

God's equipping when she was vulnerable

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. Rev12:14

When the enemy rages against this woman, I see how God equipped her with two wings of a great eagle, in order for her to fly into the wilderness again; into her place so she can be nourished for a time.

I am seeing that the nourishment of a mother's post-delivery is paramount in the heart of God, and this is fully planned by God. It is the intention of God to bring every christian pregnant woman into all of His plans for them even in motherhood.

Also, between verse 15 and 16, which reads *Then from his mouth the snake spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.*

So, you see how the enemy kept pursuing the woman post-delivery, but you also see the help God gave the woman post-delivery; even nature was used of God to help her. I want you to know that all creations are God's servants and He is able to raise up the help needed for you post-delivery.

And 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. Rev 12:17

From the above verse, again, we see that the enemy went after the child of the woman; after her remnant as a means to fulfil Gen 3:15. The enemy seeks for those who keep God's commandments and have the testimony of CHRIST. Therefore, motherhood is a lifetime partnering, both with God and your child. You are the middle man between God and your child to make sure that child keeps on ruling with the iron rod in the generation he or she finds himself or herself.

Prayer

~ Lord, help me not to overlook my personal nurturing, post-delivery.

~ As You speak expressly concerning my post-delivery season, help me to maximise that season also.

~ Help me not to relent in my personal walk with You post-delivery.

~ When my heart seems overwhelmed post-delivery, lead me to the ROCK that is higher than I, point me back again to Calvary.

~ Cause me to know that my child(ren) will be safe in Your hands.

- ~ Put in me a deep hunger for You post my delivery.
- ~ Make me a resourceful mother, that is fully nourished for this child You are giving birth to through me.
- ~ Make the child You will bring forth through me, a keeper of Your testimony.
- ~ Let my children be a great threat to the dominion of darkness.

Pregnant Women Of The Bible

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