



MOTHERS WHO WERE GOOD PRESERVERS

About this time of the year Gail usually buys quantities of strawberries and preserves them by making freezer jam (yummy, yummy). This is not the kind of preserving I am going to discuss!

According to Exodus 2:1-10, there would have been no Moses to deliver Israel from bondage in Egypt if it were not for Moses' mother. It was not his father who did anything to save Moses' life - it was Moses' mother. She was the preserver.

Israel, from which the Messiah came, descended from Abraham - but so did the Arabs! The difference is that the Arabs descended from Hagar, Sarah's handmaid. It was Sarah who was the "Mother of Israel." *Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."*

Genesis 17:15-16

Sarah was the preserver - who established the line of Abraham.

Then there was Rahab, who was not even Jewish, who saved the Hebrew spies in Jericho (*But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.*)

Joshua 2:6

Rahab preserved Israel and, in fact, David and Christ were her descendants.

Then there was Naomi, who was such a virtuous woman that we read in the testimony of her daughter-in-law, Ruth, *"Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."*

Ruth 1:15-17

As a result Ruth returned to Israel and married Boaz another ancestor of both David and Christ (and also not Jewish).

The book of Esther deals with the woman who saved Israel from being slaughtered by the Medes and Persians. She was a preserver.

Turning to the New Testament, we find women like John's mother Mary who called a prayer meeting in her home when Peter was cast into jail - *So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.* Acts 12:12

Because of this prayer meeting, Peter was freed from prison and showed up at her house. In a sense, then, she preserved Peter and the ministry that he would have.

From Acts 16:13-14 we read - *And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.*

It was Lydia's response to Paul's Gospel that opened Macedonia to the Good News of Jesus Christ. You should note that the prayer meetings I have noted (Mary's and Lydia's) are typical of many today - all those in attendance were women.

Then, of course, there was one woman whose faithfulness led to our preservation - you and me. Luke tells us about her (Luke 1:30-31) *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.* She, too, was a preserver.

The world looks at Christianity like all other religions, dominated by men. It just isn't so. There are many women important to the preservation of Christianity.

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