



SEEING THE MAJOR IN THE MINOR

The Bible and Motherhood

THE MAJOR — MOTHERS

- * The home is God's earliest institution (Genesis 2).
- * Both father and mother play significant roles in the advancement of humanity.
- * The language of the family is often used to express spiritual truths:
 - * God as our Father — Matthew 6.8f
 - * Jesus as our Brother — Hebrews 2.11
 - * The church as Christ's bride — Ephesians 5.31f

THE MINOR — OBSCURE PASSAGES

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”

Matthew 23.37

- * Jesus invokes the language of a mother.
- * Jesus offered liberty and salvation to the Jews.
- * Their rejection of Him would lead to the destruction of their nation (Matthew 23.38; cf. 24.15).
- * Jesus offered what a mother offers — selfless help.
- * More significant than science projects (John 12.32-37).

THE MINOR — OBSCURE PASSAGES

*“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be comforted,
because they were no more.”*

Matthew 2.18

- * Matthew is recounting Jesus' early life.
 - * Herod did not get the information he wanted (Mt. 2.8), so he began a slaughter of Bethlehem's baby boys (2.16).
- * Matthew borrows the language of Jeremiah (31.15) and his description of the tribes of Judah (Ramah was in Benjamin).
- * The unique nature of a mother's love for her child.
 - * Do I embrace this love?

THE MINOR — OBSCURE PASSAGES

“I went about as though it were my friend or brother; I bowed down mourning, as one who sorrows for a mother.”

Psalm 35.14

- * One of the imprecatory psalms.
 - * The psalmist is on the Lord’s side; he cries for God’s support.
 - * He, though good, was being harmed by the evil (35.12ff).
 - * The author reminds himself of God’s protection (35.22ff).
- * Note how the psalmist describes his condition (35.14).
 - * There is something poignant about the loss of a mother.

LEARNING FROM THE MINOR

- * I must be thankful for the godly mothers in my life:
 - * Thankful to those women for their godly choices.
 - * Thankful to husbands and fathers who supported them.
 - * Thankful to God for the wisdom of His design.
- * I need to live (or encourage) godly motherhood:
 - * I need to give my wife the support she needs (Eph. 5).
 - * I need to share wisdom with young mothers (Titus 2).
 - * I need to convince myself of the unique privilege and role of motherhood — biological or otherwise.