

Mothers through Stages of Life
Selective Study - May 10, 2026, Bro. Richard Doctor

[1] Pre-Natal – Mary with Elizabeth, Luke 1:45-56.

What do these texts tell us about the spiritual focus of Mary's life before our Lord's birth?
Are there practical applications for expectant mothers?

[2] Childhood [1-12 years] – And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:40 1 Samuel 2:1-10

What do these texts tell us about the spiritual focus of Hannah's life as the child Samuel grew?
Are there parallels here with the later testimony of Mary we just considered?
Are there proper methods for mother's to encourage their child's spiritual and other development? *Are there unwise ways?*

[3] Age of Accountability [13-20 years] – And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? Luke 2:49.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; Ecclesiastes 12:1

Are there proper methods for mother's to encourage their young person's spiritual and other development? *Are there unwise ways?*

[4] Stirring the nest, establishing the child in life [21-37 years] – For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance...He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; Deuteronomy 32; 9-13

Today there are special challenges in getting children independent. How can mother's best assist in this transition of "stirring the nest?"

[5] She openeth her mouth with wisdom [later years] – Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Proverbs 31:25-28

What are the lessons here in Proverbs?