

# God's Maternal Nature

## The Emerging Goddess Worship

There is a growing trend sweeping the globe to portray God in the feminine. In fact the "Goddess Awakening" is permeating nearly every facet of society and religion. This reemergence of the Divine Feminine is also prominent in the visible church. Tens of millions follow the Queen of Heaven apparitions.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, countless millions of professing Christians now hold to New Age concepts of God, including portraying the Creator as Mother Earth or the Divine Feminine.

Popular books such as the Harry Potter series, *The Secret*, *The Shack*, and *The Celestine Prophecy* join countless other resources in encouraging a New Age concept of God. Movies and TV shows such as *V*, *Charmed*, *Star Trek (Borg Queen)*, *Avatar (mother goddess Eywa)*, and others also feature a "Mother Goddess" (Gaia).

Some even suggest that the "Goddess" is Biblical. They argue that just as we need a Divine Father, we also need a Divine Mother. Of course this concept does appeal to the natural man. Most of us run to our mom when we are hurting or in trouble or need someone to talk to or just in need of some tender loving care. But what does God's Word say? Is there a Divine Mother in heaven? Does God the Father have a female counterpart?

## God our Father

The dominant gender used in the Scriptures to describe God is male. God is often called Father in the Bible. Here are some examples:

"Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10).

"Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?" (Deuteronomy 32:6).

"Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever" (1 Chronicles 29:10).

"But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand" (Isaiah 64:8).

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9).

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7).

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<sup>1</sup> Jim Tetlow, *Queen of All*, Fairport, NY, Eternal Productions, 2006.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3).

“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:6).

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world” (1 John 4:14).

“Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” (2 John 1:3).

## God has both a paternal and maternal nature

Though God is most often portrayed in the masculine throughout Scripture, there are several references that imply God’s motherly heart. This should not be a surprise because the Creator of male and female caused both to bear His image (Genesis 1:27; 5:2; etc.) and both to share His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 3:18; etc.) after they have been born again.

In the beginning “God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27). Initially, both male and female reflected God’s character.

Interestingly, when the Lord brought the woman to the man, Adam said “‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:23-24). The two become one flesh (Matthew 19:5). Therefore, ideally the joining of man and woman in holy matrimony (instituted from the beginning of creation by God) reflects a more complete likeness of God than either man or woman by themselves. Clearly, both male and female reflect the attributes of God and together we see a fuller representation of God’s character.

Genesis 5:2 explains: “(God) created them male and female, and blessed them and called them *Mankind* (Heb. Adam) in the day they were created.” God called Adam and Eve together *Mankind* – which is the same Hebrew word translated Adam.

God is Spirit (John 4:24) and together the male and female reflect more completely the spiritual attributes of God. Therefore the Creator who is the Cause of both the male and female would possess an ideal father’s heart as well as a perfect mother’s heart. And this is what the whole counsel of God reveals.

## Scriptures that reveal God's Motherly Heart

It is interesting to note that wisdom is personified as female in the first four chapters of the Book of Proverbs. Chapters 8 and 9 (and elsewhere) in the Book of Proverbs also personify wisdom as female. The Hebrew word for wisdom is a feminine noun; hence it was natural to personify this virtue as a woman. Wisdom has its source in the Creator, and the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are specifically said to be hidden in Christ Jesus – “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). Therefore wisdom, though presented as a woman in Proverbs, actually symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs concludes with the ideal virtuous woman of chapter 31. This model woman is a magnificent reflection of the Lord's maternal nature. It is noteworthy and fitting that Proverbs should end on this very positive note about women. Three women are prominent in this Book: 1) The personification of Wisdom, seen as a woman inviting learners to her banquet. 2) The immoral woman or seductress. 3) And finally, the woman of valor. The first and third mirror God's character; the second reflects the world's counterfeit.

And there are additional Scriptures that reveal God's perfect maternal nature:

“How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” (Matthew 23:37).

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me” (Isaiah 49:15-16).

“Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us” (Luke 1:78).

“Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you” (Isaiah 46:3-4).

“I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them” (Hosea 11:4).

“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 (foreign) god with him (Deuteronomy 32:11-12, KJV).

“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). The word translated *hovering* is the Hebrew word *rachaph*. It means to move or shake or flutter or brood over. It is the same word used to describe an eagle fluttering or brooding over her young in Deuteronomy 32:11.

God's maternal heart is alluded to in other passages as well. The dove that Noah sent out after the flood may represent the Holy Spirit, and this dove is portrayed as female (Genesis 8:8-12; Luke 3:22). Eve, created directly by God – in His image and likeness – is even called “the mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).

## God is our all and all

The Bible explains that there is only one true God and He is our all and all. We are complete in Him. He alone is God. He is our father and mother, our provider and protector, our redeemer and savior, our life and our everything! The Heavenly Father has no counterpart ruling in heaven. There is no Mother goddess as the New Age Movement or Eastern religions imagine. Nor is Mary the spiritual mother of humanity as many Catholics assert. God's Word is certain – He is our all in all. In Him alone we are complete and find ultimate fulfillment!

However there are evil spirits that masquerade as angels of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). These demons seek to confuse and deceive and will be especially active in the last days.

Yet the only true God is all we need. We are complete in Him. Here are some Scriptures that explain that the one true God is our all and all:

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

“Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28).

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:9-10).

“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace” (John 1:16).

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

“[You] have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:10-11).

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring'" (Acts 17:24-28).

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

"Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:9-10).

## God is a Jealous God

Because our Creator made and owns everything, we ought to worship and serve Him only. The Bible acknowledges that there are many false gods (demons), but warns "you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14).

"If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only..." (1 Samuel 7:3).

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Matthew 4:10).

As our loving and protecting Father, our Creator deserves our undivided affection: "For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: 'I am the LORD, and there is no other'" (Isaiah 45:18).

The Lord God Almighty has no female counterpart co-reining from heaven. However, the Bible does anticipate a radiant woman who will masquerade as a benevolent queen in the last days. Scripture warns that she is a counterfeit (Revelation 17; Isaiah 47; Zechariah 5; Matthew 13:33). In love and grace our Father calls His people to return to Him exclusively: "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).