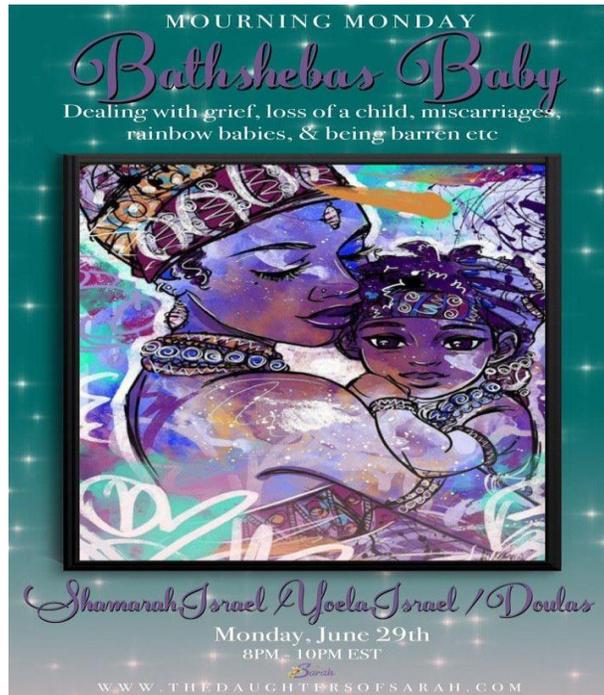


Topic: Bathsheba's Baby
Hosts: Shamarah Israel/
Yoela Israel/Doulas
Event: T2 Mourning Monday
Date: June 29, 2020



Mother Shamarah

Shares intimate story about the loss of her child...

Everyone thinks...

- When they have had a “normal” pregnancy before, they automatically assume that it will not happen to them...then suddenly, it is you.
- Why did this happen to me?
- No one really understands...
- How could I lose my baby?
- When a woman experiences the loss of a child and must deliver a baby that has died or is dying inside of her, it is exceedingly difficult to counsel someone with that level of pain. As women we try to sympathize and empathetic as much as possible, but we need to have real honest conversations such as these as a sisterhood to help each other grieve and heal.

- In 2017 the Daughters of Zion globally were stricken with miscarriages, child loss and issues with childbirth.
- The Most High has placed women in the congregation that are in the medical field who are equipped to handle this conversation. (Nurses, Doulas, Healers-Spiritual and Physical)

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (KJV) 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.

- *We do not know the workings of God, but we do know that all spirit and all life cometh from the Heavenly Father*

Sister Yoella

Life is hard, life can be cruel, hurtful, and sometimes we may feel that we want to give up, especially when it comes to our family, specifically our children.

Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV)

Vs 3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is* his reward.

Vs 4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.

Vs 5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

- Happy is the *woman* as well
- We all desire to have children to continue our lineage and specifically children bring us joy.
- Some of us have had struggles producing children or even had a child whose life ended before his/her life has started.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 (KJV)

Vs 26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

Vs 27A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

Vs 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

- Our sins, our hurt, our heartache and pain is a direct result of breaking Gods laws.
- Some of our losses are sins of our forefathers, so we must always remember to put that in perspective when we go through trials in life.
- When the physician tells us that our losses are caused by abnormalities with the baby and this is Gods way of taking care of it, but we know that this is all from the Most High.

When your lord gives you instructions to not discuss the pregnancy with anyone until after the first trimester and you call up your sisters saying, "I'm pregnant, but don't tell anybody!"

- When problems arise in your pregnancy evaluate yourself...
- Did you go against what your lord instructed?

If you find that you are not getting pregnant make sure that you are doing ALL that you can to open your womb to conceive so that when the Most High is ready to give you children...He Will.

- Fasting and Praying
- Exercising
- Eating healthier
- Put away the alcohol
- Seek holistic health for conception

Spiritually how long are you going to wait...

- How long will it be before you curse God for you not getting pregnant?
- At what point will you start giving your lord (your husband) the evil eye?
- If your lord is the one who can not produce children, will you start hating him? Or will you care for and encourage him like you would expect someone to do for yourself?
- At what point will you start envying the mom of multiple children in the congregation?

Mother Shamarah

This is a cycle of bareness, to miscarriage to stillborn to birth. This is a conversation for the barren woman which is painful in its own right.

- Sisters please listen to counsel.
- There is so much joy when a woman who was once barren conceives.
- We must stop doing the things that are being discussed.

Sister Yoela

You desire children? The Most High will test you...

- Will you curse your husband?
- Will you curse God?
- Will you give that sister in the congregation the evil eye because she made an announcement that she is pregnant, and this may be her fourth child?

If your lord is the one that is not producing children, are you giving him hell at home or are you seeking medical/holistic advice or fasting/praying with him so that he can produce children?

Ask yourself:

What are you doing to show the Most High that you are doing everything you can and changing your ways? Then maybe he will bless you.

Whether 6 months or 5-year wait, what are you doing in the meantime?

- Are you confessing your faults?
- Are you going to the elder mothers of the church?
- Are you getting anointed?
- Are you fasting and praying?
- Are you treating your body right?
- Are you *really* losing the weight?
- Are you really listening to counsel or doing things secretly?

When someone in the congregations announces that they are pregnant, will you congratulate them? Remember the Most High is watching everything and taking it into account.

Psalms 113:9 (KJV) He maketh the barren woman to keep house, *and to be* a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

- Who is being a joyful mother of all the children in the congregation?
- Who is stepping in for the mother that is overwhelmed or are you sitting on the sideline watching her struggle?

Why would the Most High want to heal you and open your womb if you have a nasty attitude towards others with children?

1 Peter 1:7 (KJV) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

- Who honestly believes that our trials are more precious than gold?
- Are you viewing it that way, or are you cursing God?
- Are you saying, “why me?” Maybe your faith is being built up.

In the midst of calamities King David did not lose himself.

2 Samuel 12:16-24 (KJV)

Vs 16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

Vs 17 And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

- He besought God and he fasted.
- In the bible there will always be a roadmap about what to do when we are going through trials.

Vs 18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child

was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

Vs 19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

Vs 20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

Vs 21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

Vs 22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

Vs 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Vs 24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

- Grief is necessary but at some point, you will have to move through it.
- King David mourned for his sick son and fasted, but the child died. Afterwards he rose up, gave God the glory and continued and didn't let the death of his son afflict him so much so that he stopped caring for the kingdom that God gave him.

Psalms 16:11 (KJV) Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

- We will rejoice before the Lord in the kingdom
- All these things are happening to use because we are cursed and in captivity
- We must keep the things that we are going through as the Nation of Israel in perspective.
- The pain of child loss is temporary, but the kingdom of God lasts forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

- The dead in Christ shall rise first.
- If your children were righteous, you must believe that you **will** see them again.

- Take your repentance to the next level if you want to see your kids again.

Psalms 34: 18-19 (KJV)

Vs 18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Vs 19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

- Even in death we must find comfort in God's laws and faith that he will deliver us and comfort us.

2 Maccabees 7:1-42 (Apocrypha) (Please read on your own)

- This is about the story of the woman with the 7 sons.
- We must draw strength from our foremothers in the scriptures.

Matthew 19:29 (KJV) And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

- We will have even more children in the kingdom.
- We will regain the ones who died in the truth, in the commandments, keeping the faith.

Things to do while you are waiting to conceive...

- Care for other children in the congregation for mothers who are overwhelmed. (You must be in the right frame of mind.)
- Travel with your lord as much as you can.
- Start a business
- Take up a course or finish school.
- Get fit (sign up with a trainer or take a belly dancing class)
- Cleanse and detoxify your body (including your lord)
- If you have/have not suffered child loss pay attention to, hug, play and teach your children the commandments everyday while you can.

Sister Zakkiyah – Dallas

Topic: Infertility

Infertility in the Bible is called being barren

Definition: Barren- 1. (of a woman) unable to have children. 2. empty of meaning or value.

Infertility can be a result of...

- Our pasts or our foremother's pasts.
- Long term use of birth control.
- Medical issues such as PCOS, Fibroids, etc.

Women are suffering from infertility who actually desire to have children, but you have women like on the video below who was able to conceive but does even want their children.

Video: Worse Mom Ever Is HAPPY CPS Took Custody of Her Kids SMDH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= TaJ9Vfhzo0>

- To become a beautiful butterfly you must go through the “ugly cocoon” process
- You must self-evaluate and admit to yourself that you did not come into the truth “squeaky clean.”
- Do not be the sister that refuses to congratulate other expectant mothers or hold other mothers' babies.

1 Samuel (KJV) (Read on your own) Story of Foremother Hannah

- She constantly cried out to the Most High and was still seeking the kingdom.
- She did not have envy and hatred for other women that were able to conceive.

1 Kings 3:16-28 (KJV) – Story of the 2 Harlots

Vs 16 Then came there two women, *that were* harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

Vs 17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

Vs 18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we *were* together; *there was* no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

Vs 19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

Vs 20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

Vs 21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

Vs 22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living *is* my son, and the dead *is* thy son. And this said, No; but the dead *is* thy son, and the living *is* my son. Thus they spake before the king.

Vs 23 Then said the king, The one saith, This *is* my son that liveth, and thy son *is* the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son *is* the dead, and my son *is* the living.

Vs 24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

Vs 25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Vs 26 Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but* divide *it*.

Vs 27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is* the mother thereof.

Vs 28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God *was* in him, to do judgment.

- The woman whose baby died had a very covetous spirit.
- Depression can lead to murder, lying, ultimately it leads to hatred. (ex: you are hating on your sister because her womb is open and yours is barren.)
- Maybe you have not conceived the child that you desire because you have not confessed your sins.
- See a physician for further diagnostic testing, if needed.
- Do not be so focused on this world that you forget to focus on the goal which is the kingdom.
- You are so worried about having babies now and maybe the Most High is saving your womb so that you can give birth to kings in the kingdom.

- Fast, Pray and Repent and wait on the Most High's blessings

1 Corinthians 12:26 (KJV) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

- Do you honestly believe what this scripture is saying?
- It is not just one sided, you wanted someone to suffer with you but will you suffer or rejoice with someone else?
- For Married Sisters...If your lord is truly about getting the kingdom he will love you either way because he is your best friend. He will hurt and rejoice with you.

Mother Shamarah

- Pain teaches us valuable lessons.
- Experiences teaches us the ability to heal and be able to teach other people how to deal with their hurt.
- It is extremely important to be your Sisters Keeper

Sis Yoela

For Single Sisters...Make sure you have this conversation during the proving process because it will be too late once you are married.

- Your lord is your best friend and you both will be grieving/mourning.
- Together you both will become stronger

Sister Zakkiyah – Dallas

Article: Mind Your Own Womb

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/nadirahaangail.wordpress.com/2016/05/25/mind-your-own-womb/amp/>

If a sister does not personally tell you that she is pregnant...

- Stop assuming
- Stop asking if she is having a baby
- Respect each other's privacy
- Avoid being intrusive and allow the sister to share her personal information...if she wants to.
- Be sincere and reach out to one another

Sister Neziyah – OKC

Shares intimate story of loss of twin boys...

Key Points:

- Avoid the spirit of covetousness towards other sisters who can conceive.
- Avoid living in depression.
- Read the story of Job in the bible.
- Do not forget the ultimate goal of gaining the kingdom.
- Trials will come unexpectedly.
- Stay in the scriptures, watch classes, congregate.
- Continue helping others and putting in work even through your trials.
- Do not allow sin to block your blessings.

Imagine getting to the gates of the kingdom and you see your babies waiting for you but the Most High turn you away.

Video: IUIC-Three Trials of Faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWn8wd5oldA&list=PLB3kiGI5RqimPeX7ftNiJv3OuvuFIZ6AW&index=2>

Isaiah 57:1 (KJV) The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth *it* to heart: and merciful men *are* taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil *to* come.

Sirach 30:17 (KJV) Death is better than a bitter life or continual sickness.

- These are scriptures that you meditate on to help in your healing process.
- Consider the kind of life your children would have had if they lived knowing how sick they were.

James 1:2-4 (KJV)

Vs 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Vs 3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Vs 4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Philippians 4:6 (KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Mark 11:24 (KJV) Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

- These scriptures can be meditated on to help in the healing process.
- Keep the faith that the Most High will help you get through your trials.

Mother Shamarah

Through the sacrifice of your pain you can heal another Sister or help another Sister through her journey.

Sister Yoela

Q. What did you need after going through child loss?

Sister Neziyah

A. Someone to allow me to just say what I was really feeling, so that I could in-turn heal from it.

Sister Tabitha– Dallas (Pregnancy and Infant Loss Advocate)

Business: Birth in Color

Articles:

Why Do Black Women Experience More Pregnancy Losses

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/why-do-black-women-have-more-pregnancy-losses-2371724>

It's Different For Black Women: The Realities of Our Struggle With Miscarriages

Definition of Miscarriage- the expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is able to survive independently, especially spontaneously or as the result of accident.

- Occurring between the 7th-14th week (1-3 months) depending on the state you reside
- During this stage 1 in 4 women will experience a Miscarriage

Definition of Stillbirths - the birth of an infant that has died in the womb (strictly, after having survived through at least the first 28 weeks of pregnancy, earlier instances being regarded as abortion or miscarriage).

- Occurring between the 20th week through the 9th month

Some reason why miscarriage occur...

1. Chromosomal Abnormalities (ex: Trisomy 13)
2. Fetal Developments
3. Advanced Maternal Age
4. Hormonal Issues
5. Infections
6. Maternal Health
7. Lifestyle (Malnourished, exposure to toxins, drugs)

Some reason for stillbirths occur...

1. Conditional Abnormalities (ex: chromosomal issues)
2. Abnormal Development
3. Fetal Growth Restriction (caused by malnourishment, mother's medical issues)
4. Placenta or Cord problems (caused by gestational diabetes, high blood pressure)
5. Maternal Medical Conditions (thyroid disease, obesity, diabetes, renal disease, and heart problems)
6. Premature birth (caused by infections on medications taken in the past)

How do you get through this?

1. Tabitha Israel
2. Counselor of 1000
3. Any other moms that has experience similar issues

Miscarriages and stillbirths are not a subject discussed in our community until it happens to one of us.

Caring for Mom and Baby...

- Remember that regardless of the outcome a birth occurred.
- You may feel that you are worthless or being punished...you must change your perspective about what happened.
- Listen and follow the mother's advice that is going through the grief about what she needs. Listen more and talk less!
- Avoid clichés because at that time a mother does not want to hear it. (ex: "There must've been something wrong with the baby, that's why God took him/her")
- Acknowledge her pain, be there for her and support her through this trial.

For miscarriages/fetal deaths:

- When notified by physician/midwife that you must go in to deliver a stillborn...
- Know your rights (you chose the delivery day, slow down so that you can process what is happening, documents needing to be signed can wait.)

Mother Shamarah

Q. How do you support a Sister who has to deliver a stillborn baby?

Sister Tabitha

A. Support her and let her know to slow down and live in the moment, don't focus on what is to come once baby is delivered, what she will see. That causes anxiety and pressure thinking about what will happen afterwards. (ex: remove clock in delivery room, turn off the lights, turn on soothing music and make that time as memorable as possible)

Mother Shamarah

Q. Do you recommend taking photos of the baby and holding the stillborn baby?

A. Parents do have the right to hold, dress, perform skin to skin for yourself and dad. Cuddle Cots are used to help preserve baby during this time. You can have 1 hour to 1 day with your baby.



Mother Shamarah

Q. Is the Sister still free to have an advocate in this situation?

A. Yes. It is still a birth, the journey, the outcome is just different. You still have a son or a daughter.

Sister Tabitha

Discussing the emotional standpoint...

- The assumption is sometimes made that the length of your pregnancy relates to the amount of grief that you can have. (ex: loss at 9 months should be able to grieve longer than someone with a loss at 2 months.)
- You never know what the history of the sisters.
- You may be able to take your baby home from the hospital and not have them declare your baby as “medical waste” (laws are different in each state).
- Request to meet with hospital administration to find out your legal rights.
- Make sure you find out what the hospital policies are (written not verbal)

Mother Shamarah

The women of Israel are fruitful, and we will always have babies, and sadly there are going to be miscarriages, stillborn babies, and loss. This is the establishment of the Village when women need help in their time of loss and mourning. The conversation will continue...

Sister Tabitha

Q. How do you support a Sister diagnosed with an *Ectopic Pregnancy*?

A. Everything that Israel needs you can find it in the Bible. The world gets all their information from our book. Go through scriptures with the Sisters. Advise her to look up certain procedures that are being recommended. Do not feel pressured to immediately go into surgery. Remember this is a threat on the mother's life. Hospitals will choose mom's life over baby's life. An ectopic pregnancy will not last because it was not implanted in the uterus. Explain to mom the risk of continuing with this pregnancy. Make sure to obtain the postop notes from the surgery so that you will have the information on hand in case you choose to move forward and have another child.

Ectopic Pregnancy- A pregnancy implanted anywhere but inside the uterus

Sister Yoela

Neglect in the hospital is another form of warfare, so make sure to educate yourself on all possible options and we will not end up as guinea pigs or sheep to the slaughter.

Q. What if you decide to give birth at home and the baby is stillborn at home, what is the process?

A. The laws are different in each respective state. If you decide to have unassisted births or birth at home with a midwife or doula, you must do your research, prove yourself and your lord, ensuring you both are on one accord with your decision to have an unassisted birth. We are not wilderness strong like our foremothers. If a stillbirth occurs at home and everything went according to plan, and the baby did not thrive there may be an investigation. As long as you have your paperwork in order and no one stepped out of their scope of practice (ex: no one tried to be a doctor, you attempted CPR and first aid) then everything should be just fine.

Q. SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)

A. It is associated with a "crib" but can happen anywhere. Baby can just stop breathing. An investigation will be done, and if there was no negligence or harm to the child again everything should be okay.

Sister Yoela can be found at:

Birth in Color <https://www.birthiscolor.org/>

Cocoa Fresh <https://www.cocoafresh.com/>

Tabitha can be found at:

FB: Tabithedoula

Birth in Color <https://www.birthincolor.org/>

Sister Remiyah

Gifted Hands Doula <http://giftedhandsdoula.com/>

Sister Shiphra – Atlanta and surrounding areas. (will travel)

Childbirth Educator

Birth Doula

Postpartum Care Doula

Moiselle - Hattisburg Mississippi

Doula

Matania – Chicago Illinois

Birth Doula

Adirah – Union City, Georgia (serving Atlanta and surrounding areas) (will travel)

Nurse of 17 yrs

Selah – Houston Tx

Training to be a Birth Doula

Princess Shai – Contact information to come...

Special thanks to [Zakkiyah](#) and Neziyah for your powerful stories and transparency as they were extremely healing.

~~~Shalom Most High in Christ Blessed~~~