I. MIRIAM’S FAMILY AND LIFE.

A. Her name is the same name as Mary. It means “bitterness” or “rebellion”.

B. She was the first born child of Amram and Jochebed, from the priestly tribe of Levi.

C. She is only mentioned 14 times in Scripture, but she had great influence both in her family and among her people.

D. Her brothers were Aaron and Moses and she was probably about 12 years older than Moses.

E. She arranged for Moses to be cared for by his mother when Pharaoh’s daughter found him in the river—Ex. 2:1-10.

F. She was known as a prophetess and worship leader—Ex.15:20-21.

G. Although Scripture seems to indicate she remained single, Josephus, the first century historian, says otherwise. According to him, Miriam married Hur, a leader among the people—Ex. 24:14. If this is correct then Miriam was the grandmother of Bezalel a principle builder of the tabernacle—Ex. 31:1-5.

H. She along with her brothers never made it to the Promised Land—Num 20:1.

II. MIRIAM’S LESSONS.

A. Her negative lessons.

1. She had a critical spirit as her name indicates (“bitterness” or “rebellion”).

2. She exhibited this critical spirit when Moses married someone not of her choosing—Num. 12:1.

3. She was also jealous of Moses’ leadership—Num. 12:2.

4. She was struck with leprosy for criticizing Moses—Num. 12:9-10.


6. Other than the record of her death, Miriam is never mentioned again in a place of leadership in Israel.

7. She is mentioned later in Scripture as an example of rebellion—Deut. 24:9.
B. Her positive lessons.

1. She was a responsible person for taking care of Moses as a child.

2. She was a resourceful person in arranging for Moses to be cared for at home.

3. She was a leader among her people—Micah 6:4.

4. She was a worship leader among her people.