

**A JEALOUS WOMAN**  
**NUMBERS 12:1-2 / 10-1-17 / PM**

**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.
  5. Moses forgave her and prayed for her healing—Num. 12:13-15.
  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.