

IMAGE

God Exhibited His Image In Human Beings

Women in the Old Testament

MIRIAM, Moses' sister, was a prophetess (Ex. 15:20). God tells Micah that Israel was led by Moses, Aaron and Miriam (Micah 6:4).

DEBORAH led the Israelites in the period of the judges as a prophetess (Judges 4:4). Deborah was the leader of Israel, holding court at a time of war with the Canaanites. She commanded Barak to go to war. He refused to go without her. Deborah told Barak "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman" (4:9) Another woman, Jael, would kill Sisera, the Canaanite commander. driving a tent peg through his temples (4:21). Deborah retells the story in song in Judges 5 in what is known as "The Song Of Deborah."

After the loss of her husband and two sons, Naomi decides to leave Moab and return to Israel. RUTH, a Moabite who was also widowed by the death of one of Naomi's sons, works to support Naomi and, as a foreigner, serves Naomi by marrying Boaz (Naomi's kinsman), giving birth to a child by Boaz whom they name Obed, the grandfather of David and an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

HANNAH deep in distressful prayer, chides Eli, the priest, for his assumption that she is drunk (1 Samuel 1:12-20). When God blesses her prayer with a son (1:11) she dedicates him to the Lord. The Bible records her prayer of praise in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

When Josiah's priest discovers the book of the Law in the temple, Josiah listens to its reading then commands his secretary and associates to inquire of the Lord about what to do. So they take it to HULDAH, the prophetess, where she informs them of the time of destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile for the nation of Judah (2 Kings 22).

Queen ESTHER was key to Israel's survival under Persian rule and she is still remembered by the Jewish people during the time of Purim (Esther 9:18-32).

In Hosea's time God observes that the women were adulteresses in idol worship but He would not punish them because the men were doing it as well (Hosea 4:13-14). Equal justice: no distinction between men and women.

THE WOMAN OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON: the exchange of these newlyweds reveals shared desire and mutual admiration (2:16; 6:3; 3:1-4; 7:10) in contrast to the curse of Genesis 3:16.

The GODLY WOMAN of Proverbs 31 describes an independent, entrepreneurial woman who is a leader in her community.

The Wisdom of Proverbs is seen as a woman (Proverbs 8:22-23, 30). She appeals to human beings to listen to her instruction in Proverbs 8.