

Women In The Old Testament



Nantahala Falls

The first time I went down the Nantahala River I was in a single man ducky. I was a rookie and had no clue what I had gotten myself into. The river actually made my liver quiver! And when I got to the final class 4 Nantahala Falls I was flipped over and sucked to the bottom of the river in spite of the fact that I had on a large life-vest supposedly to protect me. Have you ever felt pushed down, powerless and under a lot of pressure?

Who saw you in trouble & helped you?



"You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance."
Psalms 32:7

'God says: In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your **sons and daughters** will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will have special dreams.

¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit on my servants, **men and women**, and they will prophesy.

Acts 2:17-18



Both Men & Women

Why is it important for us to explore what Scripture's Vision is for Women? Why do we need to bother with this?

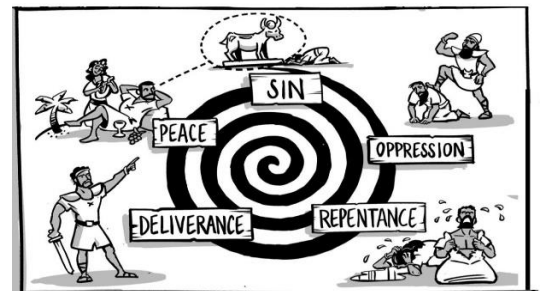
Well, wouldn't you say that what is important to God, should also be important to us? What if women serving in leadership is not God's plan B, because a man didn't step up. As we look in the Old Testament, we discover Deborah, who is in the right place, at the right time, with the right stuff to bring about "God's Rescue & Restore Operation". **Do you know her story?**

HOW DID GOD USE WONDERFUL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

JUDGES 4:1-3

Again the Israelites did **EVIL** in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. ² So the Lord **SOLD THEM** into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. ³ Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly **OPPRESSED** the Israelites for twenty years, they **CRIED** to the Lord for help.

Who will God provide to pull them out of this mess?



Judges 4:4

Now Deborah, a **PROPHET**, the **WIFE** of Lappidoth, was **LEADING** Israel at that time. ⁵ She **HELD COURT** under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites **WENT UP TO HER** to have their disputes decided.

Have you ever heard a sermon on God's Prophetess Miriam or Huldah?

Miriam: Moses Sister -- Ex 15:20 &

Huldah -- Time of Jeremiah & Josiah -- 2 Kings 22:14-20)

When Hilkiah the high priest found the *Book of the Law* in the Lord's Temple he got it to King Josiah. The King & Priests in searching for someone to interpret the *Book of the Law* sent for the prophetess **Huldah**. What else do you know about her?

WHAT QUALIFIES A WOMAN FOR THIS POSITION?

1. _____ with God
2. _____ for God's People
3. _____ for **BEE**-ing Reliable
4. _____ Other to Rise Above



Watch this female leader, who is filled with the fullness of God, influence people and mobilize them around a vision and birth a new future which is compelling and inspiring.

Judges 4:6-9

She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. ⁷I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'" ⁸Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

⁹"Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.



Soaked Ground Sink Chariots
Now how did that happen?



Tent Peg In Enemies Head
Israel is Rescued by a Woman



Deborah & Barak Sang A Song
People volunteered..., bless God!

Does God's Story in Scriptures reveal how he calls and uses women in leadership? Why would he do that?

The God who gave Israel strength and victory is the same God who gives us victory today. Our victory is found in Jesus! Let's close with Paul's words and be blessed and encouraged:

*"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my **DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS**, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" 1 Corinthians 15:57-58*

THINK ABOUT IT: We have seen that God includes women of the Old Testament in leadership, just like Jesus, Peter and Paul. What do you hear God saying to you in this study?