

Women in the Bible

Circa 3976 B.C. - Present



Creation and Role in Genesis

The word Women is found in (app) 328 Occurrences in the bible.

Women hold a significant place in the biblical narrative, beginning with the creation account in Genesis.

According to Genesis 1:27 New Living Translation

27

So God created human beings[a] in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

This verse establishes the equality of men and women in terms of their creation in the image of God.

In **Genesis 2**, the creation of woman is detailed further, where Eve is formed from Adam's rib to be a "helper suitable for him":

Genesis 2:18 New Living Translation

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

This term "helper" (Hebrew: ezer) does not imply inferiority but rather denotes a complementary partnership.





Women in the Old Testament

Throughout the Old Testament, women play crucial roles in the unfolding of God's plan.

Figures such as Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah are pivotal in the Abrahamic lineage.

Deborah, a prophetess and judge, is noted for her leadership and wisdom:

Judges 4-5 New Living Translation

Deborah Becomes Israel's Judge

4 After Ehud's death, the Israelites again did evil in the Lord's sight.

2 So the Lord turned them over to King Jabin of Hazor, a Canaanite king. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-haggoyim.

3 Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots, ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

4 Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time.

5 She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment.

6 One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor.

7 And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him."

8 Barak told her, "I will go, but only if you go with me."

9 "Very well," she replied, "I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 At Kedesh, Barak called together the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, and 10,000 warriors went up with him. Deborah also went with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite, a descendant of Moses' brother-in-law^[a] Hobab, had moved away from the other members of his tribe and pitched his tent by the oak of Zaanannim near Kedesh.

12 When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

13 he called for all 900 of his iron chariots and all of his warriors, and they marched from Harosheth-haggoyim to the Kishon River.

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle.

15 When Barak attacked, the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his chariot and escaped on foot.

16 Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-haggoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive.

17 Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber's family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor.

18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come into my tent, sir. Come in. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

19 "Please give me some water," he said. "I'm thirsty." So she gave him some milk from a leather bag and covered him again.

20 "Stand at the door of the tent," he told her. "If anybody comes and asks you if there is anyone here, say no."

21 But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg in her hand. Then she drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground, and so he died.

22 When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for." So he followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead, with the tent peg through his temple.

23 So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king.

24 And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him.

The Song of Deborah

5 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

2

"Israel's leaders took charge,
and the people gladly followed.
Praise the Lord!

3

"Listen, you kings!
Pay attention, you mighty rulers!
For I will sing to the Lord.
I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel.

4

"Lord, when you set out from Seir
and marched across the fields of Edom,
the earth trembled,
and the cloudy skies poured down rain.

5

The mountains quaked in the presence of the Lord,
the God of Mount Sinai—
in the presence of the Lord,
the God of Israel.

6

“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
and in the days of Jael,
people avoided the main roads,
and travelers stayed on winding pathways.

7

There were few people left in the villages of Israel^[b]—
until Deborah arose as a mother for Israel.

8

When Israel chose new gods,
war erupted at the city gates.
Yet not a shield or spear could be seen
among forty thousand warriors in Israel!

9

My heart is with the commanders of Israel,
with those who volunteered for war.
Praise the Lord!

10

“Consider this, you who ride on fine donkeys,
you who sit on fancy saddle blankets,
and you who walk along the road.

11

Listen to the village musicians[c]
gathered at the watering holes.
They recount the righteous victories of the Lord
and the victories of his villagers in Israel.
Then the people of the Lord
marched down to the city gates.

12

“Wake up, Deborah, wake up!
Wake up, wake up, and sing a song!
Arise, Barak!
Lead your captives away, son of Abinoam!

13

“Down from Tabor marched the few against the nobles.
The people of the Lord marched down against mighty warriors.

14

They came down from Ephraim—
a land that once belonged to the Amalekites;
they followed you, Benjamin, with your troops.
From Makir the commanders marched down;
from Zebulun came those who carry a commander’s staff.

15

The princes of Issachar were with Deborah and Barak.
They followed Barak, rushing into the valley.
But in the tribe of Reuben
there was great indecision.[d]

16

Why did you sit at home among the sheepfolds—
to hear the shepherds whistle for their flocks?
Yes, in the tribe of Reuben
there was great indecision.

17

Gilead remained east of the Jordan.

And why did Dan stay home?

Asher sat unmoved at the seashore,
remaining in his harbors.

18

But Zebulun risked his life,
as did Naphtali, on the heights of the battlefield.

19

“The kings of Canaan came and fought,
at Taanach near Megiddo’s springs,
but they carried off no silver treasures.

20

The stars fought from heaven.
The stars in their orbits fought against Sisera.

21

The Kishon River swept them away—
that ancient torrent, the Kishon.
March on with courage, my soul!

22

Then the horses’ hooves hammered the ground,
the galloping, galloping of Sisera’s mighty steeds.

23

‘Let the people of Meroz be cursed,’ said the angel of the Lord.

‘Let them be utterly cursed,
because they did not come to help the Lord—
to help the Lord against the mighty warriors.’

24

“Most blessed among women is Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite.
May she be blessed above all women who live in tents.

25

Sisera asked for water,
and she gave him milk.
In a bowl fit for nobles,
she brought him yogurt.

26

Then with her left hand she reached for a tent peg,
and with her right hand for the workman's hammer.
She struck Sisera with the hammer, crushing his head.
With a shattering blow, she pierced his temples.

27

He sank, he fell,
he lay still at her feet.
And where he sank,
there he died.

28

"From the window Sisera's mother looked out.
Through the window she watched for his return, saying,
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why don't we hear the sound of chariot wheels?'

29

"Her wise women answer,
and she repeats these words to herself:

30

'They must be dividing the captured plunder—
with a woman or two for every man.
There will be colorful robes for Sisera,
and colorful, embroidered robes for me.
Yes, the plunder will include
colorful robes embroidered on both sides.'

31

“Lord, may all your enemies die like Sisera!

But may those who love you rise like the sun in all its power!”
Then there was peace in the land for forty years.

Ruth, a Moabite woman, exemplifies loyalty and faith, becoming the great-grandmother of King David (**Ruth 1-4**).

Esther, through her courage, saves her people from destruction (**Esther 1-10**).

The **Proverbs 31** woman is often highlighted as an ideal of virtue and industriousness.

Proverbs 31:30 New International Version

30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.



Women in the New Testament



In the New Testament, women continue to play vital roles in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the early church.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is honored for her obedience and faith:

Luke 1:26-38 New Living Translation

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings,[a] favored woman! The Lord is with you![b]”

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

30 “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

33 And he will reign over Israel[c] forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

34 Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

36 What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.

37 For the word of God will never fail.[d]”

38 Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.



Mary Magdalene is among the first to witness the resurrected Christ:

John 20:11-18 New Living Translation

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in.

12 She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.

13 “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

14 She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him.

15 “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

16 “Mary!” Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

Women such as Martha and Mary of Bethany are depicted as close followers of Jesus:

Luke 10:38-42 New Living Translation

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

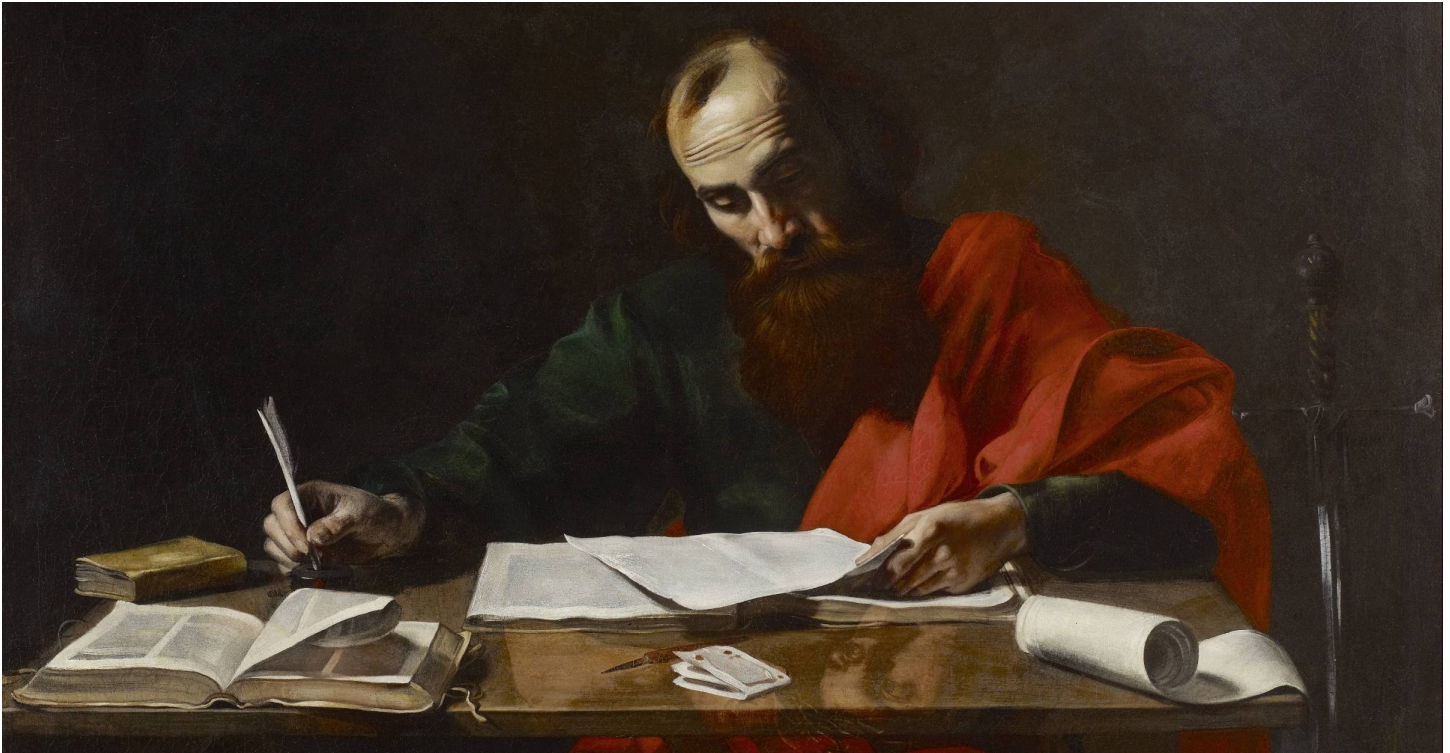
38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught.

40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

41 But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details!

42 There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”



The Apostle Paul acknowledges the contributions of women in the early church.

In **Romans 16**, he commends Phoebe, a deaconess, and other women like Priscilla, who worked alongside her husband Aquila in teaching and spreading the Gospel:

Romans 16:1-4 New Living Translation

Paul Greet His Friends

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea.

2 Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

3 Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus.

4 In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches.

Teachings on Women

The New Testament contains teachings on the roles and conduct of women within the church and family.

In **Ephesians 5:22-24**, Paul writes, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22-24 New Living Translation

22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.

24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior."

This passage, along with others like **1 Timothy 2:11-12**, has been the subject of much discussion regarding the roles of women in church leadership and family dynamics.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 New Living Translation

11 Women should learn quietly and submissively.

12 I do not let women teach men or have authority over them.^[a]
Let them listen quietly.



Spiritual Equality

Despite differing roles, the New Testament emphasizes the spiritual equality of men and women in Christ.

Galatians 3:28 New Living Translation

Galatians 3:28 declares,

28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile,^[a] slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion:

The Bible presents a multifaceted view of women, recognizing their essential roles in God's redemptive history and affirming their worth and dignity as image-bearers of God.

Present day, there's a plethora of God fearing and serving women, in churches around the world, fulfilling prominent roles in promoting the Good News, of the Gospel worldwide!



How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life, and I believe, that God raised You from the dead, this day, I ask you to be my Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9 New Living Translation:

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed