

Explore the stories and significance
of women in the Old and New Testaments

Women in the Bible

FOR
DUMMIES[®]



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***Women in
the Bible***
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**by Rev. John Trigilio Jr., PhD, ThD,
and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD**



WILEY
Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Women in the Bible For Dummies®

Published by
Wiley Publishing, Inc.
111 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774
www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2005 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2005923450

ISBN-13: 9780764584756

ISBN-10: 0764584758

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

10/RW/QV/QV/IN



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The Bible's Visionaries

- ✔ **Miriam:** The first prophetess and the sister of Moses and Aaron. See Exodus 15:20.
- ✔ **Deborah:** She prophesied the Canaanite defeat by Barak (Hebrew General of the Army who, with the help of Deborah, conquered the troops of Sisera, the Canaanite Commander). See Judges 4:4–9.
- ✔ **Huldah:** Her prophecy brought about a religious revival under King Josiah. See 2 Chronicles 34:22–28.
- ✔ **Anna:** The only prophetess in the New Testament. She lived to see the infant Jesus. See Luke 2:36–38.

Little-Known Facts about Biblical Women

Want to sound really smart? Throw these little bits of trivia into any conversation:

- ✔ Sarah is the only woman in the Bible to have her name changed — from Sarai to Sarah.
- ✔ Deborah is the only female Judge.
- ✔ Athaliah is the only woman to rule the Kingdom of Judah.
- ✔ Seven hundred women became wives of Solomon.
- ✔ The daughter of Herodias is never identified by name, but historians believe she was called Salome.

Important Songs of Women

Three songs (hymns or poems) of significant women appear in the Bible. They are expressions of the deep faith, gratitude, and trust these ladies had in God and in his love and mercy. Though their stories were written by someone else (the sacred author for each book), the particular song attributed to them is considered their own and merely retold by the scripture writer.

- ✔ **Song of Hannah:** Recited at the dedication of her son, Samuel. It expresses enormous gratitude for the blessings that come from God. See 1 Samuel 2:1–10.
- ✔ **Song of Deborah:** An epic poem that retells the victory of the Hebrews over their enemy the Canaanites while Deborah was Judge of Israel. See Judges 5:1–31.
- ✔ **Song of Virgin Mary:** This song is called the Magnificat, from the first word in the Latin Vulgate Bible of St. Jerome. Similar to Hannah's maternal song of gratitude, it was said by Mary, the mother of Jesus, after she visits her cousin Elizabeth. Both women were pregnant at the time, Mary with Jesus and Elizabeth with John the Baptist. The song expresses profound appreciation for the godness of the Lord. See Luke 1:46–55.

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Five Bad Girls of the Bible

Five gals with whom you wouldn't want to cross paths:

- ✓ **Jezebel:** A notorious evil queen who encouraged her husband to falsely denounce their neighbor Naboth, which results in Naboth's unjust execution merely to acquire his vineyard. She dies a gruesome death. See 1 Kings 16:31, 18:4, 19:1–2, 21:5, 23, and 2 Kings 9:30–37.
- ✓ **Herodias:** The wife of Herod Antipas and mother of Salome. After marrying her uncle Herod Philip, she dumps him for his brother Herod Antipas and collaborates with her daughter, Salome, to have John the Baptist beheaded (because he denounced Herodias's adulterous marriage). See Matthew 14:3–11 and Mark 6:17–25.
- ✓ **Athaliah:** The daughter of Jezebel who killed her own grandchildren to secure the throne for herself. See 2 Kings 8:26.
- ✓ **Delilah:** The mistress of Samson who betrayed him to the Philistines by revealing the secret of his strength. See Judges 16:4–20.
- ✓ **Maacah:** The mother of King Asa who was deposed by her own son for promoting idolatry. See 1 Kings 15:13.

The Bible's Top Moms

Mommy Dearest, they weren't. These ladies are considered some of the best mothers from the Bible:

- ✓ **Jochebed:** The prudent mother of Moses, Miriam, and Aaron. She saved Moses' life by floating him down the Nile River, where he was later discovered by the daughter of Pharaoh, who raised him as her own. See Exodus 6:20; Numbers 26:59.
- ✓ **Hannah:** The thoughtful mother of the prophet Samuel who dedicated him to God after praying for a child for many years. Each year, she made him a new robe that she brought faithfully to her son when she and her husband visited the Temple. See 1 Samuel 1:2–2:21.
- ✓ **Virgin Mary:** The devoted mother of Jesus of Nazareth. She was present at his first public miracle (the wedding feast of Canaan), where he changed water into wine, and at the crucifixion, death, and burial of her son.

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About the Authors

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the important women of our lives who greatly influenced us and our faith:

Reverend Mother Angelica, PCPA, founder of Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and Abbess of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels. She has been a shining example of a strong woman of faith.

In particular we dedicate this book on the women of Scripture to our two beloved and dear mothers:

Elizabeth Trigilio and **Norma Brighenti**, whose great love and deep faith have been a great source of comfort and inspiration to us as their sons.

And finally, we dedicate this work on biblical women to the star of scripture, the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, mother of Christ and mother of the Church.

In memory of the Most Rev. Nicholas Carmen Dattilo, D.D. (1932–2004), former bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and the Most Rev. Vincent de Paul Breen, D.D. (1936–2003), former bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey.

Authors' Acknowledgments

Father Brighenti and Father Trigilio are grateful for the assistance, guidance, and advice we received from:

Rev. Dr. Robert J. Levis (Gannon University), Rev. James M. Cafone (Seton Hall University), Jennifer Rung, the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration (Hanceville, Alabama), the Religious Teachers Filippini (New Jersey), the Discalced Carmelite Nuns (Erie, Pennsylvania), and the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary (Lancaster, Pennsylvania) for their prayers and support.

We also wish to thank our bishops, the Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, DD, STL, JCL (Bishop of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania), and the Most Rev. Paul Gregory Bootkoski, DD (Bishop of Metuchen, New Jersey) and the people of our parishes where we serve as pastor (St. Ann, Our Lady of Good Counsel, and St. Bernadette) for their prayerful support.

Finally, a special word of appreciation to His Holiness Pope John Paul II for his example, teaching, and leadership.

Publisher's Acknowledgments

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments through our Dummies online registration form located at www.dummies.com/register/.

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