



WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

1. Introduction

- Women have always played an important role in the Bible
- Here are some of the important functions they fulfilled

2. Political and Legal Roles:

- Deborah's story as judge, ruler and military advisor has been heard -Jg 4, 5
- Woman of Endor' – 1Sam 28 advised King Saul of his impending death,
- Huldah advised King Josiah of the true meaning of forgotten scripture scrolls found in the temple, when the male priests could not! - 2Kgs 22
- Abigail negotiated a peace treaty with King David that saved many lives -1 Sam 25
- Jael (Jdg. 4) singlehandedly killed the General of enemy forces in her own tent! And in the lawsuit that resulted in the oldest decided case that is still cited as an authority, ' – Jg 4
- the five daughters of Zelophehad contested and won property rights to their deceased father's land - Num. 27.

3. Commerce and Wealth:

- Queen of Sheba's wealth rivaled that of King Solomon's! - I Kgs 10
- The well-known "wise woman" of Proverbs 31 certainly knew business and commercial transaction
- Lydia was a successful business woman (as well as the first Christian convert in Europe) - Acts 16
- Priscilla who, with her husband, was a tent-maker as well as teacher of theology, preacher, and missionary. -Acts 18, Rom 16, I Cor. 16, 2 Tim. 4

4. Theology:

- Mary of Bethany, seated at Jesus' feet in the traditional (male) posture of learning from a teacher, was actually "doing theology," and as such was commended by Jesus. – Lk 10, Jn 11, 12
- We hear Jesus in deep theological dialogue with
 - the Syro-Phoenician woman – Mt 15, Mk 7
 - the Samaritan woman – Jn 4
 - and Martha – Jn 11:20-27

5. Proclamation and Prophecy:

- Miriam, a prophet and leader along with her brothers, Moses and Aaron, led in worship, song, and liturgical dance. - Ex. 15, Num. 12, 20, 26
- Anna prophesied the word of the Lord and proclaimed the infant Jesus as the Christ - Lk. 2
- Philip's seven daughters were known prophets in the early church.- Acts 21

6. Church Leadership:

- Phoebe, a deacon in the church commended by Paul, and several whose work probably included hosting house churches - Rom. 16
- Mary, the mother of John Mark – Acts 12
- Lydia – Acts 16
- Euodias and Syntyche – Phil 4
- Chloe - I Cor. 1
- Rufus' mother - Rom 16
- Junia (who even had her name changed to the masculine by later translators! - Rom 16
- Apphia - Philemon
- Cloudia - 2 Tim 4
- Dorcas - Acts 9
- Eunice and Lois - 2 Tim. 1
- Joanna – Lk 8, 24
- Mary, the mother of Jesus – Acts 1
- Mary of Rome – Rom 16
- Nereus' sister – Rom 16
- Persis – Rom 16
- Rhoda – Acts 12
- Salome – Mk 16,
- Sapphira - Acts 5
- Susanna – Lk 8
- Tryphena and Tryphosa – Rom 16

7. Summary

Women always carry a huge role