

WONDER WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Hannah: Wonder Woman of Prayer

Hannah was the wife of Elkanah, and we can find her story in I Samuel 1. She of course is the mother of Samuel, the great prophet of Israel, yet Samuel almost never was, if it was not for the dedicated faith and prayers of his mother, Hannah. For many years, Hannah was barren. What compounded the issue was that Elkanah had another wife who was able to bear him many children. Hannah felt hurt and was so upset that she could not bring forth a child for her husband.

Even when they went up to the house to worship God, she was greatly distressed.

Even so, she knew that the God of heaven could be her great Comforter so we find her constantly praying to Him (v. 10).

She prayed earnestly to God and vowed that if He would only give her a son then she would dedicate him to Him in His service.

She “poured out” (vv. 13-15) her soul before the Lord in these prayers constantly, and because of her trust in God and prayer, the Lord blessed her with Samuel and we know the great work that was done through Him.

A true wonder woman is a woman who trust in God and will take her deepest heart’s desires and lay them at His feet.

Hannah was such a woman.

Abigail: Wonder Woman of Wisdom and Discernment

Abigail's story can be found in I Samuel 25. The short version is that she was married to a fool, Nabal. She was the epitome of the situation that is described for us in I Peter 3. She was a godly woman (v.3) married to an ungodly man, and that man almost cost himself his whole household's life if not for Abigail's wisdom. Just before his rise to the throne, David sends word to Nabal that he would love to be received by him and his house as he passes through. This might seem a bit presumptuous by David, but David had good reason to request such. He had spent much time prior taking care of Nabal's men and flocks out of the wilderness. He had provided good protection for them and they lacked nothing. Nabal, however the fool that he was, denied David and aroused David's anger. David then makes plans to go and wipe out Nabal's house. Thankfully, word reaches Abigail's ears of what is about to take place. So she rushes to put together some supplies to go and beg for David to stay his judgement upon her husband and his house. David recognizes the wisdom of this woman and is thoroughly impressed by her discernment that he calls off the attack.

The actions of Abigail to undo the foolishness of her husband saved many lives.

Then after Nabal's quick death, David takes this woman as his own wife.

Wonder women are wise and use good discernment to make the best out of what could be terrible situations.

Shiphrah & Puah: Wonder Woman of Care & Protection for the innocent

We might not recognize these names right off the top of our heads because we often just refer to these women as the Hebrew midwives who were responsible for saving the Jewish babies from death while in Egypt (Exodus 1:8-22). Pharaoh had given the decree for the male babies to be killed so that the Jews wouldn't continue to be the strong people that they were, but these women were not willing to go along with this because they knew that killing these innocent babies was against God's will.

Instead of fearing for their lives at the hands of Pharaoh, the women feared God more and did not do as he commanded (v.17).

God was pleased with care and protection for the innocent, and these wonder women were blessed by God and the people continued to grow and multiplied.

Too many women today are more concerned with their own well being, and that leads to others being neglected or hurt.

In no instance is this more evident than abortion...the very thing these women were not willing to do.

They were not willing to kill babies, yet so many today see a child as an inconvenience.

These women were better than that, and God expects for all women to care and protect those around them...especially those who cannot care and protect themselves.

Mary, mother of Jesus: Wonder Woman of Obedience & Trust

There are many “Mary’s in the Bible, but none famous as the one who bore our Savior within her own body.

Mary, the mother of Jesus is truly a wonder woman for having nurtured and birthed the Son of God, but she is truly wonderful for her obedience and trust in a most difficult situation (Luke 1:26-38).

She was a virgin, one who had never known a man and therefore it is a literal impossibility for her to be found with child.

Therefore, the announcement to her that she was with child must have come as quite a shock.

Not only was she pregnant, but Gabriel tells her that this child she would bear would be the Messiah, the King of all kings.

What must have been going through her head??

But even as things were, her faith shone through the craziness and we see her strong response in v. 38, “Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”

What faith and trust she showed in this response!

A true wonder woman was Mary, and a true wonder woman you can be today by obeying and trusting in the Lord as she did.

Mary Magdalene: Wonder Woman of Faith & Loyalty

Another Mary that we will consider is one that we first meet in Luke 8:1-3.

As Jesus is going from city to city and village to village proclaiming the Kingdom of God, He also took time to heal those who were in need.

One person that is mentioned that He heals is the demon possessed woman named Mary and she was also called Magdalene.

What made this woman so special was the fact that this isn't the only time she is mentioned.

In fact, she plays an integral role throughout the rest of the Gospel story.

Even just here in this text we see that she showed great faith in continuing to follow Jesus and even supporting what He was doing through her own funds (vv. 2-3).

This wonder woman's loyalty was also exemplified through her being with Jesus every step of the way.

She was with Him even as He hung on the cross (Matthew 27:55-61).

She went to see His body and care for it at the tomb (John 20:1-2).

She was blessed to be the first to see the risen Lord (John 20: 16-18), and she even told the Apostles about what had taken place (Matthew 28:60).

Tabitha: Wonder Woman of Kindness & Charity

We are introduced to this woman known as Tabitha who was from Joppa in Acts 9:36-42. She might be best known for having the Greek name of Dorcas, but she ought to be best known for Luke's description of her being a wonder woman abounding with deeds of kindness and charity to all those around her. Sadly, when we are introduced to her, it is recorded that she had fallen sick and had died.

The love and respect for this woman was shown in the way those closest to her cared for her after her death.

Even beyond how her body was treated, the love of her from others was shown in how they implored the Apostles to come to see her.

They showed him all of the tunics and other garments she had made for them, and they continued to beg that Peter might do something about it.

Peter, obviously touched by the kindness of this woman and how others thought of her, kneels down beside her body and prays that she might rise again, and through the power of God she does indeed get up.

Her kindness and charity to so many around her, her selflessness, and her love drove others to beg that she be brought back.

Tabitha's kindness and charity made her a true wonder woman worthy of praise

Lois & Eunice: Wonder Women of Influence

Finally, let's consider the wonder women that were present in the life of the preacher Timothy.

In II Timothy 1:5, the Apostle Paul commends Timothy for his strong faith; and he insinuates that this strong faith was instilled in him because of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

Lois and Eunice must have been known to be strong disciples of Jesus, and it was Paul's belief that their faith's had strong influence on helping to shape Timothy into the disciple that he was.

These two ladies were wonder women in regards to their godly influence.

The way that they lived their lives, their priorities, their focus, their goals...everything about them influenced Timothy to seek the Lord and devote his life to Him.

Because of these women we can be sure that many souls were aided and brought to Jesus.

What can make any woman anymore wonderful?

These women and their influence on Timothy and others ought to serve as a powerful example for godly women to this day and onward.

Deborah: Wise Judge and Military Leader

Wonder Woman of Judgement and Leadership

After crossing into the Promised Land, the Israelite people called upon various “judges” to lead them. These leaders were not judges in the modern sense of the word, but more akin to military commanders who brought order and personally led the army into battle. Gideon and Samson are probably the most well known judges of Israel.

What’s fascinating is that God eventually called a woman to be the next judge over Israel and bring peace to the land. Her name was Deborah and her unique role is described in the Book of Judges 4:4

At that time the prophet Deborah, wife of Lappidoth, was one of the judges of Israel tasked with hearing complaints and legal issues from the people. She used to sit under Deborah’s palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her seeking wisdom in various matters and she gave great counsel to them.

She was so trusted that Barak, the current ruler of Israel, refused to go to battle without her.

Her gifts of wisdom and prophecy gave Israel’s army victory over the Canaanites.

During her time she accompanied an army into battle and explained to her general, “I will certainly go with you...but you will not gain glory for the expedition on which you are setting out, for it is into a woman’s power that the Lord is going to sell Sisera” (Judges 4:9).

Esther: Fearless Queen and Protector of the Jews

Wonder Woman of Fearlessness and Bravery

The story of Esther begins when Persian King Ahasuerus chose Esther as his next queen when his previous queen refused to enter into his presence. She was banished and a new queen was sought.

Esther was a Jewish orphan girl who was living in exile in Persia. It didn’t look as though she would ever do anything great. But God raised her up to become the queen over many other women who came from wealth, influence, and beauty.

God’s favor caused her to stand out, and it shows that favor is more powerful than your resume. Favor took her from the back to the front.

Esther was chosen and placed in a position that could save her threatened people. Speaking out was incredibly dangerous for her and could have meant death.

She bravely took a stand, exposing the misdeeds of the treacherous Haman, a high ranking official, and saved her people from annihilation.

Ruth: Devoted Daughter-In-Law and Diligent Worker

Wonder Woman of Devotion and Dilligence

The Book of Ruth focuses on a woman vital to Salvation History.

Ruth was not a Jew by birth. She was from the land of Moab which was known for its idolatry.

However, after the deaths of her husband and father-in-law, she decided to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi to her hometown of Bethlehem.

She left her family, her home and her gods in order to remain loyal to Naomi. At Naomi's side in Judah, she found hope in the One True God as well as restoration and redemption.

While in Bethlehem, Ruth engaged in the task of gleaning grain. Ruth did so freely, knowing the ridicule and abuse she would receive from the other harvesters, especially since she was a foreigner.

Despite all of this the overseer was impressed by her vigor and said to Boaz, "Ever since she came this morning she has remained here until now, with scarcely a moment's rest" (Ruth 2:7).

Boaz admired her courage and took her as his wife.

The two bore a son Obed, who became the father of Jesse, who became the father of King David. She is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in the New Testament.

None of these women in Scripture wore magical bracelets, wielded powerful lassos, sold movie tickets, gained multitudes of fans, or championed women's rights.

Yet, they are praised by God through His inspired writers and that is worth far more than powers, tickets, or fans.

These "**Wonder Women**" revealed the beauty and strength of women when all odds were stacked against them.

May God bless all of the women in our lives who share the characteristics of these "**Wonder Women**" of the Bible.

And may we raise our daughters and encourage our sisters to strive to serve God and lovingly serve all of those who God has blessed them with in their lives.

