



Daughters of the Dust
The Whispers of Wise Women

PROPHESYING WOMEN

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WHAT IS A PROPHET

- A person who spoke for God
- One who communicates God's message courageously to God's people
- A person regarded as an inspired teacher
- A proclaimer of the will of God





SCRIPTURE READING: EXODUS 2:1-10

- Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."





EXODUS 15:20-21

- ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them:
- "Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea."





EXODUS 15:22-27

The Waters of Marah and Elim

- ²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.^[a]) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”
- ²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.
- There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. ²⁶ He said, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”
- ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.





MIRIAM THE PROPHET

- Miriam is a prophet and leader alongside her brother Moses during the exodus and wilderness wanderings. Tradition holds that Miriam is the unnamed sister who saves the infant Moses from death (Exod. 2:4–8), since two genealogies list Aaron, Moses, and Miriam as the only children of Amram (Num. 26:59)
- Her actions are bold and loyal, as the girl stands guard over the baby.





MIRIAM THE PROPHET

- Miriam is the first person in the Hebrew Scriptures to be given this title of Prophet.
- Jewish Scholarship portraits of Miriam is that of a leader in the wilderness and a mediator of God's word.
- The Women's Bible Commentary indicates that she was a native of Kadesh, thus a darker skinned woman. A woman of Color.
- She is viewed as having prophetic authority.
- Her song is known as both Miriam's song and The Song of the Sea





MIRIAM THE PROPHET

- Jewish feminist have declared that Miriam's Well has become a symbol of female fortitude and leadership.
- At Passover- sometimes there is a 2nd cup with water called Miriam's cup.
- Jewish Tradition teaches that Miriam is the source of the water that nourish the people.
- She is viewed as a woman who led her people out of slavery with song and celebration.





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- There is one more episode in the story of Miriam. Again, Moses is involved. After the exodus, the Hebrew people move into the wilderness period. It is a difficult period, and conflicts develop between leaders. Moses feels overburdened and seeks shared leadership. Seventy elders are chosen to help, but they are subordinate to Moses (Num. 11:16–25). When two other men begin to prophesy, some are opposed, but Moses is pleased (Num. 11:26–30). Tension remains.





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- Then Miriam enters the picture, with Aaron in a supporting role. Miriam challenges Moses because of the Cushite woman he married (Num. 12:1). This challenge raises more questions than it answers. Who is this Cushite woman? Cushite could refer to inhabitants of an area broader than present-day Ethiopia.²⁵ Zipporah is referred to as Midianite (Exod. 2:15–21; 3:1; Num. 10:29) and Kenite (Judg. 1:16; 4:11).





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- Then what was her motivation? The Bible does not tell us, but whatever the original source of controversy,
- Miriam's conflict with Moses is not simply about his Cushite wife, whoever she is. It is also about prophetic authority. Miriam believes that God has spoken not only through Moses but also through herself and Aaron.





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- ▶ After Miriam (and Aaron) have spoken up to Moses, God summons the threesome (Num. 12:4). The ordering of the names suggests Miriam's diminution, according to Tribble.⁴³ God declares to Aaron and Miriam a hierarchy of leadership with Moses at the top (Num. 12:6–8). God is exceedingly angry with them for their conflict with Moses on the issue of prophetic authority (Num. 12:9).





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- Although God has put down both Aaron and Miriam, it is Miriam who is punished. She is covered with leprous scales (Num. 12:10).
- After the punishment is inflicted, Aaron turns to Moses and asks him to intercede with God to remove the leprous condition (Num. 12:11–12). In making this request, he is acquiescing to the hierarchy that God has established. Moses agrees and petitions God (Num. 12:13).





MIRIAM'S HUMAN FRAILTIES

- God confines Miriam outside the camp for seven days. The people show their loyalty to her by not setting out on the march again until she returns (Num. 12:14–15).





WHISPERS FROM MIRIAM

- As a young girl- one can have confidence and go boldly to serve the Lord God and fearlessly go forth and fulfill God's will.
- We too, can be leaders in the midst of the wilderness and in challenging times.
- We too can be a mediator of God's work.
- We can walk in prophetic authority as thus says the Lord.
- Our Challenge is to stay in alignment with God's will and God's way.
- Our Challenge is to submit to God and not cause division within the community of believers- the church.
- Our Challenge is to humble ourselves before the hand of God





MIRIAM THE YOUNGSTER



IMAGES OF MIRIAM AND THE SONG OF THE SEA



IMAGES OF MIRIAM AND THE SONG OF THE SEA





OTHER WOMEN PROPHETS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

- Debra Judges 4-5
- HulDAH 2 Chronicles 34:22-28
- Isaiah's Wife Isaiah 8:3
- Anna Luke 2:36-38
- Phillip's Daughters Acts 21:9





THE WHISPERS OF THE PROPHETIC WOMEN

Debra

- ▶ Judge and a general
- ▶ A strong and courageous leader
- ▶ She had the ability to discern the purposes of God
- ▶ She was a woman of Action
- ▶ She prophesied that God would deliver the victory through the hands of a woman.





THE WHISPERS OF THE PROPHETIC WOMEN

Huldah

- King Josiah sent men to inquire of the Lord's pending Judgment on his people.
- They sought the counsel of the prophetess Huldah.
- God used Huldah to deliver messages to the king.
- Women have been instruments of God for centuries- from OT to NT Till even now.
- We as women can be wise counsel to those who sit in powerful places.





THE WHISPERS OF PROPHETIC WOMEN

- The wife of Isaiah gave birth to sons - whose names were the prophetic utterances of God through her womb.
- God in 7:3 tells Isaiah to bring his son Shear-jashub (meaning The Remaining Few Will Return) with him to meet Ahaz.
- Isaiah 8:3 "...Call him Maher-shalal-hash baz. For before this child is old enough to day Papa or Mama the king of Assyria will carry away both the abundance of Damascus and the riches of Samaria.



WHISPERS OF THE PROPHETIC WOMEN

Anna the prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)

- ▶ ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[a] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.
- ▶ Let the Seasoned Sisters be encouraged- God can use at any age!

Phillips Daughters (Acts 21:9)

- ▶ He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.
- ▶ Yes, even as unmarried daughters- God still used them to prophecy.

