

# Faithful Women of The Bible

GodsLawToday.com

Hebrews chapter 11 is known as “the faith chapter.” *There*, we read of some of the “super-heroes” of faith... men such as Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and King David.

Can you *imagine* being listed *along with* such spiritual giants?! Yet, notice a couple of specific individuals who **were**:

verse 11: “By faith **Sarah** herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was **past** the age, because she judged Him [God] **faithful** who had promised.”

verse 31: “By faith the harlot **Rahab** did **not** perish with those who did **not** believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

So, here, among the “*super-heroes of faith*,” we see a couple of **outstanding** individuals... who were **women!**

Today, let’s do a *brief overview* of some of the outstanding **women** of the Bible!

## A Brief Overview

We’ve all heard the Biblical account of the mighty walls of Jericho, and how those walls were brought down. But consider a particular *woman of faith*, who played a prominent part connected with the fall of Jericho... **Rahab!**

Rahab lived in Jericho during the time that Joshua was leading the Israelites *from* their wandering in the desert. Yes, Rahab lived *within* the heavily fortified city of Jericho. She had *heard* of the **miracles** performed by the God of Israel, in rescuing the Israelites *out of* Egypt. So, when the two Israelite *spies* came to her house, Rahab seized upon the opportunity to *save her family* from what she viewed as imminent destruction!

Yet, consider this: Rahab’s neighbors had *likewise* heard those stories of God’s miracles. Yet—unlike Rahab—they chose to place **their trust** in “the thick walls of Jericho.”

Rahab’s decision to *forsake* “**all** that she had known”... must have been extremely **difficult**. Yet, she **acted in faith**. She followed the spies’ instructions, and “marked her house” with a *sign*... a

red rope. And, God **respected** her *trust* in Him. When Jericho's walls *fell*, Rahab—as well as her family—were *spared*. Yes, **one** individual... one “**woman** of faith,” out of an entire city!

Later, during the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (when God was ruling ancient Israel through His judges), there was one *particular* judge who **delivered** Israel *from* Canaanite oppression **for 40 years!** And *that* judge... was the **woman Deborah!** Deborah was the civil and spiritual leader—and even the **military leader of Israel—for 40 years!** To read more about this remarkable woman, see the book of Judges, chapters 4 and 5.

*Next*, consider **Esther**. Esther was a **Jewish** girl, who became the *wife* of the King of Persia. In a *tremendous display of courage*, Esther **risked her life**—an act which resulted in the Jews being spared from destruction! Her powerful example shows that when we strive to live God's way—and **trust** in Him—that God can miraculously *intervene* to work things out. (For more on this intriguing story, read the Old Testament book entitled “Esther.”)

Another remarkable woman of Old Testament times was **Ruth!** Like Esther, Ruth has an entire book of the Bible (the book of Ruth) dedicated to her story. She was as a woman of **faithful dedication**—dedication **to** God, **to** her mother-in-law (Naomi), and **to** her husband, Boaz. In fact, both King David *and* Jesus Christ were *descended from* Ruth!

What about the outstanding example of **Hannah?** Although married, Hannah was *barren*. After having endured years of being unable to conceive, she went to God in heart-felt prayer, and... made a vow to God that if He would give her a son, then she would “**give him [her son] TO the LORD all the days of his life**, and no razor shall come upon his head” (I Sam. 1:11).

Thereafter, Hannah *did* bear a son, and she named him “Samuel.”

Now ask yourself this: What would **you** have done, after giving birth to this child? A child whom you so **desperately** wanted, for years and years? Would you **fulfill** your promise to God, by giving up the child? OR... would you think, “Well, God will understand if I keep him”? *Many* individuals in that situation would reason to themselves, “it *might* be that God did not **actually** have anything to do with my conceiving!”

Hannah, however, faithfully **kept** her vow to God. Once Samuel was *weaned* (*traditionally* between the ages of 2 and 5), Hannah gave Samuel up, to serve God (initially *under* the priest Eli). Hannah proclaimed, “For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; **as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD...**” (I Sam. 1:27-28).

Throughout Samuel's childhood, Hannah visited him. “...Samuel ministered before the LORD, *even as* a child, wearing a linen ephod. Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband...” (I Sam. 2: 18-19).

For her faithfulness, “...the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore [additional children] three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD” (verse 21).

Samuel, as we know, not only became a great **prophet**, but he was also Israel's final—and perhaps **greatest**—**Judge!** Furthermore, it was he, who was chosen by God, to anoint David as King.

## Women of the NEW Testament

Let's now briefly consider just a few of the faithful women of the New Testament.

What about **Mary**... the mother of Jesus? Certainly, God chose someone **very special** to be the mother of our Lord. In fact, the angel who appeared to Mary, "said to her, 'Rejoice, **highly favored one**, the Lord *is* with you; **blessed are you among women!**' But when she [Mary] saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for **you have found favor with God**. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS'" (Luke 1: 28-31).

Now, certainly, God **knew** Mary and her character. And, God *knew* that she would do a wonderful job of *rearing* Jesus... which she certainly *did*.

Consider now, something in scripture which we normally just read over, without thinking about it. In Luke chapter 8, we see that *during* Christ's ministry, He traveled about—accompanied by *not only* His twelve disciples—but **also** accompanied by certain **women!**

Notice verses **1 to 3**: "Now it came to pass, afterward, that He [Christ] went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him, **and certain women** who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—**Mary called Magdalene**, out of whom had come seven demons, and **Joanna** the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and **Susanna**, **and many others who provided for Him [Christ] from their substance**" (Luke 8: 1-3).

Yes, these women traveled along **with** Christ and the disciples—and these women actually helped **pay** the group's way!

Finally, consider one other thing. The single most important event **ever to occur** was the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. And... who were the very **first** individuals to find Christ's tomb empty? It was **NOT** any of the twelve disciples! Rather, it was certain **women!**

Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son

of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”

And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother of James*, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.** And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. (Luke 24: 1-12)

## Conclusion

In this brief review, we have seen some of the *outstanding* women of the Bible. All these women showed great *faith* in God... as well as exceptional *courage*. Hopefully this article will serve to help us all have a better appreciation for **the very faithful women** of the Bible!