



Notable Women of the Bible

These women appear across the whole sweep of Scripture, from the garden to the empty tomb, and rarely from positions of power.

Their courage was usually costly and unprotected: Esther risked death approaching the king, Abigail rode out to stop a massacre, and the women stayed at the cross after the Twelve had fled.

Their commitment more often looked like endurance than heroics, seen in Sarah's decades of waiting, Hannah's anguished prayer, and Ruth's refusal to leave a widowed mother-in-law who had nothing to offer her.

Their contributions are structural to the faith itself, since Mary bore the Christ, the women of Luke 8 funded the ministry, Mary Magdalene carried the first resurrection announcement, Priscilla instructed Apollos, and Lydia's home became the first church in Europe.

That God entrusted so much to those whose testimony their culture would not have accepted in court is itself part of the message – and part of why the Gospels' preservation of their names still carries weight.

Across roughly two thousand years of biblical narrative – from a garden to an empty tomb – these women appear in nearly every setting the story offers: tents and threshing floors, palaces and prisons, riverbanks and royal households.

Old Testament		
Eve	The first woman	Genesis 2-4
Sarah	Wife of Abraham, mother of Isaac	Genesis 11-23
Rebekah	Isaac's wife, mother of Jacob and Esau	Genesis 24-27
Rachel & Leah	Jacob's wives, mothers of the twelve tribes of Israel	Genesis 29-35
Miriam	Prophetess, sister of Moses and Aaron	Exodus 2; 15; Numbers 12
Deborah	Judge and military leader of Israel	Judges 4-5
Ruth	Moabite woman known for loyalty; great-grandmother of King David	Ruth 1-4
Hannah	Mother of the prophet Samuel, known for her prayer	1 Samuel 1-2
Esther	Jewish queen of Persia who saved her people	Esther 1-10
Abigail	Wise woman who became David's wife	1 Samuel 25
Bath	Wife of David, mother of Solomon	2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Kings 1-2

New Testament		
Mary, mother of Jesus	Central figure in the New Testament	Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2
Mary Magdalene	Follower of Jesus, first witness to the resurrection	Luke 8:2; John 20:1-18
Joanna	Wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; supported Jesus's ministry and witnessed the empty tomb	Luke 8:1-3; 24:10
Martha & Mary of Bethany	Sisters and friends of Jesus	Luke 10:38-42; John 11
Elizabeth	Mother of John the Baptist	Luke 1:5-80
Priscilla	Early Christian teacher and missionary alongside her husband Aquila	Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5
Lydia	Businesswoman and early convert in Philippi	Acts 16:11-15, 40