

“Extraordinary Women in the Bible”

1. One of the unique features of the Bible is the way it _____ women.
2. From Genesis 1, we are taught that women, like men, bear the stamp of God's own _____.
3. Genesis 1:27 says: **“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them”.**
4. Genesis 5:1-2 says: **“This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.”**
5. Women play _____ roles in many KEY biblical narratives. Wives are seen as venerated partners and cherished companions to their husbands, not merely slaves or pieces of household furniture.
6. Genesis 2:20-24 says: **“So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”**
7. Proverbs 19:14 says: **“House and riches are an inheritance from one's ancestors, but an insightful wife is from the LORD.”**
8. Ecclesiastes 9:9 says: **“Enjoy life with the wife you love. Enjoy all the useless days of this useless life God has given you here on earth, because it is all you have. So enjoy the work you do here on earth.”**
9. Keep in mind that this was a revolutionary concept in an era when most pagan cultures were _____ by men who RULED their households with an iron fist while women were usually regarded as LESSER creatures – mere SERVANTS to men.

10. The Bible seems to set women apart for SPECIAL HONOR. I Peter 3:7 says:
“If you are a husband, you should be thoughtful of your wife. Treat her with honor, because she isn’t as strong as you are, and she shares with you in the gift of life. Then nothing will stand in the way of your prayers.”
11. The Bible acknowledges and celebrates the priceless value of a _____ woman.
12. Proverbs 12:4 says: “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones.”
13. Proverbs 31:10 says: “An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.”
14. I Corinthians 11:7 says: “For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.”
15. From cover to cover, the Bible portrays women as EXTRAordinary.
The biblical accounts of the patriarchs always give due distinction to their wives.
- Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel all loom large in the Genesis account of God’s dealing with their husbands.
 - Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, was both a prophetess and a songwriter – and in Micah 6:4, God Himself honors her alongside her brothers as one of the nation’s leaders during the Exodus.
 - Deborah, also a prophetess, was a judge in Israel prior to the monarch (Judges 4:4).
 - Biblical accounts of family life often put wives in the position of wise counselors to their husbands (Judges 13:23; II Kings 4:8-10).
 - When Solomon became king, he publicly paid homage to his mother, standing when she entered his presence, then bowing to her before he sat on this throne (I Kings 2:19).
 - Sarah and Rahab are expressly named among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11.
 - Moses’ mother, Jochebed, is included as well by implication (Hebrews 1:23).
 - In Proverbs, wisdom is personified as a woman.
 - The NT church is likewise represented as a woman, the bride of Christ.
16. In the social and religious life of Israel and the NT church, women were never relegated to the background.

- A. They partook with men in ALL feasts and public worship of Israel (Deuteronomy 16:14; Nehemiah 8:2-3).
 - B. Women were NOT required to be veiled or silent in the public square, as they are in some Middle Eastern cultures even today (Genesis 12:14; 24:16; Samuel 1:12).
 - C. Mothers (not merely fathers) shared teaching responsibilities and authority over their children (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20).
 - D. Women could even be landowners in Israel (Numbers 27:8; Proverbs 31:16).
 - E. In fact, wives were expected to administer many of the affairs of their own households (Proverbs 14:1; I Timothy 5:9-10,14).
17. Women in pagan societies during biblical times were often treated with little more dignity than _____.
18. Christianity, born in a world where Roman and Hebrew cultures intersected, _____ the status of women to an unprecedented height.
19. Jesus' disciples included several women, a practice almost unheard of among the rabbis of His day. Luke 8:1-3 says: "After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means."
20. Jesus also encouraged their discipleship by portraying it as something more needful than domestic service. Luke 10:38-42 says: "As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?"

Tell her to help me!”⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things,⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

21. Christ’s 1st recorded disclosure of His own identity as the true Messiah was made to a Samaritan woman. John 4:25-26 says: “The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) ‘is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’”²⁶ Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you—I am he.’”
22. Jesus always treated women with the utmost dignity – even women who might otherwise be regarded as outcasts. Matthew 9:20-22 says: “Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.²¹ She said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.’”²² Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.” (refer to Luke 7:37-50; John 4:7-27)
23. He blessed their children. Luke 18:15-16 says: “People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”
24. He raised their dead. Luke 7:12-15 says: “As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.”
25. He forgave their sins. Luke 7:44-48 says: “Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her

great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.’
⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’”

26. And, He restored their virtue and honor. John 8:4-11 says: “and said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ¹¹ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’”

27. Scripture _____ women as women, and it encourages them to seek honor in a uniquely feminine way. (Proverbs 31:10-30)

28. The Bible does not discount the female _____, downplay the talents and abilities of women, or discourages the right use of women’s spiritual gifts.

29. The most significant women in Scripture were influential not because of their careers, but because of their _____.

30. I Peter 3:3-4 says: “Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.”

31. I Timothy 2:9-10 says: “I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”