

~PROPHETESS (473)

- A woman who prophesies or carries on the work of a prophet. As shown under the headings **PROPHET** and **PROPHECY**, prophesying basically means the inspired telling forth of messages from God, the revealing of the divine will.

- Prediction of future events might or might not be involved. Even as there were both true and false prophets, so some prophetesses were used by Yehowah and were moved by his spirit while others were false prophetesses, disapproved by Him.

See Also **PROPHET**

See Also **PROPHECY**

- Miriam is the first woman designated a **prophetess** in the Bible. God evidently conveyed some message or messages through her, perhaps in inspired singing.

- And Miriam the **prophetess**, Aaron's sister, proceeded to take a tambourine in her hand, and all the women began going out with her with tambourines and in dances. (**Exodus 15:20**)

- And Miriam kept responding to the men; Sing to Yehowah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has pitched into the sea. (**Exodus 15:21**)

- Thus, she and Aaron are recorded as saying to Moses; Is it not by us also that Yehowah has spoken?

- And they kept saying; Is it just by Moses alone that Yehowah has spoken? Is it not by us also that he has spoken? And Yehowah was listening. (**Numbers 12:2**)

- Yehowah himself, through the prophet Micah, spoke of having sent Moses, Aaron and Miriam before the Israelites when bringing them up out of Egypt.

- For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and from the house of slaves I redeemed you, and I proceeded to send before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam. (**Micah 6:4**)

- **Though Miriam was privileged to be used as an instrument of divine communication, her relationship as such toward God was inferior to that of her brother Moses. When she failed to keep her proper place, she suffered severe chastisement from God.**
- **Now Miriam and Aaron began to speak against Moses on account of the Cushite wife whom he had taken, because it was a Cushite wife he had taken. (Numbers 12:1)**
- **And they kept saying; Is it just by Moses alone that Yehowah has spoken? Is it not by us also that he has spoken? And Yehowah was listening. (Numbers 12:2)**
- **And the man Moses was by far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground. (Numbers 12:3)**
- **Then Yehowah suddenly said to Moses and Aaron and Miriam; Go out, the three of you, to the tent of meeting. So the three of them went out. (Numbers 12:4)**
- **After that Yehowah came down in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam. At this both of them went out. (Numbers 12:5)**
- **And he went on to say; Hear my words, please. If there came to be a prophet of yours for Yehowah, it would be in a vision I would make myself known to him. In a dream I would speak to him. (Numbers 12:6)**
- **Not so my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. (Numbers 12:7)**
- **Mouth to mouth I speak to him, thus showing him, and not by riddles, and the appearance of Yehowah is what he beholds. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against Moses? (Numbers 12:8)**
- **And Yehowah's anger got to be hot against them, and he went his way. (Numbers 12:9)**
- **And the cloud turned away from over the tent, and, look! Miriam was struck with leprosy as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and, look! She was struck with leprosy. (Numbers 12:10)**

- **Immediately Aaron said to Moses; Excuse me, my lord! Do not, please, attribute to us the sin in which we have acted foolishly and which we have committed! (Numbers 12:11)**
- **Please, do not let her continue like someone dead, whose flesh at the time of his coming out of his mothers womb is half eaten off! (Numbers 12:12)**
- **And Moses began to cry out to Yehowah, saying; O God, please! Heal her, please! (Numbers 12:13)**
- **Then Yehowah said to Moses; Were her father to spit directly in her face, would she not be humiliated seven days? Let her be quarantined seven days outside the camp, and afterward let her be received in. (Numbers 12:14)**
- **Accordingly Miriam was quarantined outside the camp seven days, and the people did not pull away until Miriam was received in. (Numbers 12:15)**
- **In the period of the Judges, Deborah served as a source of information from Yehowah, making known his judgments on certain matters and conveying his instruction, as in his commands to Barak.**
- **Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that particular time. (Judges 4:4)**
- **And she was dwelling under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel would go up to her for judgment. (Judges 4:5)**
- **And she proceeded to send and call Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali and to say to him; Has not Yehowah the God of Israel given the command? Go and you must spread yourself out on Mount Tabor, and you must take with you ten thousand men out of the sons of Naphtali and out of the sons of Zebulun. (Judges 4:6)**
- **And I shall certainly draw to you at the torrent valley of Kishon Sisera the chief of Jabins army and his war chariots and his crowd, and I shall indeed give him into your hand. (Judges 4:7)**
- **Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that**

Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (Judges 4:14)

- **And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before Barak. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight on foot. (Judges 4:15)**
- **And Barak chased after the war chariots and the camp as far as Harosheth of the nations, so that all the camp of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword. Not as much as one remained. (Judges 4:16)**
- **Thus, during a period of national weakness and apostasy, she served figuratively as a mother in Israel.**
- **In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, pathways had no traffic, and the travelers of roadways would travel by roundabout pathways. (Judges 5:6)**
- **The dwellers in open country ceased, in Israel they ceased, until I, Deborah, rose up, until I rose up as a mother in Israel. (Judges 5:7)**
- **They proceeded to choose new gods. It was then there was war in the gates. A shield could not be seen, nor a lance, among forty thousand in Israel. (Judges 5:8)**
- **Huldah the prophetess served in a similar manner, in King Josiah's day, making known God's judgment toward the nation and its king.**
- **Accordingly Hilkiah the priest and Ahikam and Achbor and Shaphan and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah the son of Harhas, the caretaker of the garments, as she was dwelling in Jerusalem in the second quarter, and they proceeded to speak to her. (2 Kings 22:14)**
- **In turn she said to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Say to the man that has sent you men to me. (2 Kings 22:15)**
- **This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am bringing calamity**

- upon this place and upon its inhabitants, even all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. (2 Kings 22:16)
- Due to the fact that they have left me and have gone making sacrificial smoke to other gods in order to offend me with all the work of their hands, and my rage has been set afire against this place and will not be extinguished. (2 Kings 22:17)
 - And as to the king of Judah who is sending you to inquire of Yehowah, this is what you should say to him, This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; As regards the words that you have heard. (2 Kings 22:18)
 - For the reason that your heart was soft so that you humbled yourself because of Yehowah at your hearing what I have spoken against this place and its inhabitants for it to become an object of astonishment and a malediction, and then you ripped your garments apart and began weeping before me, I, even I, have heard, is the utterance of Yehowah. (2 Kings 22:19)
 - That is why here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your own graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place. And they proceeded to bring the king the reply. (2 Kings 22:20)
 - Accordingly Hilkiyah along with those whom the king had said went to Huldah the **prophetess**, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah the son of Harhas the caretaker of the garments, as she was dwelling in Jerusalem in the second quarter, and they proceeded to speak to her like this. (2 Chronicles 34:22)
 - In turn she said to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Say to the man that sent you to me. (2 Chronicles 34:23)
 - This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am bringing calamity upon this place and its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that they read before the king of Judah. (2 Chronicles 34:24)
 - Due to the fact that they have left me and gone making sacrificial smoke to other gods, in order to offend me with all the doings of their hands and that my rage may pour forth upon this place and

not be extinguished. (2 Chronicles 34:25)

- And to the king of Judah, who is sending you to inquire of Yehowah, this is what you should say to him; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; As regards the words that you have heard. (2 Chronicles 34:26)
- For the reason that your heart was soft so that you humbled yourself because of God at your hearing his words concerning this place and its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before me and ripped your garments apart and wept before me, I, even I, have heard, is the utterance of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 34:27)
- Here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place and its inhabitants. Then they brought the reply to the king. (2 Chronicles 34:28)
- Isaiah refers to his wife as the prophetess.
- Then I went near to the prophetess, and she came to be pregnant and in time gave birth to a son. Yehowah now said to me; Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz. (Isaiah 8:3)
- Though some commentators suggest that she was such only in the sense of being married to a prophet, this conjecture has no Scriptural evidence to back it up. It appears more likely that she had received a prophetic assignment of some sort from Yehowah, as had earlier prophetesses.
- Nehemiah speaks unfavorably of the prophetess Noadiah, who, along with the rest of the prophets, tried to instill fear in Nehemiah and so obstruct the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls.
- Do remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these deeds of each one, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the rest of the prophets that were continually trying to make me afraid. (Nehemiah 6:14)
- Though she acted in opposition to God's will, this does not necessarily mean that she had not held a valid standing as a prophetess prior thereto.

- **Yehowah spoke to Ezekiel of Israelite women who were acting as **prophetesses** out of their own heart. This implies that these prophetesses had no divine commission from God but were merely imitations, self-made **prophetesses**.**
- **And as for you, O son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are acting as **prophetesses** out of their own heart, and **prophecy** against them. (Ezekiel 13:17)**
- **And you must say; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Woe to the women sewing bands together upon all elbows and making veils upon the head of every size in order to hunt souls! Are the souls that you women hunt down the ones belonging to my people, and the souls belonging to you the ones that you preserve alive? (Ezekiel 13:18)**
- **And will you profane me toward my people for the handfuls of barley and for the morsels of bread, in order to put to death the souls that ought not to die and in order to preserve alive the souls that ought not to live by your lie to my people, the hearers of a lie? (Ezekiel 13:19)**
- **By their ensnaring and hoodwinking practices and propaganda they were hunting souls, condemning the righteous and condoning the wicked, but Yehowah would deliver his people out of their hand.**
- **Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am against the bands of you women, with which you are hunting down the souls as though they were flying things, and I will rip them from off your arms and let go the souls that you are hunting down, souls as though they were flying things. (Ezekiel 13:20)**
- **And I will rip away your veils and deliver my people out of your hand, and they will no more prove to be in your hand something caught in the hunt, and you will have to know that I am Yehowah. (Ezekiel 13:21)**
- **By reason of dejecting the heart of a righteous one with falsehood, when I myself had not caused him pain, and for making the hands of a wicked one strong so that he would not turn back from his bad way in order to preserve him alive. (Ezekiel 13:22)**

- Therefore untruth you women will not keep on visioning, and divination you will divine no longer, and I will deliver my people out of your hand, and you will have to know that I am Yehowah. (Ezekiel 13:23)
- In the First Century C.E, while the Jews were still Yehowah's covenant people, the aged Anna served as a prophetess. She was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications.
- By speaking about the child, Jesus, to all those waiting for Jerusalem's deliverance, she acted as a prophetess in the basic sense of telling forth a revelation of God's purpose.
- Now there was Anna a prophetess, Phanuel's daughter, of Asher's tribe.
- This woman was well along in years, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity. (Luke 2:36)
- And she was a widow now eighty-four years old, who was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications. (Luke 2:37)
- And in that very hour she came near and began returning thanks to God and speaking about the child to all those waiting for Jerusalem's deliverance. (Luke 2:38)
- Prophecy was among the miraculous gifts of the spirit that were granted to the newly formed Christian congregation. Certain Christian women, such as Philip's four virgin daughters, prophesied under the impulse of God's Holy Spirit.
- This man had four daughters, virgins, that prophesied. (Acts of Apostles 21:9)
- Now there are varieties of gifts, but there is the same spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4)
- To yet another operations of powerful works, to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired utterances, to another different tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:10)

- This was in fulfillment of,
- And after that it must occur that I shall pour out my spirit on every sort of flesh, and your **sons and your daughters** will certainly **prophesy**. As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see. (**Joel 2:28**)
- And even on the menservants and on the maidservants in those days I shall pour out my spirit. (**Joel 2:29**)
- Which foretold that your sons and your **daughters** will certainly **prophesy**.
- But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. (**Acts of Apostles 2:14**)
- These people are, in fact, not drunk, as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day. (**Acts of Apostles 2:15**)
- On the contrary, this is what was said through the prophet Joel. (**Acts of Apostles 2:16**)
- And in the last days, God says, I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. (**Acts of Apostles 2:17**)
- And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. (**Acts of Apostles 2:18**)
- Such gift, however, did not remove a woman from subjection to the headship of her husband or to that of men within the Christian congregation, in symbol of her subjection she was to wear a head covering when prophesying
- But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ, in turn the head of a woman is the man, in turn the head of the Christ is God. (**1 Corinthians 11:3**)
- Every man that prays or prophesies having something on his head shames his head. (**1 Corinthians 11:4**)

- But every woman that prays or prophesies with her head uncovered shames her head, for it is one and the same as if she were a woman with a shaved head. (1 Corinthians 11:5)
- For if a woman does not cover herself, let her also be shorn, but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. (1 Corinthians 11:6)
- And was not to act as a teacher within the congregation.
- Let a woman learn in silence with full submissiveness. (1 Timothy 2:11)
- I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. (1 Timothy 2:12)
- For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (1 Timothy 2:13)
- Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression. (1 Timothy 2:14)
- However, she will be kept safe through childbearing, provided they continue in faith and love and sanctification along with soundness of mind. (1 Timothy 2:15)
- For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all be encouraged. (1 Corinthians 14:31)
- And gifts of the spirit of the prophets are to be controlled by the prophets. (1 Corinthians 14:32)
- For God is a God, not of disorder, but of peace. As in all the congregations of the holy ones. (1 Corinthians 14:33)
- Let the women keep silent in the congregations, for it is not permitted for them to speak, but let them be in subjection, even as the Law says. (1 Corinthians 14:34)
- If, then, they want to learn something, let them question their own husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in a congregation. (1 Corinthians 14:35)

- A Jezebel-like woman in the congregation of Thyatira claimed to have prophetic powers but followed the course of ancient false **prophetesses** and received the condemnation of Christ Jesus in his message to John at,
- Nevertheless, I do hold this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a **prophetess**, and she teaches and misleads my slaves to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols. (**Revelation 2:20**)
- And I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her fornication. (**Revelation 2:21**)
- Look! I am about to throw her into a sickbed, and those committing adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. (**Revelation 2:22**)
- And her children I will kill with deadly plague, so that all the congregations will know that I am he who searches the kidneys and hearts, and I will give to you individually according to your deeds. (**Revelation 2:23**)
- She improperly acted as a teacher and misled members of the congregation into wrong practices.