

The Women of the Old Testament

The *Open Bible* has a chart of the important women in Old Testament Scripture, which also seems apropos to me.¹ Therefore, I will include a similar but expanded chart.

It ought to be clear to anyone who knows the Bible or has ever known a woman, that women have sin natures just like men do. Therefore, some of the things which are found below may seem shocking to some people, but the Bible is just giving us a objective and accurate historical view of these women and the men that they interacted with.

Internal Links to Charts

[Jacob's Wives, Mistresses, and Children](#)

[David's Wives and Children](#)

External Links

[Kukis homepage](#)

[Doctrines](#)

[Charts](#)

Women of the Old Testament

Name	Description	Scripture
Abigail (wife of David)	Abigail was married to Nabal, who was a worthless ass of a man. He scorned David, who had provided protection for Nabal and his men. David was about to just come into his camp and kill him, and his wife, Abigail, interceded, convincing David not to kill him. When Nabal found out about this, he apparently had a heart attack or stroke and died ten days later. Abigail married David (she was his third wife—see Ahinoam below).	1Sam. 25:1–42
Ahinoam of Jezreel (wife of David)	Ahinoam became David's wife when he was in the wilderness and she appears to have been David's second wife (although, he had been separated from his first wife, Michal , for about a year). Although the Bible does not specifically tell us that she is David's second wife after Michal, she bears David's first child (Amnon) and is always named before Abigail . She is not to be confused with Saul's wife, Ahinoam, daughter of Ahimaaz (1Sam. 14:50).	1Sam. 25:43 27:3 30:5 2Sam. 2:2 3:2 1Chron. 3:1
Athaliah	Athaliah was the only queen over Judah, the Southern Kingdom. She was executed.	2Kings 11:1–16 2Chron. 23:12–15

¹ *The Open Bible*; the New Living Translation; Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN; ©1996, p. 366.

Name	Description	Scripture
Bathsheba (wife of David)	Apparently David's right woman. Their relationship began as an illicit affair and resulted in the death of her husband, ordered by David (he made certain that Uriah, her husband, would be in the front lines of battle). Bathsheba was the mother of Solomon and most of the kings of Israel came through her. David did suffer a great deal of discipline for his actions. However, this was the end of David's collecting wives and mistresses; and chasing skirt in Jerusalem when his soldiers were at war.	2Sam. 11:31–27 12:1–31
Bilhah	The personal maid of Rachel who bore children for Jacob on behalf of Rachel, who was barren at the time. Her sons were Dan and Naphtali. She was sort of a surrogate mother, which was not uncommon in the ancient world.	Gen. 30:1–8
The Cushite woman (wife of Moses)	Moses appeared to separate from his wife, Zipporah , on at least 2 occasions, and the second time appears to be for good. He later married a Cushite woman, which caused quite a bit of controversy among Moses' siblings, Aaron and Miriam . Miriam was struck by God with leprosy for her impertinence.	Num. 12:1–15
Daughters of Lot	These unnamed women had sex with their father and bore two sons, Moab and Ben-ammi, who were the fathers of Moab and Ammon, an Arabic race which oft times caused great problems for the Jews.	Gen. 19:30–38
Deborah	Deborah was the only female judge in Israel of whom we are aware. God had chosen Barak to lead Israel against Jabin, a king of Canaan, and his general, Sisera. Barak would not go to war without being accompanied by Deborah.	Judges 4:1–14 5:1–15
Delilah	Samson was perhaps one of the most flawed and most unusual of the heroes of Israel. When she asked the nature of his super-human strength (he appeared to have the strength of a man on PCP without the factor of disorientation), he gave her several false answers and finally gave in and indicated that it was in his long hair, a part of his Nazirite vows. When his hair was cut, God left him and he was captured by the Philistines.	Judges 16:4–21
Dinah	The only daughter of Jacob (her mother was Leah). Dinah was raped by Shechem ben Hamor, and Simeon and Levi tricked the men of his city into becoming circumcised, and then executed them while they were recovering from their operation.	Gen. 30:21 34:1–31
Esther	Esther became queen over Persia and helped protect the deported Jews.	Esther 1–10
Eve	The first woman who was taken out of man, making him incomplete without her. She was still made in the image of God. It was the woman who was deceived by Satan; Satan attacked Adam through the woman and Adam fell by the exercise of his own free will. As far as he was concerned, she was the only woman on earth for him (which she was) and he was not going to live his life apart from her.	Gen. 1:25–27 2:23 3:1–20

Name	Description	Scripture
Gomer	Gomer was Hosea's wife, whom he loved dearly. Throughout the book of Hosea, what we have is a parallel between God and Israel and Hosea and Gomer. God loves Israel and Hosea loves Gomer. Israel and Gomer are both unfaithful to their husbands.	Hosea 1-3
Hagar	Sara's Egyptian personal servant who had relations with Abram, producing a son, Ishmael. Ishmael became the father of another group of Arabs who have caused Israel problems to this very day.	Gen. 16:3-16 21:9-21 25:12
Haggith	David's 5 th wife who bore Adonijah to him. While David is still alive, Adonijah takes over as king, temporarily, in a power move. When Bathsheba becomes aware of this, she goes to David and has him install Solomon as king.	1Kings 1:5-53
Hannah	Hannah, the barren wife of Elkanah, promised God that she would give her first son completely over to God if He would but open up her womb.	1Sam. 1:1-27
Jael	Jael killed Sisera, the general under Jabin, who went to war against Barak and Deborah . Sisera had escaped capture and was exhausted. Jael provided him a place to stay and killed him while he slept.	Judges 4:17-24 5:24-27
Jezebel	She was of Sidonian royalty who married Ahab, king over Israel (the Northern Kingdom). They were both about as evil as a couple could be. She was a threat to the life of Elijah.	1Kings 16:30-31 19:1-3
Jochebed	The birth-mother of Moses.	Ex. 6:20
Keturah	Abraham's second wife after the death of Sarah . Abraham recognized that the promise of God was fulfilled in Isaac, and he left all of his substance to Isaac.	Gen. 25:1-4
Leah	Leah was the older sister of Rachel and the daughter of Laban (who was the brother of Rebekah). Jacob was tricked into marrying her when he thought he had married Rachel, the sister he loved. She bore Jacob seven children, including one daughter.	Gen. 29, 30
Maacah (wife of David)	When David became king over southern Israel (Judah), he married a third woman, a woman of a royal background, Maacah, the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur (this is an area east of the Jordan, and it provided David with an important alliance from that area). She is the mother of Absalom, the brother of Tamar who is raped by Amnon. Absalom will kill Amnon, because David did nothing about his crime, and then Absalom escaped and lived for a few years in Geshur. There are several other people with the name Maacah in the Bible.	2Sam. 3:3 1Chron. 3:2
Merab	Saul's eldest daughter who was originally given to David to wed. Saul changed his mind and gave her to be married to someone else.	1Sam. 18:14-19

Name	Description	Scripture
Michal (daughter of Saul, wife of David)	<p>Michal was another daughter of Saul's who loved David and married him (she was his first wife). Saul had assumed that she would distract him enough that the Philistines would kill David (Saul was suffering from inordinate jealousy of David by that time).</p> <p>While they were married, Saul sent a team of assassins to kill David while he was sleeping. Michal helped him to escape, but that led to a long period of time during which they were separated. During this time of separation, Saul gave her to another man, Palti ben Laish.</p> <p>After Saul and most of his sons were killed in battle, Abner, Saul's general first supported Ish-bosheth, one of Saul's remaining sons. When he defected over to David because of a dispute with Ish-bosheth, David conditioned this alliance based upon the return of Michal to him. Abner arranged this, and Palti followed Michal for some distance, crying because he was in love with her.</p> <p>Less than 7 years later, David brought the Ark of God to Jerusalem, and danced and celebrated as it was being brought into the city. Michal was disgusted with his unkingly behavior, and dressed David down for it. Although she apparently remained with David as his wife, they never slept together after this incident. She never bore David any children.</p>	<p>1Sam. 14:49 18:20–28 19:11–18 25:44</p> <p>2Sam. 3:7–16 6:14–23 1Chron. 16:29</p>
Miriam	<p>Miriam was Moses' older sister who, after he had been placed in a basket in the Nile, watched over him until he was picked up by Pharaoh's daughter. She then got her mother to nurse baby Moses (it was apparent that the daughter knew what was going on here).</p> <p>As an adult, Miriam lost her concept of her place in relationship to Israel. She saw herself as important as Moses and bucked his authority. When Moses married a Cushite woman (an Egyptian), Miriam threw a royal fit. God made it very clear to Miriam that she was out of line by giving her leprosy temporarily. She died prior to entering into the Land of Promise.</p>	<p>Ex. 2:3–10 15:20</p> <p>Num. 12:1–15 30:1</p>
Naomi	<p>Naomi, her husband and her two sons traveled from Israel into Moab, during a famine in Israel. Her husband and both sons died, and she remained with Ruth, her daughter-in-law. They returned together to Israel.</p>	<p>Ruth 1–4</p>
Orpah	<p>Orpah was Ruth's sister-in-law, a Moabite who married Ruth's husband's brother. When their husbands died, Orpah remained in Moab. Her choice not to stay with her mother-in-law was probably a choice which ultimately meant that she was not saved.</p>	<p>Ruth 1:1–14</p>
Potipher's wife	<p>The wife of Potipher, a ruler over Egypt, attempted to make Joseph commit adultery. Joseph refused, so she claimed that Joseph came on to her, and got him thrown into jail.</p>	<p>Gen. 30:1–21</p>
Queen of Sheba	<p>Came to Jerusalem to meet with and speak to Solomon. What drew her was his world-renown wisdom.</p>	<p>1Kings 10</p>

Name	Description	Scripture
Rachel	The woman that Jacob (Isaac's son) was in love with and his second wife (he was duped into marrying Rachel's sister instead of Rachel). Rachel bore two children to Jacob: Joseph and Benjamin, and died while giving birth to Benjamin.	Gen. 29:1–29 30:1–6, 22–24 31:31–41
Rahab	Rahab was a prostitute who lived in Jericho. When Israel sent two spies in to check out Jericho, they enlisted her aide against her own people. She recognized that God was with them and asked that they spare her and her family. Later, she married an Israelite and was in the line of our Lord's humanity.	Joshua 2:1–24 Matt. 1:5
Rebekah	Abraham sent one of his servants to find a wife for Isaac. He found a beautiful virgin from the same family as Abraham (Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite from the land where they lived). Rebekah bore Isaac twin sons, Jacob and Esau.	Gen. 24:1–67 25:20–26
Rizpah (Saul's mistress)	Saul had a mistress, Rizpah. After Saul's death, his top general took up with Rizpah, which caused a riff between Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, and his general, Abner. Abner defected to David because of this dispute. The loss of Abner result in the end of Ish-bosheth as ruler over Northern Israel.	2Sam. 3:7–12
Ruth	Ruth was a Moabite woman who married a Jew. He died, but Ruth had bonded with her mother-in-law, Naomi , and accompanied her back to Bethlehem. She eventually married another Israelite, Boaz, and became another Gentile who was in the line of our Lord.	Ruth 1–4 Matt. 1:5
Sarah (wife of Abraham)	Originally named <i>Sarai</i> , she was Abraham's first wife. It was Sarah who suggested that Abraham fulfill God's promises by having sex with Hagar , her personal maid. She bore her first son, Isaac, when she was 91 years of age.	Gen. 11:29 16:1–6 17:15–21 18:6–15 21:2–3
Tamar (wife of Er)	Tamar married Judah's firstborn child, Er, but he died. When his younger brother was to impregnate her, according to the Levirate marriage custom, he had sex with her, but did not impregnate her. God killed him. Judah promised her that she would marry another son of his, but reneged on the promise, thinking her to be bad luck. Judah himself impregnated her sometime later, taking her to be a prostitute. Her son, Perez (a twin), was in the line of our Lord.	Gen. 30 Ruth 4:12, 18
Tamar (daughter of David)	Amnon, David's son by Ahinoam , was in lust with is half-sister, Tamar. He finagled a scenario where she had to take care of him and he raped her. Her full brother, Absalom, murdered Amnon, which set up a schism between his father David and himself. This led to a revolution throughout all Israel where David had to leave the country.	2Sam. 13
Zilpah	The personal maid of Leah , who bore sons Gad and Asher to Jacob.	Gen. 30:9–13

Name	Description	Scripture
Zipporah (wife of Moses)	Zipporah was Moses' wife of Midianite descent. Moses appeared to get along much better with his father-in-law than he ever did with Zipporah. Moses apparently sent her away once he circumcised their children (she saw it as a gross and perhaps even heathen ritual). She returned to him later when he first entered the desert to lead Israel, but it is not clear whether she stayed with him or left again. In any case, after she is brought back to Moses by his father-in-law, we never hear about her again.	Ex. 2:16–22 4:24–26 15:1–7 18:2

Jacob's Wives, Mistresses, and Children

Wives	Rachel	Leah	Bilhah (Rachel's personal servant)	Zilpah (Leah's personal servant)
Children	Joseph, Benjamin	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah	Dan, Naphtali	Gad, Asher.

David's Wives and Children

Wives	Michal	Ahinoam	Abigail	Maacah	Haggith	Abital	Eglah	Bathsheba
Children	none	Amnon	Chileab	Absalom, Tamar	Adonijah	Shephatiah	Ithream	Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon

Internal Links

[Top of Page](#)

[Jacob's Wives, Mistresses, and Children](#)

[David's Wives and Children](#)

External Links

[Kukis homepage](#)

[Doctrines](#)

[Charts](#)