

Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous. (Numbers 12:10 NASB)

She was cleansed by the Lord after a week, but the entire nation was aware of her punishment.

If a prophetess can get into serious trouble, where do WE stand? Rebellion is never a good use of leadership gifts.

- D. Note that though Miriam was flawed, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was named after her. Mary is a transliteration of the Hebrew word for Miriam. Miriam's life story is still one of success.

CONCLUSIONS:

Miriam used her body to bring glory to God, and lead others into good works of praising God with instruments and voices.

God can use us like he used Miriam when we are:

1. Sensitive to His workings.
2. Cautious with our criticisms.
3. Stay within our God-given role.
4. We use our gifts when given the opportunity.

We are living in times when...

Spin is more important than truth,
"I feel" is more important than "I believe,"
The surreal is more important than reality,
Denial is more important than confession,
Charisma is more important than character.
The economy is more important than morality,
Blurring the lines is more important than walking the line,
Doing your job is more important than keeping your vows,
"I did not . . ." is more important than "Thou shalt not . . . ,"
Trashing the messenger is more important than heeding the message,
The way things are is more important than the way things ought to be,
Living for the almighty dollar is more important than living for Almighty God.

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MIRIAM THE FIRST LADY OF EXODUS

By Charles Dailey

INTRODUCTION:

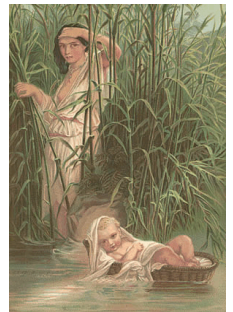
1. Miriam is the older sister of Moses who was used by God as the Law Giver of Israel. At a tender age, Miriam was used by God to preserve Israel's coming leader from death. The story is in Exodus 2:1ff.
2. The Bible does not say that Miriam later married. However, the Jewish historian Josephus says that her husband was Hur and there is quite a bit of circumstantial evidence pointing that way. If so, then Bezalel, the man whom God filled with his Spirit to supervise the Tabernacle construction, was her grandson. Exodus 31:1-5.

I. MIRIAM AS A BABY SITTER

- A. She was not timid.

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" (Exodus 2:7 NASB)

The incident illustrated two of Miriam's qualities that stayed with her through her adult life - boldness, and intelligence. God was of course responsible for the saving of Moses' life, but He chose to do it by means of a little girl who wasn't afraid to go where she was needed, and who could think fast when she got there.



- by Paul Delaroche

- B. She was wise and did not say *too* much (in the name of openness). She could have said that the boy was her brother. There are plenty of times not to say everything that we know, think or can guess at! Watch our words. Choose them carefully.
- . . . Incline your ear to my understanding; That you may observe discretion And your lips may reserve knowledge. (Prov 5:1-2 NASB)

Also, watch for the hand of God in everyday items. Lightning and earthquakes are not always present when God is at work.

II. MIRIAM AS A NATIONAL LEADER

- A. She then appears on the pages of history when the people of Israel make their grand exodus from Egypt and slavery. While Aaron and his brother Moses were called *prophets*, their sister

Miriam is called a *prophetess* (Exodus 5:20). Her role was not the leadership of the nation like Moses, but as the nation's leading musician.

Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea." (Exodus 15:20-21 NIV)

The entire event and the song words are recorded in Exodus 15.

We find Anna the prophetess having a music ministry in Luke 2:36 - 38 (her role did not conflict with John the Baptist).

Miriam's instruction to the thousands of women that followed her was to sing and they all had tambourines. The word *sing* here must have meant to sing accompanied by the tambourines.

Lottie Beth Hobbs, writing in *Daughters of Eve* says (page 56):

It must have been a majestic scene, a mighty chorus of women, for it was a nation of 600,000 men and their families. They had borne heartbreaking trials and heavy burdens in Egypt. The providential sparing of their firstborn, their preservation in the midst of the Red Sea, their deliverance from their enemies - all these occasioned heartfelt joy, a sudden burst of praise and gratitude.



The first impulse of the redeemed is rejoicing. This is one of the most sublime moments of communion between creature and Creator. The women sang praises, attributing to God the victory: "Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and the rider hath he thrown into the sea." Chariots and horses had been the pride of Egypt and the terror of Israel, but Egypt's might was only folly when pitted against the God of heaven.

Triumphantly they sang that God was their strength and their salvation. The Bible records many songs. The history of

nations may be traced through songs, for in them the heart is bared and the keenest joys and sorrows revealed.

- B. Miriam was a prophetess and led a very large group of women in singing using timbrels or a tambourine. Our job description of a prophetess needs to include what Miriam did. God's spokesperson may be an inspired musical person, using their vocal and instrumental skills to praise God before others.

God himself supplied the song based on what is written in Psalm 81:

5 He established it as a statute for Joseph when he went out against Egypt, where we heard a language we did not understand. 6 He says, "I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands were set free from the basket."

Miriam was *not* acting on her own. God had commanded this grand national event of singing praises to his name with every bit of instrumentation that they had.

- C. Miriam was considered among the deliverers of the nation. Micah chapter 6:
 - 4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.
- D. Miriam had a gift from God like that of David. She could handle both music and singing and must have been a grand choir leader. This showed her leadership skills, too.

III. MIRIAM SPOKE OUT OF TURN WHEN SHE CRITICIZED HER BROTHER.

But her leadership skills were taken too far.

- A. Miriam had a personal dislike for Moses' wife. She would not say that. Rather, she attacked Moses' leadership. How typical!

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it. (Numbers 12:1-2 NASB)

- B. Her complaining against Moses was really rebellion against God. We need to exercise great care in criticizing any who are leading for God. Criticism can be created for any leader.
- C. Miriam the leader became snow-white Miriam, the lady with leprosy. But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold,