

Women Who Would Be Rabbis & One Biblical Woman Who Inspired Them

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Micah 6:4	
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, And from the house of bondage I redeemed you, And I sent before you Moses , Aaron , and Miriam .	כִּי הֵעֲלֵיתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וּמִבֵּית עֲבָדִים פְּדִיתִיךָ וְאֶשְׁלַח לְפָנֶיךָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה אֹהֶרֶן וּמִרְיָם:

Exodus 2:1-10	(Torah translations from <i>The Torah: A Woman's Commentary</i>)
<p>¹וַיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֵוִי וַיִּקַּח אֶת־בֶּת־לֵוִי: ²וַתַּהַר הָאִשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתֵּרָא אוֹתוֹ כִּי־טוֹב הוּא וַתַּצְפֶּנּוּהוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה יָרְחִים: ³וְלֹא־יָכְלָה עוֹד־הַצִּפְנָנוֹ וַתִּקַּח־לוֹ תֵּבֶת גִּמָּא וַתַּחמֶרָה בַּחֹמֶר וּבִצְפָת וַתִּשֶׂם בָּהּ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּשָּׂם בְּסוּף עַל־שֹׁפֶת הַיָּאָר: ⁴וַתִּתְצַב אַחֲתָּהּ מֵרָחֵק לִדְעָה מַה־יַּעֲשֶׂה לוֹ: ⁵וַתֵּרֶד בֶּת־פַּרְעֹה לָרְחוֹץ עַל־הַיָּאָר וּנְעֻרֶתֶיהָ הִלְכָת עַל־יַד הַיָּאָר וַתֵּרָא אֶת־הַתֵּבָה בְּתוֹךְ הַסּוּף וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת־אִמָּתָהּ וַתִּקְחָהּ: ⁶וַתִּפְתַּח וַתֵּרְאֶהוּ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וְהִנֵּה־נֹעַר בֶּכֶה וַתַּחמֶל עָלָיו וַתֹּאמֶר מִי־לֵדִי הָעֶבְרִיִּים זֶה: ⁷וַתֹּאמֶר אַחֲתָּהּ אֶל־בֶּת־פַּרְעֹה הֲאֵלֶךְ וְקִרְאתִי לָךְ אִשָּׁה מִיִּנְקָת מִן הָעֶבְרִיִּים וַתִּינַק לָךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד: ⁸וַתֹּאמֶר־לָהּ בֶּת־פַּרְעֹה לָכִי וַתֵּלֶךְ הָעֹלָמָה וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־אִם הַיֶּלֶד: ⁹וַתֹּאמֶר לָהּ בֶּת־פַּרְעֹה הֲיִלְכִי אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּקְהוּ לִי וְאֲנִי אֶתֵּן אֶת־שִׂכְרִי וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּנְקֶהוּ: ¹⁰וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּבְאֶהוּ לְבֶת־פַּרְעֹה וַיְהִי־לָהּ לְבֵן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מֹשֶׁה וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי מִן־הַמַּיִם מָשִׁיתִהוּ:</p>	
<p>¹A certain man of the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she got a wicker basket for him and caulked it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child into it and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. ⁴And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to fetch it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, “This must be a Hebrew child.” ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a Hebrew nurse to suckle the child for you?” ⁸And Pharaoh’s daughter answered, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, who made him her son. She named him Moses, explaining, “I drew him out of the water.”</p>	

Exodus 15 ¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to יהוה. They said: I will sing to יהוה, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.	אֶז יְשִׁיר־מֹשֶׁה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ יֵאמֹר אֲשִׁירָה לַיהוָה כִּי־גָאָה גָאָה סוּס וּרְכָבוֹ רָמָה בַיָּם׃
²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand-drum, and all the women went out after her in dance with hand-drums. ²¹ And Miriam chanted for them: Sing to יהוה, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.	וַתִּקַּח מִרְיָם הַנְּבִיאָה אֲחוֹת אַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַתֵּף בְּיָדָהּ וַתֵּצֵאנָה כָּל־הַנָּשִׁים אַחֲרֶיהָ בַּתִּפְסִים וּבַמַּחֲלֹת׃ ²¹ וַתַּעַן לָהֶם מִרְיָם שִׁירוֹ לַיהוָה כִּי־גָאָה גָאָה סוּס וּרְכָבוֹ רָמָה בַיָּם׃

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¹ וַתִּדְבֹּר מִרְיָם וְאַהֲרֹן בַּמֶּשֶׁה עַל־אֲדֹת הָאִשָּׁה הַכַּנְשִׁית אֲשֶׁר לָקַח כִּי־אִשָּׁה כַּנְשִׁית לָקַח׃ ² וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲרֹק אֶךְ־בַּמֶּשֶׁה דִּבֶּר יְהוָה הֲלֹא גַם־בָּנוּ דִּבֶּר וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה׃
¹ Miriam and Aaron spoke (<i>fem. sing.</i>) against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married: “He married a Cushite woman!” ² They said, “Has יהוה spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?” יהוה heard it. ³ Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any other man on earth. ⁴ Suddenly יהוה called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the Tent of Meeting.” So the three of them went out. ⁵ יהוה came down in a pillar of cloud, stopped at the entrance of the Tent, and called out, “Aaron and Miriam!” The two of them came forward; ⁶ and [God] said, “Hear these My words: When a prophet of יהוה arises among you, I make Myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; he is trusted throughout My household. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, plainly and not in riddles, and he beholds the likeness of יהוה. How then did you not shrink from speaking against My servant Moses!” ⁹ Still incensed with them, יהוה departed. ¹⁰ As the cloud withdrew from the Tent, there was Miriam stricken with snow-white scales! When Aaron turned toward Miriam, he saw that she was stricken with scales. ¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, “O my lord, account not to us the sin which we committed in our folly. ¹² Let her not be as one dead, who emerges from his mother’s womb with half his flesh eaten away.” ¹³ So Moses cried out to יהוה, saying, “O God, pray heal her!” ¹⁴ But יהוה said to Moses, “If her father spat in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut out of camp for seven days, and then let her be readmitted.” ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut out of camp seven days; and the people did not march on until Miriam was readmitted.