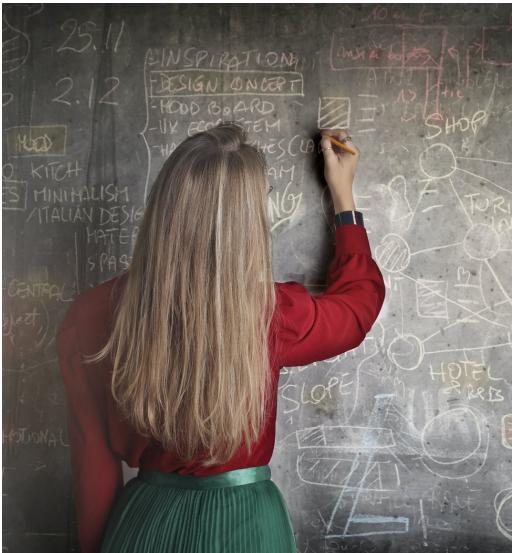


## DEVOTIONAL OF THE MONTH

# Women in Leadership



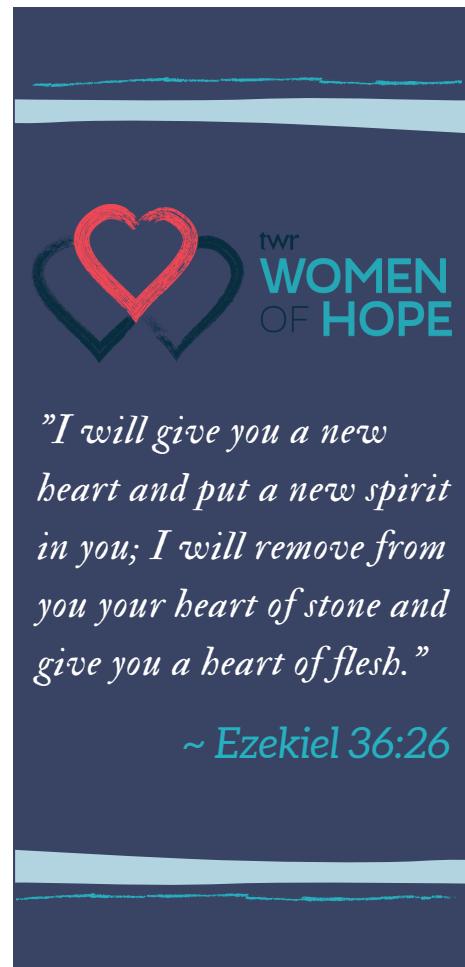
## Daughters of the King

WRITTEN BY BRIANNA OAKLEY

As we read through Scripture, we come across countless stories of women who through their devotion have been used to further the kingdom of God. The Lord continually emphasizes the worth and value of his beloved daughters and has entrusted both great responsibility and leadership to them since the very beginning.

We are introduced to the first woman in Scripture in Genesis 1. God created man and woman in his image and instructed them to have dominion over all the earth. In Genesis 2, woman is given to man as a necessary and God-ordained helper. From these chapters, we get a brief picture of God's beloved creation and the value, identity, and purpose they have through direct relationship to their Creator and Father. In Genesis 3, however, Adam and Eve sinned, and everything from childbirth to the grounds upon which they toiled was now broken. But God also left his children with a prophecy – a promise. The prophecy brings hope and foretells the coming of Christ while also professing that it would be the woman's role, through her offspring, to bring forth the Savior (Gen. 3:15). We are only three chapters into the Bible, and it has already been made evident that God has an essential place for women in his sovereign plan of redemption.

(Read more on page 2)





*“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God...”*

*2 Corinthians 3:5*



### (Continued from page 1)

If you continue reading through the Scriptures, you find many other important women who have been highlighted and praised for their leadership and obedience to God's call on their lives. God appointed Miriam, Huldah, and Anna, as well as many other women to be prophetesses in Scripture. The Lord chose Esther to serve as the queen of Persia, where she became an advocate for the Jews, ultimately rescuing God's people from Haman's evil plot. One of the most fascinating and empowering stories about a woman I have ever read is in the book of Judges. In this book, we learn about Deborah, an Israelite woman who God entrusted to be a military leader, judge, and prophetess. She was even referred to as the "mother of Israel"! As we read the Scriptures, it becomes obvious that the Lord esteems women and has destined them for great things. However, we must realize that each of these women only achieved what they did because they relied on the Lord fully and not on themselves.

As daughters of the king, we, too, have a high calling on our lives. We have been given a decree to go into the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). We are charged with the

responsibility to learn to do right, seek justice and defend the oppressed (Isa. 1:17). The Lord has instructed us to use our gifts to serve one another (1 Pet. 4:11), required us to be prepared to give a defense for the hope that is within us (1 Pet. 3:15), and entrusted us with the responsibility of acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God (Mic. 6:8). When we read these commands, we do not need to feel overwhelmed. The Lord loves and adores us and knows what we are capable of. He also knows that on our own, we cannot fulfill these commands, and so he has not left us alone.

Just as the women in the stories mentioned above were able to rely on the Lord to fulfill the call on their lives, we, too, serve the same God who desires to carry us through and make us fully sufficient in him. So, be encouraged and be courageous! You are fearfully and wonderfully made (ps. 139:14), valued by the Lord of the universe, and he desires to use you to further his kingdom. You have been given the great responsibility of influencing your community and leading its members toward the love of Christ. If you rely on the Lord fully, you, too, will be victorious and accomplish many great things through him.