

Character Study: Miriam

MIRIAM

Meaning:

- Hebrew #4813 & Greek: #3137: rebellion, loved by Yahweh
- Miriam & Mary are the same name

Lineage:

- Numbers 26:59, I Chronicles 6:3 from the priestly tribe of Levi.
- (Jochebed) Her Mother's name means Yahweh is glory.

Exodus 2:4 this is the 1st mention of Miriam. She is called Moses' sister. We can also see the character development of Miriam and her leadership qualities at such a young age. Miriam is around 11 -13 years of age.



Exodus 2:7-9

Character traits:

- Responsible
- Care taker of her brother
- Quick thinker-solution oriented
- Resourceful

We can see God's provision of deliverance in this situation, even to the detail of Moses' own mother becoming his wet nurse in his young and formative years. Miriam was an integral part in the deliverance of Moses from the hands of Pharaohs' murderous plans. She had a divine appointment in destiny.

Exodus 15: 20-21

- Leader of women
- Worship leader
- Prophetess
- Song is her heart (the song of Miriam)



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Miriam is the first woman in scripture given the title of *prophetess*. She is alongside her two brothers in ministry and has a God ordained position of great authority. She led a company of women and they danced, played instruments and sang the triumphant chorus of Moses' song of the previous chapter Exodus 15:1, 1Samuel 18:6-7, Colossians 2:15 (victory celebrations)

Micah 6:4 this scripture speaks of God's placement of Moses, Aaron and Miriam in leadership over Israel. They are a remembrance to God's people. (A memorial for future generations)

Leadership:

- A servant - Philippians 2:3-4
- Proven in character to lead others Philippians 2:22
- Called to accountability
- Must be in relationship with the LORD
- A student of the Word - 2 Timothy 2:15
- Submitted to the governing leadership that God has placed in authority over us
- Unified in the Spirit - Ephesians 4:3-6

Leaders have a great responsibility to impart, build up and equip the next generation to move into their destiny in Christ.

Leadership is first God appointed in our spirit. Second the LORD will speak to the governing leadership of the church and appoint you. 1Timothy 4:14, The Bible says '*Let men say who you are.*' We do not have to declare a title over ourselves or strive for things, God's timing is perfect. They will see the fruits in our lives. Matthew 7:20

Shift: Murmuring against leadership - Numbers 12:1-15

- In vs. 9 the LORD is angered at Miriam for speaking against the leader governing over her, Aaron and the Israelites. She instigated the complaints, drew others into her gossiping and spoke against God's anointed her own brother. Psalm 50:20
- Miriam was cursed with leprosy



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Miriam speaks through a spirit of *Jealousy & Pride* ²

- Numbers 12:2 - "Has the LORD only spoken through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?"

Miriam is an example for us as women called into leadership. If we do not weigh our words that we speak, judgment will come. We will find ourselves outside the camp as Miriam and completely cut off. We are women of purpose and our words that we speak must reflect godly character from within in order for us to be effective and have a sphere of influence in others lives for the kingdom of God. Our motives of the heart play a key role; we need to search our hearts for any hidden motives that are not of God.

Numbers 12:13-15; Moses the one whom the offense was against cried out to the LORD for healing and mercy for Miriam. Moses forgave Miriam and God's compassion is seen here and heeds the cries of his servant Moses. The LORD speaks out a discipline of 7 days outside the camp for Miriam. (#7= finished, completion, an end¹)

- Miriam had the hearts of the people. Numbers 12:15 they recognized her as a leader and did not move until she was restored into the camp.
- Deuteronomy 24:9 - Miriam is an example again to future generations of her disobedience. God will discipline his leaders when a spirit of jealousy & pride come into the camp.
- Miriam's' death - Numbers 20:1: not much is spoken of Miriam after the judgment of leprosy for 7 days and restoration.

What can we learn from Miriam's life? *Write a few thoughts about Miriam and what has God shown you about Miriam.*

1.

2.

3.



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