

## WHAT WINGER PRESENTLY GETS WRONG:

### HOW WOMEN COULD AND COULDN'T LEAD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

29 November 2022

*Our full article takes up Mike Winger's kind invitation to give feedback. It's 13 pages and we hope you will enjoy reading it. Here's a quick summary in less than a page.*

#### **QUICK SUMMARY OF ARTICLE ON OT WOMEN by Andrew Bartlett and Terran Williams**

There are many things in Mike's Part 3 video concerning women in the Old Testament which we agree that he gets right. These include that the ministries of women prophets, Miriam and Huldah, refute the idea that God only uses women when there are no suitable men.

But Mike seems to have a blind spot about **Miriam** and Micah 6:4. While Moses was the main leader of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, his brother Aaron and his sister Miriam were co-leaders, as Micah 6:4 shows, under his overall leadership. And a careful reading of Exodus 15 confirms that Miriam's prophetic ministry was to both men and women (compare also Numbers 12:2).

Mike sees in his review of Old Testament women a principle that leadership of God's people *at the highest level* is reserved by God to men. But this is in conflict with the story of **Deborah** as presented in the Bible text.

At the end of the video, Mike rightly acknowledges that Scripture does not rule out all women from all leadership (1hr50mins). Certainly, Deborah's God-given leadership is inconsistent with a supposed principle that women may not lead men or exercise authority over them. But it goes further than that. Deborah is an example of a woman called by God to lead *at the highest level* and to exercise the highest authority over God's people as a civic and spiritual leader.

This is apparent from close attention to Judges 2:16-19 and 4 – 5. She even summoned, commanded and commissioned Israel's most powerful man (Barak). Of all the leaders in the book of Judges, she alone is similar to Samuel, the great leader, in the threefold tasks of judging the people's disputes, prophesying God's word, and issuing instructions for battle.

When he did his video on OT women, Mike thought that the regulations for the **OT priesthood** supported the claim about reserving the highest leadership for men. They do not. We point out six flaws in what Mike says. The sixth one is based on a later video of Mike's, where he correctly makes clear that there is no true analogy between OT priests and NT church elders. NT priesthood is for all believers in Christ; if priesthood were regarded as a litmus test of authority to lead, it would follow that leadership is open to both women and men.

Old Testament women do not provide any support for the complementarian view that church eldership is reserved for men.