

Questions About Old Testament, Women, and the Priesthood.

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Shalom from Israel! There is no real Old Testament evidence that Yahweh intended women to be used in the priesthood. No where will you find evidence of this. This is why we Jews reject the New Testament heresies of using women in any matter regarding the temple services.

Answer:

Shalom and thank you for writing from Israel!

Your perspective is deeply rooted in the Torah and Jewish tradition, and I respect your commitment to honoring the sacred instructions given by Yahweh. Let me offer a thoughtful, Scripture-based Christian response—not to argue, but to build understanding between our views of God’s calling and covenant.

Yes, You’re Absolutely Right About the Levitical Priesthood

In the **Old Testament priesthood**, only males from the tribe of Levi, specifically from the lineage of Aaron, were ordained to serve in the **temple system**:

- *“They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.” — Deuteronomy 33:10*
- *“And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest’s office...” — Numbers 3:10*

The priesthood was **strictly male**, and it served as a **shadow of the greater spiritual realities** to come (see Hebrews 8:5).

So I agree — **you will not find Old Testament authorization for women to serve as priests** in the literal, sacrificial, temple service.

But That’s Not the Full Story of the Hebrew Scriptures

While women were not priests, Yahweh still **spoke through and empowered women** in **other spiritual roles** — often at key turning points in Israel’s history.

Here are a few powerful examples:

1. Deborah — Prophet and Judge

“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.” — Judges 4:4

She **held national leadership** in both spiritual and civil affairs. She **delivered prophetic instruction, judged cases, and led military action** — all while being recognized as **God’s appointed leader**.

2. Huldah — Authority Among the Priests

When King Josiah needed spiritual confirmation, **he didn’t go to the priests or prophets like Jeremiah**, but to a **woman**:

“So Hilkiah the priest... went unto Huldah the prophetess... and she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel...” — 2 Kings 22:14–16

The high priest himself submitted to the words of a woman prophet. Yahweh affirmed her spiritual authority.

3. Miriam — Prophetess and Leader

“And Miriam the prophetess... took a timbrel in her hand...” — Exodus 15:20

Micah 6:4 even says,

“I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.”
All three are listed as **leaders raised up by God**.

So while women were not temple priests, they were clearly used by **Yahweh as prophets**, deliverers, judges, and national spiritual leaders — sometimes **over and above** the male priests.

A Christian View: A Shift in the Priesthood

From a **Christian (New Testament) perspective**, we believe that when **Messiah (Yeshua)** came, **He fulfilled the priesthood** (Hebrews 7–10). He became our **High Priest**, and now the **entire community of believers becomes a priesthood**:

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices...” — 1 Peter 2:5

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.” — Galatians 3:28

That is the **foundation** upon which many Christians—especially those who follow the teachings of the New Testament—believe that **both men and women** can now **serve in spiritual leadership**, including pastoral ministry.

This is **not a continuation of Levitical priesthood**, but a **spiritual priesthood of all believers** under the new covenant.

A Final Thought: Agreement on Holiness


While we may differ in theological views, we **both agree** that:

- **God is holy**
- **His calling is sacred**
- **Spiritual leadership is not to be taken lightly or without divine authorization**
- **Every part of Scripture matters**

The calling of men and women to serve God should always be **rooted in His Word, guided by His Spirit, and carried out with humility.**

Todah rabah for writing from the land where so much of the Bible unfolded. May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob bless you richly.

With deep respect,
Pastor Ed Anderson
Future of Hope Ministries

 *“In the last days, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh... your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.” — Joel 2:28*