



EXCERPT



Fierce and Faithful

25 Women of the Bible Who Dared to Trust God

October 27, 2026 | \$18.99, 128 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1308-3

The Bible is filled with stories of brave, wise, and faithful women who dared to follow God's call. Now you can introduce these remarkable role models to the next generation with *Fierce and Faithful*. Written by trusted biblical scholars Carmen Joy Imes and Nijay K. Gupta, this beautifully illustrated book brings the stories of twenty-five biblical women to life. From well-known figures like Mary and Sarah to lesser-known leaders like Huldah and Phoebe, each story is told in a relatable way that connects with young hearts and minds.

Grown-Up Miriam, Worship Leader and Prophet

For years she had waited, hoped, worked, and prayed. Now joy shone from her wrinkled face, framed by wisps of white hair. Her heart pounded. She was old now, but her feet felt young.

Taking her hand drum, Miriam began to beat out a rhythm of celebration. Other women took up their drums and joined her, their feet tracing a dance in the dust. The crowd grew as Miriam called out for them to sing. God had rescued them from Pharaoh!

Setting down the loads they carried, the people gathered. Their bodies were tired from hurrying across the uneven floor of the sea. Pharaoh's army had tried to chase after them, but their chariot wheels jammed. Now the Hebrews stared at the body of water. It was amazing! The pathway they had just used to walk through the sea was gone, and so was Pharaoh's army.

Miriam called to the people, urging them to join her in celebration. "Sing to the Yahweh, for he has triumphed gloriously! Horse and driver he has thrown into the sea!"

Soon the whole community sang loudly and joined the dance. After so many years of slavery and mistreatment in Egypt, the Hebrews were finally free!

The worst fears of Egypt's king had come true, but not in the way he expected. The people had left Egypt. The Hebrews' God protected them and fought for them by drowning the Egyptian army.

Miriam must have been at least eighty-seven years old when this story took place. Over many years of hard labor, she had witnessed much suffering. Her presence on the shores of this sea was important. As a child, she stood by the shore of the Nile River to watch her baby brother in his floating basket in the reeds. There she witnessed a miracle, when the princess saved Moses and adopted him as her own child.

Just a few days earlier, before she witnessed **Yahweh's** (see sidebar) miracle at the sea, Miriam had gathered with her family as all the **Hebrews** did. They obeyed God by eating a special meal, called the Passover. They ate flatbread and lamb, and each family painted some of the lamb's blood on the front door of their house. It was a symbol of their trust in God to protect them and bring them out of Egypt. The next morning, they gathered their belongings and left, walking into freedom.

Just when they thought they were safe, the Egyptian army came chasing after them, trapping them by the Sea of Reeds, which most English Bibles call the Red Sea. The people cried out to God, and he opened a dry path through the sea for them to cross! The Egyptian army followed them onto the seabed, but the waves came crashing back down on them.

Now Miriam stood with the Hebrews on the far shore of the Sea of Reeds, watching as the Lord defeated the army of Egypt. Like the princess did for Moses, God saw the pain of the Hebrews, heard their cries, and felt sorry for them. He rescued the Hebrews just as the daughter of Pharaoh had rescued their leader, Moses.



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As God spoke through the **prophet** Micah many years later, “I led you out of Egypt and rescued you from the land where you were slaves. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead you” (Micah 6:4). Moses’ job was to lead the people of Israel, and Miriam’s destiny was to stand by his side and lead too. As a prophet, she called God’s people to respond faithfully in worship when he saved them.

WHO IS YAHWEH?

Did you know that God has a name? God is not a name, but a title. Though you may have teachers you call “Teacher,” their friends and family call them by a name. God spoke to Moses and invited the Hebrews to call him by his personal name, Yahweh. Knowing God’s name was and is important because many people worship other gods with different names. When we call God “Yahweh,” we mean the one true God who created everything and rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. That same God came to earth as Jesus.

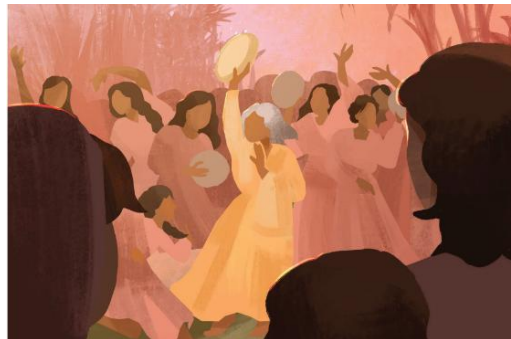
YOUR TURN

God has given each of us different gifts—strengths and skills to faithfully serve and lead our community. How have you seen people use their gifts? Tell about a leader you admire for the way they point people to God. How do you imagine serving and leading?

Miriam used her voice, her drum, and her body to retell the story of God’s rescue by dancing, singing, and making music. Her creative talents gave the people a way to remember what God had done for them. Our creative talents can also help us remember the good things God has done.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 15:19-2

—adapted from chapter five



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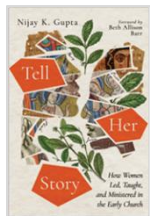
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New From the Author of *Tell Her Story*

Nijay K. Gupta (PhD, University of Durham) serves as Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary. He is a passionate ally of women in the church and academy, and he has harnessed that passion into researching the lives and situations of women named as leaders and ministers in the Bible.

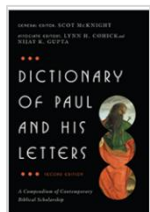
Gupta has published over twenty books including the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (2nd ed., coeditor), several Bible commentaries, and award-winning titles such as *Tell Her Story* and *Strange Religion*. He co-hosts the *Slow Theology Podcast*, serves as a senior translator for the New Living Translation, and is a member of the theological advisory committee for YoungLifeUSA.

Also by Nijay K. Gupta:



Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church by Nijay K. Gupta
 March 14, 2023 | \$25.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0074-8

For centuries, discussions of early Christianity have focused on male leaders in the church. But there is ample evidence right in the New Testament that women were actively involved in ministry, at the frontier of the gospel mission, and as respected leaders. Nijay Gupta calls us to bring these women out of the shadows by shining light on their many inspiring contributions to the planting, growth, and health of the first Christian churches.



Dictionary of Paul and His Letters: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship general editor Scot McKnight, associate editors Lynn H. Cohick and Nijay K. Gupta
 April 11, 2023 | \$74.99, 1264 pages, hardcover | 978-0-8308-1785-6

The *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* is a one-of-a-kind reference work. No other resource presents as much information focused exclusively on Pauline theology, literature, background, and scholarship. This work bridges the gap between scholars and pastors, teachers and students, and all interested readers who want a thorough treatment of key topics in a summary format. This second edition is a thoroughly revised and updated version of the acclaimed 1993 publication.



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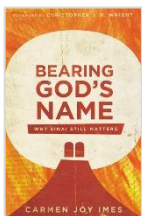
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New From the Author of *Bearing God’s Name*

Carmen Joy Imes (PhD, Wheaton) is associate professor of Old Testament at Biola University. She is the author of *Bearing God’s Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*, *Being God’s Image: Why Creation Still Matters*, and *Becoming God’s Family: Why the Church Still Matters*.

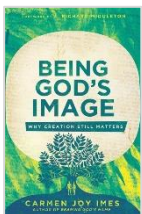
A graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Imes is a regular contributor to The Well, a fellow of Every Voice, and serves on the advisory council for the Bible Literacy Conference. She is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and the Society of Biblical Literature and serves on the board of directors of the Institute for Biblical Research. Imes and her husband Daniel have three children.

Also by Carmen Imes:



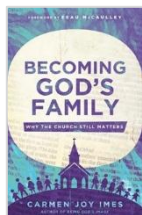
Bearing God’s Name: Why Sinai Still Matters by Carmen Joy Imes
December 10, 2019 | \$23.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5269-7

What does the Old Testament—especially the law—have to do with your Christian life? In this warm, accessible volume, Carmen Joy Imes takes readers back to Sinai, arguing that we’ve misunderstood the command about “taking the Lord’s name in vain.” Instead, Imes says that this command is really about “bearing God’s name,” a theme that continues throughout the rest of Scripture.



Being God’s Image: Why Creation Still Matters by Carmen Joy Imes
June 6, 2023 | \$23.99, 248 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0020-5

What does it mean to be human? For this timeless question, the Bible offers truths for the flourishing of all creation. Carmen Imes recovers the theologically rich creation narratives and explores the implication of our kinship relationship with God, considering what it means for our work, gender relations, creation care, and eternal destiny.



Becoming God’s Family: Why the Church Still Matters by Carmen Joy Imes
October 28, 2025 | \$22.99, 256 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1032-7

Does the Church still matter in our modern world? Exploring the familial and communal identity of the church, Imes traces the thread of God’s presence in the gathered community of faith across the entire Bible. She invites readers into a vision of the church that is rooted deeply in Scripture and speaks directly to the challenges we face today.



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