

# The General Patriarchal Themes of Scripture

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We live in a day when those who hold fast to the Scriptures may be seen as prejudice against women and simply misunderstanding the Scriptures. We think that this is mostly a modern and highly emotional argument that does not hold up under close examination. Often people convinced of their perspective cannot even conceive that they might be wrong and will fail to listen to another view. They might even malign those who honestly disagree on the basis of Scripture. Therefore, with some trepidation, we call attention to the facts of Scripture that are not in alignment with the general egalitarian argument for women being voiced today.

**Adam:** God first created Adam, not Eve. In fact, she was not formed until after the animals were named by Adam. This fact of the order of creation is part of the explanation that Paul uses in the New Testament to explain the submission of women and the headship of men.

**Covenants:** All covenants made by God in Scripture involved a man. For example, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David all entered into covenants with God. Scripture does not record a single instance of God making covenant with a woman. God does speak to women and has frequently made promises to women. However, there is no reference to God actually "cutting covenant" with a woman while there are numerous references to God covenanting with certain called men.

**God's Name:** God frequently calls Himself *the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*. Clearly these three men were heads of their homes and the inheritors of the Covenant. The women of these families were not unimportant but had roles in relationship with their husbands and not as primary leaders.

**Seventy Elders:** God told Moses to select seventy men to assist him. There were no women selected, not even the "exceptional" ones present such as Miriam, a gifted prophetess. The Hebrew word for men in this passage is "ish" which is always masculine. If God wanted to establish a principle of "exceptions", this would have been a great place to establish it. If God had told Moses to select both men and women, then the principle would be established that women could be elders. However, this is not the case here. The pattern is for men to be in oversight.

**Priests:** God only called men, generation after generation, to His priesthood in the Old Testament. Aaron and his sons were called to this ministry. Aaron's daughters or the daughters of his descendents were never called to be priests.

**Kings:** The only examples in Scripture of God calling someone to the throne of Israel involve men. There are several examples of women ruling during the time of the kings. All of these women were wicked.

**Tribal Leadership:** The twelve tribes of Israel took their names from the sons (not daughters) of Jacob. These tribes and families were led by men generation after generation.

**Eternal Gates:** The gates of the heavenly city will eternally have the twelve male names of the twelve sons of Jacob on them.

**Eternal Foundation:** The foundation stones of the heavenly city will eternally have the male names of the Twelve apostles on them.

**Angels:** Where angels appear in Scripture, they often resemble men but never women.

**Apostles:** The original twelve Apostles are all men. There is not a feminine version of the word *apostle* in the New Testament.

**Deacons:** The original seven deacons are all men.

**God:** God has revealed Himself as Father. Any reference to God as Mother is heretical.

**The Savior:** Jesus Christ is a resurrected man and is the eternal Son of God. Obviously, there is no equivalent Daughter of God who has died for our sins.

**Divine Pronouns:** Masculine pronouns are almost always used in Scripture to describe Father, Son and Spirit. Occasionally, neuter nouns are used. However, there are no feminine pronouns used to describe Father, Son and Spirit.

**Authors of the Bible:** Only male authors wrote the sixty-six books of the Bible.

**Submission of Wives:** The New Testament commands wives to submit to husbands repeatedly. While there are several references to everyone submitting to everyone, Scripture never specifically reverses the command and specifically says for husbands to submit to wives.

There are many trying to establish an egalitarian viewpoint concerning ministry by arguments about the meanings of single words and single verses. They seem to want to forget the general patriarchal themes of the entire Bible that are expressed repeatedly generation after generation over 4,000 years and expressed in both New and Old Testaments.

Their examples of “exceptions” are not convincing even if we could agree with them. Their “exceptions” would mean that a very small percentage of women would be “exceptional” in a Bible sense. Perhaps less than one in a thousand could be said to be “exceptional” in this manner. However, that is not what those who make this argument ultimately practice in real life. They want egalitarianism. They want all women to have access to all situations. The “exceptions” argument often leads to practicing something very different than the patriarchal themes of Scripture would justify.

Should they argue that the Bible discriminates against women, they undermine the inspiration and authority of Scripture. We believe that God has a wonderful place for women in ministry but to suggest that that place is identical to the place of men is simply unbiblical.

Some have suggested that Galatians 3:28 applies to all aspects of ministry, including the government of the family and the Church. If God had intended for it to really be *neither male or female* in all ministry, there would have been many opportunities for this to be demonstrated in biblical history. However, there are very strong themes demonstrating otherwise in the Bible. We cannot honestly ignore these themes. Some have offered Deborah as an example of the principle that God may make an exception. If God wanted to establish a principle of exceptions, that principle should be demonstrated in more than one place in Scripture. With Deborah, there are some obvious differences in her service than with the male Judges. We will post another file with that information. This file was downloaded from the “Pray and Obey” area of [www.allnationsmin.org](http://www.allnationsmin.org). It can be freely distributed by email in its present form only. It is copyrighted and may only be used elsewhere with written permission of the author.