

# Women in Battle

By Peggy Scarborough

Satan hates women. When God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He shall crush your head and you will strike his heel" (Gen. 3:15 NIV), it became evident that war was on between woman and Satan.

## Biblical Women Warriors

Anna was one of the most significant prophetic intercessors in the New Testament. After seven years of married life, her husband died and she then devoted herself to fasting and prayer in the Temple. Anna spent 60 years praying through the prophetic promises of God in the temple. Now, at 84 years of age, we find her still ministering in the secret place. She was looking for the Deliverer, the Messiah, the Hope of Israel. What a joy it must have been when she held the manifestation of her intercession in her hands.

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, inspired Mary in the Magnificat (after making Mary's baby jump) and inspired her husband Zacharias to write the Benedictus.

Jochebed was a warring mother who said, "No crocodile will get my son," and began a war that saved a nation. Miriam warred with her tambourine when the people were safe across the Red Sea and Pharaoh's horsemen were drowned. Even musical instruments can become weapons of war. Isaiah 30:32 tells us: "Every stroke the Lord lays on them will be to the music of tambourines and harps, as he fights them in battle" (NIV).

Deborah was a warring judge who led the Israelites to battle even though Sisera had 10,000 men and 900 chariots. Deborah and Barak were terribly outnumbered. But Deborah prophesied: "Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into your hand; is not the Lord gone out before thee?" Deborah had the word from God. The victory was won.

The book of Esther is a manual for end time spiritual warfare. God had a secret weapon that He held back until the most crucial hour that Israel had ever known. Esther was placed by God in a strategic place for this particular time. But you are also placed by God in a strategic place for this strategic crisis hour. Jer. 55:20 says, "You are my war club, my weapon for battle-with you I shatter nations, with you I destroy kingdoms" (NIV).

Esther called a fast to save her nation. Fasting puts a cutting edge on prayer. It gives the spirit world notice that you are intent; that you will not give up or let go of God until you get the answer. You are using a means that God has chosen to make your voice heard in the heavenlies.

Pauline Hearthern writes in *Fast your way to Health* by Lee Bueno: "Fasting became a regular part of my life. I witnessed miracles beyond my wildest dreams. People set free from drugs and alcohol, an insane woman delivered from a mental institution, a man healed of cancer, marriages restored, rebellious children restored to parents, incurable disease cured and other miracles.

Maria Atkinson, *Woman of Great Intercession*

Much of my early training in intercession came from Maria Atkinson, the mother of the Church of God in Mexico. My life was never the same after being sent by the World Missions Department to Mexico to research her life and ministry.

At one time Tony Bonilla, one of her most prized converts and college ministers, was in San Antonio when he had to have an emergency sinus operation. At the very time of the surgery she felt a knife going into her very own sinus area and saw a vivid picture of Tony on the operating table. She hurried to a prayer room and stayed there until she sensed in the spirit that Tony was safe.

On another occasion while on a street corner, she felt a horrible sinking feeling as if on a plane about to crash. Suddenly she saw a mental picture of Vessie Hargraves, then superintendent of Latin America. She again rushed to a private place to pray until she was assured by the Lord that her father in the Lord and the passengers on the plane were safe. She and Rev. Hargraves later rejoiced about the exact timing of her prayer burden--the very moment his plane was in serious trouble.

Often while in prayer she would feel the pains of people in her own body and get a picture of them in the spirit. She seemed to always know who was in trouble and was able to pray them through many crisis experiences.

Battling for Your Self Identity

Before the woman can battle for the world, she must battle for her own needs. First know your own authority in Christ. Know who you are. You have the very life of God in you. The same power that raised Christ from the dead resides in you. Don't look for the move of God. Be the move of God.

Don't go around looking for signs and wonders. Be the sign and wonder.

Speak the Word of God into every impossible circumstance in your life. When your problem is big and everyone has given up on you, your Bible is still the answer for your every need. War with it. It is your loincloth. The way to get the Word to work for you is to put it in your mouth. Read the Word, and then proclaim it loudly and clearly. Speak verses of victory in the face of defeat. Speak blessings in the face of desperate need. Speak healing scriptures and see your miracle come.

#### War for your family

One of the biggest arenas of warfare for the woman is the family. The warring woman can win the battle for her family on her knees. God will save your children if you go to battle for them. God will heal your children if you do battle for them. Walk through your home praying the Word of God and see God work for you.

#### War for your Nation

We must not give up on our nation. When Israel was in trouble because they had forsaken the law, God told Jeremiah to send for the mourning women. He said send for the most skilled of them (Jer. 9:17). Then he went on to suggest that these women teach their daughters to weep. This is the answer to our dilemma today. If women will begin weeping and praying over our cities and nation, revival will come.

#### Warring for Other Intercessors

In Exodus 17:8-13 we read the story of war with the Amalekites. Joshua and his chosen men went to fight the battle. Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held the rod of God up in his hand, Israel prevailed. When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Today intercessors are understanding their need for other intercessors to hold up their hands.

Isaiah sent a cry to the women of his day: "Rise up, you women who are at ease" (Is 32:9). The Holy Spirit is still sending that message out today. God is calling women today to stand before God for their families, their churches, their cities and nations. Will we answer the call?