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### God Calls Women

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# GOD CALLS WOMEN

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**DABAR** BY THE

*Dean*

**Dr. Jiří Moskala**

The Bible mentions numerous examples of dedicated and sanctified women who fulfilled God's purpose in their lives. In the Old Testament era, godly women not only were "mothers" in Israel, but faithfully served in leadership positions; for example, Miriam (Exod 15:20–21), Deborah (Judg 4–5), Huldah (2 Kgs 22:13–14; 2 Chr 34:22–28), and Esther. In the New Testament Church, we note Phoebe, a deacon (Rom 16:1) or Junia, a female apostle (Rom 16:7), and in the church in Philippi, the leaders were women (Phil 4:2–3). Priscilla assumed an authoritative teaching role (Acts 18; see especially Rom 16:3), and the "Elect Lady" (2 John) was probably a church leader in a congregation under her care.

Adam and Eve were priests in the Garden of Eden which was a sanctuary: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Gen 2:15 NIV)! The assigned task was actually to "serve" (*'abad* = serve, till) and "keep" (*shamar*) the garden (2:15), and it is more than coincidence that these are the very terms used to describe the work of the priests and Levites

in the sanctuary (Num 3:7–8; 18:3–7). They were priests even after their fall: "The LORD God made garments [*kotnot*] of skin [*or*] for Adam and his wife and clothed [*labash*] them" (Gen 3:21 NIV). God clothed (*labash*) Adam and his wife with "coats" (*ketonet*, pl. *kotnot*), and these are the exact words employed to define the clothing of Aaron and his sons (Lev 8:7, 13; Num 20:28; cf. Exod 28:4; 29:5; 40:14).

Both Israelite men and women were to form a kingdom of priests: "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites" (Exod 19:5–6 NIV). Because of the people's unfaithfulness, an alternate plan had to be instituted where only one family from one tribe of Israel was to

be "a kingdom of priests." However, the apostle Peter in 1 Pet 2:9 applies this commission of Exodus 19 to the priesthood of all believers in Christ.

Scripture foresees a multitude of women preachers: "The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host" (Ps 68:11 ESV, NASB). May Seventh-day Adventist women be the fulfillment of this reality by being women who not only proclaim God's message, but fear Him, give Him glory, and worship the Creator (Rev 14:7)!

I am glad that God controls to whom the Holy Spirit is given because we may be selective, but He gives His Spirit to all faithful believers, including women: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will

pour out my Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:28–30 NIV). The Spirit of God tears down all barriers between different groups of people in the church and gives freely His spiritual gifts to all in order to accomplish the mission God calls all of us to accomplish.

In this closing time of our world's history, God calls His remnant to reestablish the ideals of God's original plan of equality between men and women (Gal 3:28–29). The Advent movement should be an example of this true human relationship and genuine worship. Even though men and women are biologically different and thus have different physiological functions, the spiritual role for both genders is the same: to be the leaders in God's church today.

May Seventh-day Adventist women pursue His will for their lives and joyfully and faithfully serve the Lord and His church because He is always faithful. He has great plans for each dedicated woman and is counting on each of you!

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Prov 3:6 ESV).

