

ALL WOMEN WHO GAVE

We often hear how God used the wealth of prominent men in the Bible, like Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, Abraham, Job, Joseph, and Solomon, to accomplish His purposes. But today, let's focus on a different set of financiers of the gospel who may not have gotten as much attention as these.

Queen of Sheba (2 Chronicles 9:1-12)

- Solomon used the gifts the Queen of Sheba gave him to build steps for the temple and instruments for the musicians. She was so impressed at the wisdom of Solomon *that she gave*. Let people also be so impressed with us that they give to the cause of Christ!
- Psalm 72:10, 15:** This psalm is actually a prophecy of the reign of Christ, which extends to the ends of the earth. Note how it says, "may gold of Sheba be given to him" (v15). The Queen of Sheba was (even if unknowingly) giving to the King of kings and Lord of lords when she gave to Solomon. The theme of this short passage is the of contribution your wealth, time, resources, and all that you have to the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Note the words of Charles Spurgeon: "These are coronation gifts of the richest kind, cheerfully presented at his throne. How gladly would we give him all that we have and are, and count the tribute far too small. We may rejoice that Christ's cause will not stand still for want of funds; the silver and the gold are his, and if they are not to be found at home, far off lands shall hasten to make up the deficit. Would to God we had more faith and more generosity."

Ministering Women (Luke 8:1-3)

- These women supported Jesus with their own money and ministered alongside Him. Although these women were of high status, they were likely known because Jesus had healed them spiritually and physically. These women were not just there to fry the fish and wash the clothes—they were the financial underwriters of the ministry.
- Mary Magdalene**-From the village of Magdala, Mary Magdalene was most likely a prominent leader in her city. Jesus healed her of demon possession and she was so grateful to him, she never left his side.
- Joanna**-She was married to Chuza, Herod Antipas's business manager and son of Herod The Great. People generally married someone of like social status, so Joanna likely came from a prominent Jewish family. Joanna probably lent her political influence as well as her finances. Both Joanna and Chuza were believers.
- Susanna**-She is mentioned less often, but was likely also from a prominent family and well known.
- "And many others"**-there are many other women whose names were never written down, but who gave their time, wealth, and resources to the ministry of Jesus.
- These women spent so much time with Jesus that they were no longer known for their status, but because they had been with Jesus. The first ones Jesus appeared to after His resurrection were these women. They weren't just churchgoers, but active contributors who proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom of Christ.

Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)

- Phoebe is described as a deacon and benefactor to many. She spent time with Paul, ministered alongside him, and financially supported his ministry. Just like Phoebe, your sphere of influence needs you. Don't undervalue yourself—God has given you resources to use for His purpose. Make no doubt about it, God will accomplish His purpose, whether He has to use the Joanna's, the Suzanna's, the Queens of Sheba, or whomever!
- We're not just building another structure. We're building the kingdom of God.

Women, underwrite the ministry of the Lord, take up His cause, and stick with Him until the end. There is much unrest in our world, but peace and justice will only be found in the kingdom of God. Standing for justice is fine, but what is it for if people still go to hell? We have to remember which kingdom we're fighting for. We must give our all!