



## **The role of a prophetess – Miriam/Anna**

**Laindon Bible Class  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

# Our study

- **The role of a prophetess**
- **Learning from the life of Miriam**
- **The example of Anna**
- **Other prophetesses**
- **Some lessons for us**

# The role of a prophetess

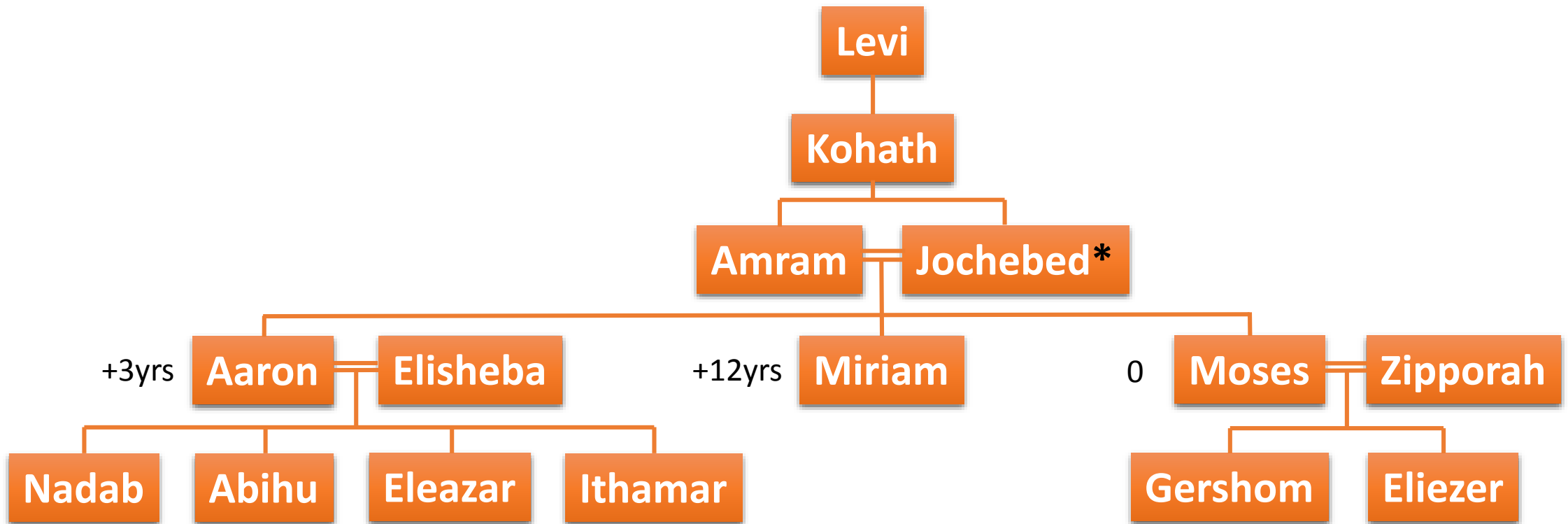
- **God's word would come to them by vision or dream (Numbers 12:6)**
- **A prophet's authority is therefore of God not by virtue of being either a man or a woman**
- **This God given authority in no way contradicts His appointed role for men and women**

# The life of Miriam

**“For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.” Micah 6:4**

- The family of Amram
- The deliverance of Moses
- Crossing the Red Sea
- Miriam and Aaron challenge the leadership of Moses
- Miriam dies and is buried at Kadesh

# The family of Amram (Numbers 26:59)



\* Moses' father's sister

# The deliverance of Moses

- Miriam is the Hebrew form of Mary, meaning is uncertain but may be 'loved' or 'rebellion'
- Miriam around 12-13 years of age when Moses was born
- She waited amongst the bulrushes, watching her little brother
- She came forward and offered her mother as a nursemaid









# The deliverance of Moses

- Miriam around 12-13 years of age when Moses was born
- She waited amongst the bulrushes, watching her little brother
- She came forward and offered her mother as a nursemaid
- **She remained at home with her brother Aaron until Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt**





# Crossing the Red Sea

- **“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Exodus 14:13**
- **“And Miriam the prophetess\*, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.” Exodus 15:20-21**

**\* First mention of Miriam as a prophetess**

# Challenging Moses authority

- Moses marries an Ethiopian (a daughter of Cush)
  - Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses (Numbers 12:1-2)
  - Moses is described as very meek (12:3)
  - The angel of the Lord calls Miriam and Aaron to account (12:4-9)
  - Miriam is struck down with leprosy
  - Moses prays for her to be healed and God listens
  - After 7 days she returns to the camp and they move on
- } (12:10-16)



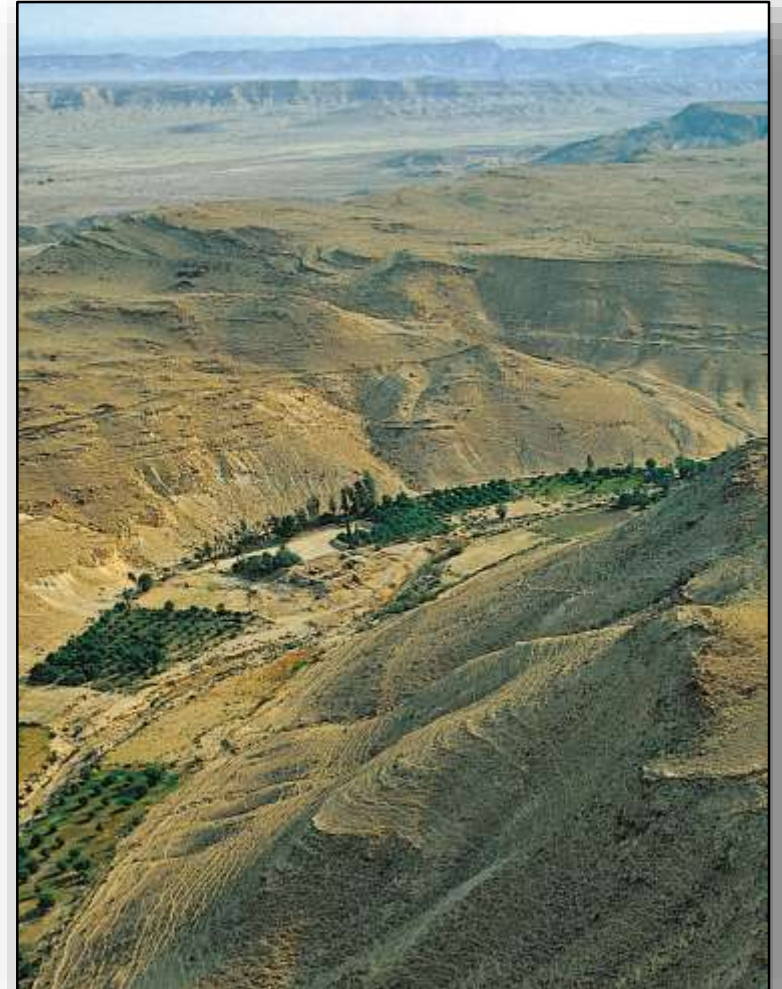






# Miriam is buried at Kadesh (Numbers 20:1)

- **A significant place in scripture:**
  - Probably the same location as Kadesh-barnea
  - Part of the most northerly place of their wanderings in the wilderness of Zin
  - Where Miriam was buried (aged about 130)
  - Near to where Hagar fled from Sarah
  - Where Korah and company were swallowed up?
  - Where Moses struck the rock to call forth water
  - From where the spies were sent into the land



# Anna the prophetess





# The scriptural record

**“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;**

**And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.**

**And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36-38**

# Anna the prophetess

- Anna is the Greek form of Hannah, meaning grace
- Parallels with Samuel's mother Hannah
- Anna and Simeon were both aged, having lived through very troubled times, continuously looking for the Lord's redemption
- The prophecies of Daniel would have told them that the arrival of the Messiah was close at hand
- Anna came into the temple at the exact moment Simeon was blessing the baby Jesus
- She praised God and spread the good news

# Other prophetesses

- **Deborah the judge (Judges 4:4)**
- **Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3)**
- **Huldah, in the days of Josiah (2 Kings 22:14)**
- **There are also two false prophetesses mentioned – Nodiah (Nehemiah 6:14) and Jezebel (Revelation 2:20)**
- **Jewish tradition also adds Sarah, Hannah, Abigail and Esther (making seven with Miriam, Deborah and Huldah)**



# Some lessons for us

- **We too must focus upon God's deliverance as we diligently serve him**
- **The recurring theme of deliverance in the scriptures is there to strengthen and comfort us**
- **We should rejoice in our hope**
- **We must serve God in meekness and humbleness, excluding self from those things that we do**
- **As the years pass by we should pray all the more earnestly for God's deliverance**