



## “From Burdened to Blessed”

**Lesson Text I Samuel 1: 1-10, 17-18**

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March is National Women’s History Month. First celebrated in 1911 on the international scale, became Women’s History Week in 1978 and later Women’s History Month in 1978; in an effort to insure that her-story was not overlooked in history. It is a time set aside to recognize, affirm, and showcase the contributions and achievements of women.

The historical record paints portraits for us of African American women who were trailblazers, such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, who declared truth while leading slaves to freedom; Mary Church Terrell, who fought for women’s rights and Fannie Lou Hamer, who was sick and tired of being sick and tired. These are the names often heard when we speak of women in history. Let us not forget, however, that it was Septima Poinsette Clark who founded the Freedom Schools where many learned how to pass voting literacy tests. Or that Phyllis Wheatley, predecessor to Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, was known as one of America’s first black poets. Maya Angelou, who holds the distinction of being Hollywood’s first black female director for her work “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

These are the names commonly known to us. But there are also those lesser known African American women, who have plowed the pathway in many arenas. Such as, Edmonia Lewis, the first Black widely acknowledged as a sculptor; Alice Coachman, first Black to win an Olympic Gold medal in the high jump; Biddy Mason, first Black woman to own property in California; Charlotte Ray, first Black female lawyer and Elizabeth, earliest known Black female preacher and Jarena Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black woman known to preach. Even the biblical records lists women like Deborah the Judge, Esther the Queen, Ruth, and Hannah, who inspire us to depend on God, while stepping into our destiny, our place in history.

There are many lessons to be learned from the chapters these women have written in annals of history. One of the greatest is no matter what burden life may place on you, trust the Lord and in His time, you can produce greatness.

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