

■ **Tamar: Disguised as a prostitute, had sex with her father-in-law ...**

- (Genesis 38:6–7 ESV) And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death.
- Jacob's son Judah (patriarch of the line of Judah) had three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. A woman named Tamar married Er, but then Er died, leaving her a widow. Since it was required that the next of kin care for a brother's widow, Tamar was given to Onan, but he also died. Shelah was still a boy and could not marry Tamar, so Judah asked her to return to her father's house and wait until Shelah was grown up. However, once Shelah was old enough, Judah did not honor his promise. Tamar remained an unmarried widow. Tamar then went into town disguised as a prostitute, tricked Judah, and got him to sleep with her. She then became pregnant by Judah and bore twin sons named Perez and Zerah. The story is recorded in Genesis 38 (<http://www.gotquestions.org/Tamar-Bible.html>).

■ **Rahab: Prostitute turned spy turned faithful heroine ...**

- (Joshua 2:1 ESV) And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.
- (Hebrews 11:31a ESV) By faith Rahab the prostitute ...
- (James 2:25 ESV) And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works ...
- Her neighbors called her a woman of the night. The Lord God called her a heroine of the faith. And a man named Salmon gladly called her his wife. Meet our amazing sister Rahab, a former prostitute. Her dramatic story began like a James Bond movie, with Joshua sending "two men to spy secretly" on an exotic foreign location.
- And she was chosen by God to be rescued from certain death and included in his Son's family tree (<http://www.lizcurtishiggs.com/bad-girls-of-the-bible-rahab/>).

■ **Ruth: Came softly in the middle of the night to sleep beside an older man to secure a position ...**

- (Ruth 1:4 ESV) These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years.
- She was ... the great-grandmother of David, Israel's greatest king. But Ruth, the woman from Moab, remains an enigma. Was she a trophy wife who slept her way to economic security?
- Famine is devastating Judah, so Elimelech of Bethlehem takes his wife, Naomi, and sons Mahlon and Kilion to live in Moab. Moabites, by the way, were despised by the Jews, who claimed they originated from Lot's incestuous relations with his daughter. Moabite women were considered loose.
- <http://www.usnews.com/news/religion/articles/2008/01/25/is-ruth-a-lesson-in-loyalty-or-an-excuse-for-patriarchy>

■ **Bathsheba: Bathed naked and had sex with her neighbor's husband ...**

- (2 Samuel 11:2 ESV) It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.
- The setting, on a late afternoon in Jerusalem some 3,000 years ago, could easily be mistaken for the subject of a boudoir painting: A beautiful young woman bathes on the roof under the last rays of dusk. And the woman, Bathsheba, is married.
- King David inquires after her. He learns her name and the name of her husband, Uriah, a general in his army. And though he is normally a righteous man, with a harem already full of wives and concubines, the king succumbs to his overwhelming desire. Bathsheba plays many roles: object of lust, wife, mother, and influential queen (<http://www.usnews.com/news/religion/articles/2008/01/25/bathsheba-is-one-of-the-most-beguiling-characters-in-the-bible>).