

## **Appendix for Women's Celebration**

### **Mary's Ancestors**

#### **1. *I am Eve.***

Along with Adam, I was made in the image of God.

I was the curious one—the seeker of knowledge, the tester of limits. My curiosity, however, got me into trouble as well as Adam.

I was weak—I sinned. Adam blamed me. I blamed the serpent. I said, “it wasn't really my fault”. I had a choice.

#### **2. *I am Miriam.***

My brothers were Moses and Aaron. I led the women of Israel in song and dance after the passage of the sea.

#### **3. *I am Jael (Ya-el).***

I lived during the time of Deborah, the prophet and judge. When the Israelites were oppressed by the Canaanites, they appealed to me for help.

#### **4. *I am Judith.***

I must be important because I'm given the longest genealogy of any women in the Bible. I am not your typical widow. Although considered religious, I am attractive and very wealthy.

When Holofermes came to claim our land, I argued against surrender and urged our leaders to trust in God. I received a patronizing response—I was asked to remember them in my prayers.

#### **5. *I am Ruth.***

I stayed with my mother-in-law Naomi, after my young husband died. I wasn't always a Jew. I went with Naomi to the land of her faith and family. This meant that I left the land of my family with its pagan gods. It also meant I left the way I had always done things.

God rewarded me with the gift of faith and a new marriage by which I became the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus. By being with Naomi, I learned the value of self sacrifice and moral integrity.

#### **6. *I am Esther.***

As an orphaned Jewish girl, I became a ward of my cousin Mordecai. Mordecai's dream made it clear that God controls the final destiny of Israel. I won the beauty contest that determined the queen of Persia's replacement. I was to be the deliverer that God had chosen in answer to the prayers of the Jews. I was afraid so I begged for courage. God heard my prayer.

Source Unknown