

Week 3: God Confirms Authority

1) Focus

Huldah the prophetess, Josiah's reform, mothers as teachers (Proverbs), and clarifying misuse of "Jezebel" (Rev 2) When Judah needed a sure word from God, the king's delegation **went straight to a woman—Huldah the prophetess**—and God **confirmed** her authority by fulfilling her prophecy and by endorsing Josiah's response as exemplary. Scripture consistently shows women speaking with God's authority in public life and shaping leaders through teaching in the home.

2) Key Scriptures (KJV)

Huldah & Josiah

- **2 Kings 22:11–13** — Josiah hears the Law, tears his clothes, and commands: **“Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah...”**
- **2 Kings 22:14** — The priest and officials go **“unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum”** to receive the word of the LORD.
- **2 Kings 23:1–3** — In response, **“the king went up... with all the men of Judah... the priests... the prophets... and all the people”** and renewed the covenant—**public, national** repentance.
- **2 Kings 23:25** — **Divine commendation of Josiah:** “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart...”

Other Prophetesses & Mothers as Teachers

- **Isaiah 8:3** — “And I went unto **the prophetess**; and she conceived...” (Isaiah's wife is called a prophetess.)
- **Proverbs 1:8; 6:20–23; 23:22; 31:1** — “Forsake not **the law/teaching of thy mother... the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light... The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.**”

Clarification Passage

- **Revelation 2:20–23** — The Lord rebukes “that woman **Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess**” not for being a woman leader, but for **immorality and idolatry** and leading others into sin.

3) Key Teaching Points

A. When a nation needs God’s voice, God uses His chosen vessel (2 Kgs 22–23)

1. **Crisis & Humility:** Josiah hears the Book of the Law — **tears his clothes** (22:11).
2. **Direct Mandate:** “**Go, enquire of the LORD...** for me, for the people, and for all Judah” (22:13).
3. **The Delegation’s Destination:** They go to **Huldah the prophetess** (22:14)—no handwringing, no qualifiers, no apology.
4. **Authority acknowledged:** Her word triggers a **national covenant renewal** (23:1–3).
5. **Heaven’s Verdict:** God later declares Josiah’s response **unsurpassed** (23:25).
 - If consulting a woman prophet were wrong, Scripture would say so here. It **doesn’t**.

Point: God’s endorsement is seen both in **who He anoints** and in the **fruit** that follows (repentance, reform, fidelity to the covenant).

B. “Wife of Shallum,” yet the prophet in the house (2 Kgs 22:14)

1. Huldah is **wife** and **prophetess**—marital status does **not** negate public spiritual authority.
2. The delegation doesn’t go to Shallum; they go to **the one with the word of the LORD**.

Point: Calling determines audience and assignment—not gender or marital status.

C. Pattern, not exception: Women bearing God’s word

1. **Isaiah’s wife** is explicitly called **prophetess** (Isa 8:3).
2. The canon preserves **Huldah’s role** and **Josiah’s response to teach the Church**—out of countless events, the Spirit **chose** these to be Scripture.

Point: The Spirit curated these stories to **shape doctrine and practice** (cf. 2 Tim 3:16).

D. Mothers as authoritative teachers of the Word (Proverbs)

1. **“Law/Teaching of thy mother”** (Prov 1:8; 6:20)—the Hebrew **torah**-like instruction; not trivial advice.
2. **Word-centered effect: “The commandment is a lamp; and the law is light”** (6:23)—echoes Ps 119:105.
3. **Adult sons still need it:** “Despise not thy mother when she is old” (23:22).
4. **Royal formation: King Lemuel’s** wisdom is an **oracle from his mother** (31:1–9)—counsel on sexuality, sobriety, justice, and advocacy.

Point: Scripture treats a mother’s instruction as **Word-shaped, life-directing, and nation-shaping**—fully consistent with women’s capacity to **teach with authority**.

E. Clearing the fog: “Jezebel” is about sin, not gender or office (Rev 2:20–23)

1. Jesus’ rebuke targets **immorality** and **idolatry**, not the fact that she “calls herself a prophetess.”
2. If women exercising prophetic/teaching roles were inherently wrong, this was the moment to say so—**Jesus doesn’t**.
3. Throughout Scripture, when something is wrong (e.g., **Balaam’s** greed: 2 Pet 2:15; Jude 11; Rev 2:14), the Spirit says it **plainly**.

Point: The New Testament critiques **sin and false teaching**, not **women’s leadership** per se.

4) Application

1) God’s voice > our filters

- In crisis, **hearing God** takes precedence over human gatekeeping. Huldah’s word **reformed a nation**.

2) Fruit validates calling

- The outcome of Huldah’s word (repentance, covenant renewal) displays **true prophetic authority**.

3) Formation is leadership

- Proverbs frames mothers as **discipleship leaders**—their teaching is **lamp and light**.

4) Holiness over hype

- The Church must evaluate leaders by **doctrine and life** (truth & holiness), not by **gender** or celebrity.

5) Discussion Questions

1. What does Josiah's choice to consult **Huldah** teach us about recognizing God's voice today?
2. How does **2 Kings 23:25** (God's commendation of Josiah) function as an indirect **endorsement** of consulting Huldah?
3. In what ways does **Proverbs** elevate a mother's teaching to **Scripture-shaped** formation?
4. How does **Revelation 2:20–23** correct misuse of “Jezebel” in conversations about women leaders?
5. Where might our church or personal traditions have become “filters” that keep us from receiving God's word from the person He's actually using?

6) Personal Reflection & Prayer

- **Search me, O God:** Am I resisting a message because of **who** carries it rather than **what** God is saying?
- **Availability:** “Lord, use me as Your vessel, and make me humble to receive from any vessel You choose.”
- **Intercession:** Pray for women in leadership.

7) Sticky Statement

“Leadership belongs to those who carry the word of the Lord—male or female.”

8) Memory Verse:

“In Christ there is neither male nor female... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

9)Notes: