





PREFACE



The women of the Bible have always intrigued me—their ordinary lives often fall in the midst of extraordinary challenges. When my husband was asked to be a consultant for the movie *Moses, Prince of Egypt*, I was again drawn to the women who lived in the shadow of the great lawgiver, who was marked by human weakness and yet empowered by divine calling and guidance. Through these resulting historical vignettes, my prayer is that women will be encouraged and edified, as well as challenged and motivated, to offer themselves as vessels to be used by the Lord, whether for a task as lowly as watching a basket float in the river or one as lofty as leading a host of women in praise of the one true God. Woman-to-woman ministries are the passion of my heart—not as a professional pursuit but as a service to Christ in addition to my priority commitment to manage my household, help my husband, and nurture my children and grandchildren.

This project has spanned several decades since the inspiration for its writing entered my heart and mind. As I reflected on these women, personal memories flooded my soul and my pen flowed. I am especially grateful to Tamra Hernandez, a Ph.D. student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who has helped me with research, with gathering quotations and illustrations, and with the inductive questions included in each chapter. My administrative assistant Candi Finch, also a Ph.D. student at Southwestern, has lifted from my shoulders a myriad of details to enable me to devote time to finishing this project.

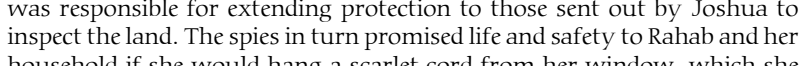


Touched by Greatness

The family legacy from which I come is rich indeed and my greatest earthly blessing. My long-suffering family have allowed me to use personal experiences from our family life in my applications, and they have continually encouraged me to complete the work set before me. My gratitude overflows to all who have helped me along this journey!

Dorothy Kelley Patterson

A WORD OF EXPLANATION



Throughout this book you will find references to “The Scarlet Thread of Redemption.” The whole of Scripture is devoted to the redemption provided by Jesus Christ through His atoning death on the cross. His blood sacrifice was the ransom paid for our deliverance from the penalty of sin. Rahab was responsible for extending protection to those sent out by Joshua to inspect the land. The spies in turn promised life and safety to Rahab and her household if she would hang a scarlet cord from her window, which she did (Josh. 2:21; 6:25). When Jericho and its people were destroyed, Rahab and her family were spared. The scarlet cord represented her trust in the promises of Yahweh God and testified to His faithfulness. So this “Scarlet Thread of Redemption” has woven its way through the generations and remains for every woman a reminder of God’s faithfulness to all who would put their trust in Him!