



WOW: Word Of the Week

Huldah

July 9, 2025

What's in a name? Do you ever wonder how in the world some parents thought up the names they give to their children? Jan and I spent a lot of time thinking about names for our children. Names present hope, dreams. Michael Ethan—named for two Old Testament singers mentioned in 1 Chronicles 6:40-42. Philip Andrew—names chosen from the apostles. Geoffrey Adam—Germanic origin meaning divine peace coupled with a Bible name. (We were never blessed to use our Charis Michelle, the Greek word for grace, plus one who is like God.)

We do not hear much about Huldah in the Old Testament—two parallel texts from 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Huldah was the prophetess who was called by king Josiah to confirm the authenticity of the Book of the Law found during temple restoration. She also foretold destruction because of Judah's idolatry. I reread her story recently in my whirlwind trip through Genesis to Esther (1500 years of history read in about three weeks).

But...what were her parents thinking? Her name is apparently derived from the Hebrew word for weasel or mole. No wonder today's parents are not eager to name their daughters Huldah!

Huldah gets little space in Scripture. Visibility (or lack thereof) is not always a good measure of importance. Huldah was significant. Huldah was known, recognized, esteemed. For some reason, Huldah was the one sought out and consulted when the Book of the Law was found.

We do not have background information. She had married into a family of tailors—keepers of the wardrobe. Of more importance, we can say that she maintained connection with God and his word in a time when God and his Word were not popular and were not well-known in Judah. She was probably a housewife—but she was one who came to mind when the spiritual leaders of Judah wanted to know about God's Word. Amazing. In ministry, I often found that the best Bible students in local congregations were the widows. They maintained connections with God's Word far beyond the average member!

A favorite saying that has guided my life for 50+ years is from Abraham Lincoln: I will study and get ready, and perhaps my chance will come!

May we be faithful students of God's word—even when it seems no one is watching.

May we live so that others recognize our knowledge—and our wisdom. In Peru, at a national conference, a teenager approached me with a Bible question. I answered, he commented, "You know a lot about the Bible."

The goal is not to know the Bible, but to know the God revealed by the Bible. The goal is to know Jesus. The goal is to know the Exhorter-Comforter who inspired Scripture.

Huldah. Weasel. Mole. A word of warning to parents? Don't do that to your children.

Huldah. A lesson for all. What God's Word says has to matter—dwell in God's word, let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.