

EXPLORING THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE THROUGH FICTION **Books Available in the Weinberg Family Library**

***Sarah* by Orson Scott Card (2000)**

The first volume in the "Women of Genesis" series offers an imaginative, richly textured rendering of the life of Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who became a faithful follower of the God of Abraham and the mother of the nation of Israel.

***Rebekah* by Orson Scott Card (2001)**

In this second novel in a trilogy on the "Women of Genesis," Orson Scott Card has created an entirely believable cast of characters - well-meaning men and women, burdened with human foibles, who struggle to do the right thing in their family relationships and be true to their covenants with God.

***Rachel and Leah* by Orson Scott Card (2004)**

In this third volume of his "Women of Genesis" series, Orson Scott Card paints a vivid picture of the intertwined lives of four celebrated women: Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah.

***The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant (1997)**

In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspectives on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives.

***The Queen of Sheba* by Roberta Kells Dorr (1990)**

Explores in grand detail the relationship of Solomon and Bilqis, the wise queen who shared Solomon's vast wisdom and riches. Dorr's powerful account offers insights into Bilqis's search for truth, love, and faith in a foreign kingdom.

***Queenmaker* by India Edghill (2002)**

A retelling of the biblical story of King David and Queen Michal follows Michal, who lived and reigned in David's court for more than forty years, as she speaks about her hopes and fears while war, betrayal, death, and prophecy rage through the Promised Land.

***Wisdom's Daughter* by India Edghill (2004)**

A dramatic tale based on the biblical story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba follows the queen's search for an heir; the lessons Solomon and she learned about truth, love, and duty; and her daughter's efforts to achieve a position of power within a patriarchal world.

***Sarah* by Marek Halter (2004)**

Born into a world of luxury in the ancient Sumerian city of Ur, Sarah flees the arranged marriage planned by her father, a decision that leads to an encounter with Abram, a member of a nomadic tribe of outsiders, with whom she is reunited many years later in her exalted position as high priestess of the goddess Ishtar.

***Zipporah, Wife of Moses* by Marek Halter (2005)**

Focuses on the life of Zipporah, the adopted Ethiopian daughter of Jethro, high priest of the Midanites, who became the consort of Moses and who played a vital role in supporting Moses in returning to Egypt to lead the Israelite slaves to freedom.

***The Gilded Chamber* by Rebecca Kohn (2004)**

A retelling of the life of Queen Esther from her youth as an orphan, her selection as the wife of a powerful Persian king, and the sacrifices she makes in order to save her people from annihilation.

***Seven Days to the Sea* by Rebecca Kohn (2006)**

Together, Miriam and Tziporah weave a narrative that gives voice to the women of Exodus - their lives, their community, and ultimately, their sisterhood.

***The Midwife's Song* by Brenda Ray (2000)**

The tale of the young Hebrew midwife, Puah, who defies Pharaoh's decree to murder all newborn Hebrew males, and unknowingly saves her people.

***The Bride Price* by Grete Weil (1991)**

German writer Weil, in her first book to be published in English, juxtaposes a personal memoir of grief, illness, age, and insecure identity with a fleshing out of the biblical character of Michal, King David's first wife.

OTHER RESOURCES:

***Warrior, Dancer, Seductress, Queen: Women in Judges and Biblical Israel* by Susan Ackerman (1998) WEINBERG A51 ACKE**

Offers a keen analysis of the main types of women found in Judges, and looks to other biblical books and to ancient Near Eastern literature to demonstrate how these types recur elsewhere.

***In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah* by Judith Antonelli (1995) WEINBERG A12 ANTO**

Using traditional Jewish sources as well as supplemental material from history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, ancient religion and feminist history, the author examines in detail every woman and every issue pertaining to women in the Torah.

***Eve's Journey: Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition* by Nehama Aschkenasy (1994) WEINBERG L90 ASCH**

Traces the migration of several female images and feminine situations from their early appearances in Biblical writings to their incarnations in modern Hebraic literature. The author's sources range from Biblical narratives to Midrashic sources, documents of the Jewish mystics, Hasidic tales, and modern Hebrew works.

***Women in the Hebrew Bible: A Reader* by Alice Bach (1999) WEINBERG A51 BACH**

A single volume collection of essays examining women's roles in the Hebrew Bible written by the major scholars in the field of biblical studies and literary theory.

***Lethal Love: Feminist Literary Readings of Biblical Love Stories* by Mieke Bal (1987) WEINBERG A51 BAL**

A study of biblical love stories and the ways we read them using literary theory, feminism, and narrative theory.

***Out of the Garden: Women Writers on the Bible* by Christina Buchmann and Celina Spiegel (1994) WEINBERG A12 BUCH**

Drawing on their own experiences and interests, Louise Erdrich, Cynthia Ozick, Fay Weldon, Phyllis Tribble, Rebecca Goldstein, June Jordan, Ursula K. Le Guin, and twenty-one other writers boldly, imaginatively address the Old Testament stories, characters, and poetry that mean the most to them.

***Which Lilith? Feminist Writers Re-Create the World's First Woman* by Enid Dame, Lilly Rivlin, and Henry Wenkart (1998) WEINBERG F73 DAME**

An anthology of Jewish women's written responses to the Lilith myth.

***The Five Books of Miriam: A Woman's Commentary on the Torah* by Ellen Frankel (1996) WEINBERG F721 FRAN**

An exploration of the stories, conflicts, and dreams of the women of the Bible.

***Reading the Women of the Bible* by Tikva Frymer-Kensky (2002) WEINBERG A51 FRYM**

A professor of Hebrew Bible at the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, Frymer-Kensky investigates biblical stories about women focusing on four groups of women: the victors, the victims, the virgins, and those with voice.

***The Women's Torah Commentary: New Insights from Women Rabbis on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions* by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Elyse (2000) WEINBERG F721 GOLD**

In this ground-breaking book, more than 50 women rabbis come together to offer their own inspiring commentaries on the Torah, following the traditional weekly reading. For the first time, women's unique experiences and perspectives are applied to the entire Five Books of Moses, offering us the first comprehensive commentary by women. See also *Re-Visions: Seeing Torah Through a Feminist Lens* and *Seek Her Out: A Textual Approach to the Study of Women and Judaism*.

***Sisters at Sinai* by Jill Hammer (2001) WEINBERG A51 HAMM**

A collection of twenty-four wonderfully imaginative and inspiring stories about biblical women and their male counterparts.

***Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim A Sacred Story* by Judith Kates and Gail Twersky Reimer (1994) WEINBERG A342 KATE**

This collection of modern-day interpretations brings together the wisdom, sensitivity, and spirituality of the biblical story of Ruth with the struggles and insights of contemporary women.

***The Harlot by the Side of the Road: Forbidden Tales of the Bible* by Jonathan Kirsch (1997) WEINBERG A50 KIRS**

Sex, violence, scandal -- these are words we rarely associate with the sacred text of the Bible. Yet this book recounts shocking tales that have been suppressed by religious authorities throughout history. Kirsch places each story within the political and social context of its time, delves into the latest biblical scholarship to explain why each one was originally censored, and shows how these ancient narratives hold valuable lessons for all of us.

***God, Sex and Women of the Bible: Discovering Our Sensual, Spiritual Selves* by Shoni Labowitz (1998) WEINBERG A51 LABO**

Explores the lives of eight key women of the Bible: Leah, Rachel, Eve, Jochebed, Deborah, Miriam, the prophet's widow, and Naomi.

***Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom & Stories of Biblical Women* by Vanessa L. Ochs (2005) WEINBERG A51 OCHS**

The legends of biblical matriarchs are revealed as inspiring role models for women today, each story accompanied by real-life rituals that the readers can perform to gain insight into such topics as finding inner wisdom and being a good friend.

***Listen to Her Voice: Women of the Hebrew Bible* by Miki Raver (1998) WEINBERG A51 RAVE**

Includes excerpts from the Bible and commentary about 18 women: Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, Dina, Tamar, Miriam, Deborah, Delilah, Hannah, Abigail, Bathsheba, Queen of Sheba, Jezebel, Ruth, Naomi, and Esther

***The Women of the Torah: Commentaries from the Talmud, Midrash, and Kabbalah.* Barbara Ronson (1998) WEINBERG A51 RONS**

This book examines through the lens of the ancient Talmudic, Midrashic, and Kabbalistic commentaries the scriptural passages related to our ancestral mothers, wives, and daughters.

***After the Apple* by Naomi Harris Rosenblatt (2005) WEINBERG A51 ROSE**

Blending elements of history, psychology, and storytelling, the author retells the stories of female characters from the Hebrew Bible - Leah, Rachel, Sarah, Rebecca, Delilah, and Jezebel - and their surprisingly modern dilemmas and problems they are forced to confront.

***All the Women Followed Her* by Rebecca Schwartz (2001) WEINBERG A51 SCHW**

A groundbreaking collection of women's voices as they explore the vital yet enigmatic figure of Miriam the Prophet through poetry, fiction, rituals, songs and new studies on the Bible and Jewish text.

***Sarah the Priestess: The First Matriarch of Genesis* by Savina Teubal (1984) WEINBERG A13 TEUB**

Even though Sarah is only mentioned in Genesis, Teubal constructs an in-depth study of the first biblical matriarch. See also *Hagar the Egyptian: The Lost Tradition of the Matriarchs*.

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