

Listen to Her Voice—Women in the Bible

These are the books from my library that we will be using as reference to our discussions. You are free to add other resources—in fact encouraged to do so. Purchase of any of these books is unnecessary. You may find one or more that you wish to have anyway. Some are scholarly reference books only.

Annotated Bibliography

• **Abingdon's Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible** with the Exclusive Key-Word Comparison. 1980, Abingdon. Takes every word in the bible and gives every location of that word. Interesting reference that sometimes helps with context and understanding of the words.

• **The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon**, Benjamin Davidson, 1848/1987 Zondervan Publishing House. Every word and inflection of the Hebrew Scripture arranged alphabetically and with grammatical analyses.

√ **Biblical Women in the Midrash**, *A Source Book*, Naomi M. Hyman, 1998, Jason Aronson Inc. Hardcover; A book of essays on “stories about stories about” women in the bible. Includes wonderful introduction to the Bible and Midrash and short chapter on “How to Study” the material.

√ **Biblical Women Unbound**, Norma Rosen, 1996, Jewish Publication Society. Great introduction to Midrash as a form of story telling. Quality commentary on the stories as well. Similar to Hyman, above but all written by Rosen.

* **Daughters of Eve**, *Women of the Bible speak to Women of today*, Virginia Stem Owens, 1995, Navpress. Chapter headings such as, “Mothers, Women and Marriage, Women on the Outside, Single Women, Women and Violence, . . .” etc. also includes NT women

√ **The Five Books of Miriam**, *A Woman's Commentary on the Torah*, Ellen Frankel, Ph.D. 1996, G. P. Putnam's Sons, Hard cover, but newly published in paperback; Takes the 54 regular weekly portions of the Torah readings and adds women's' voices to the stories, issues, questions. Gives voice to the women in the story.

• **The Five Books of Moses**, *A New Translation with Introductions, Commentary, and Notes by Edward Fox*, 1995 Schocken Books Inc. Another translator's insights on the Bible.

* **God, Sex and Women of the Bible**, *Discovering our Sensual, Spiritual Selves*, Shoni Labowitz, 1998 Simon and Schuster, Hardcover; Takes the life cycles of women and uses the appropriate biblical woman to breath life into a biblical context of womanhood and sexuality.

* **The Harlot by the Side of the Road**, *Forbidden Tales of the Bible*, Jonathan Kirsch, 1997, Ballantine. paperback; “Sex. Violence. Scandal. These are words we rarely associate with the sacred text of the Bible. Yet in this book . . . recounts shocking tales that have been suppressed by religious authorities throughout history . . . places each story within the

political and social context of its time.”

* **Hebrew/English; English/Hebrew Dictionary** 1977 Massada Press

√ **Helpmates, Harlots, Heros** *Women's stories in the Hebrew Bible*, Alice Ogden Bellis, 1994 Westminster/John Knox Press. A Christian biblical scholar with good insights. One of the few books on the list that goes beyond the Torah into characters in the Prophets and Writings.

* **The Legends of the Jews**, Louis Ginzberg, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998 ed. from 1938 work. This is a seven volume collection of the Midrash translated into English. A wealth of stories with one volume made up entirely of footnotes to the text.

• **Meet Bathsheba**, *dramatic portraits of biblical women*, Rosanne Gartner, 2000, Judson Press. Just what it says it is. Not all that helpful.

• **Midrashic Women**, *Formations of the Feminine in Rabbinic Literature*, Judith R. Baskin, 2002, Brandeis University Press. This is a scholarly look at how the rabbis interpreted women's stories and issues in early midrash.

√ **The New Oxford Annotated Bible**, *with the Apocrypha, New Revised Standard Version*, 1991 Oxford University Press. If you are going to buy a bible, this is the one to purchase. Notes on the translations and references to other places in the texts.

√ **Out of the Garden**, *Women Writers on the Bible*, Christina Büchmann and Celina Spiegel editors, 1994, Fawcett Columbine Books (Ballantine) paperback; Essays on biblical women by well known scholars and writers in the field, but very readable.

√ **Listen to Her Voice**: *women of the Hebrew Bible*, Miki Raver 1998 Chronicle Books; The inspiration and starting point for the class. Review from San Francisco Chronicle Book Review, 12/13/1998: "Raver's own voice shines through in this beautifully illustrated meditation on 18 female characters in Jewish scripture....[the book] reflects a balanced understanding of Jewish values and feminist theology. Its sensual portrayal of these extraordinary women pleases the eye and quickens the spirit."

* **Reading the Women of the Bible**, *A new interpretation of their stories*, Tikva Frymer-Kensky, 2002, Schocken Books. Told in 4 parts, Victors, Victims, Virgins, and Voice, this is excellent but dense reading. For dedicated scholarly pursuit.

√ **The Red Tent**, Anita Diamant, (Picador USA, 1998) *Novel*, A colorful novel set in biblical times centering around the lives of Leah, Rebecca and Dinah as told through Dinah's eyes.

• **Sefer HaAggadah, the Book of Legends**, *Legends from the Talmud and Midrash*, Bialik and Nachman. This is a large (expensive) volume of translated works from Talmud and Midrash. It is a thorough work with interesting stories that add to the discussion.

√ **Sisters at Sinai**, *New Tales of Biblical Women*, Jill Hammer, 2001 Jewish Publication Society. One of the few with Lilith. Written by a Woman rabbi/clinical psychologist. Nice story telling

style.

* **TANAKH, The Holy Scriptures**, *The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Hebrew Text*. 1988; Just what the title says.

√ **Their Stories, Our Stories**, *Women of the Bible*, Rose Sallberg Kam, 1995, Continuum, New York. Contains almost all of the women in the outline and for that, it is worth it. Also, great bibliography after each chapter.

√ **The Torah**, *A Modern Commentary*, W. Gunther Plaut, ed. 1981 Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Hardcover; The complete Hebrew, text with English translation, notations, interpretations, and “gleanings” of the Hebrew Bible.

• **§Torah of the Mothers**, *Contemporary Jewish Women Read Classical Jewish Texts*, Ora Woskind Elper and Susan Handelman, 2000, Urim Publications, New York and Jerusalem. This is a tome about learning to read the bible through very different eyes. A collection of essays on Torah, its stories and its interpreters.

* **A Woman's Voice**, *Biblical Women: Divine Wisdom Transformed into Action for Today's Woman*. Marcella Bakur Weiner and Blema Feinstein, 2001 Jason Aronson, Inc. More from the psychological than the scholarly point of view. Easily readable.

* **The Women's Bible Commentary**, Carol A. Newsom and Sharon H. Ringe, editors, 1992 Westminster / John Knox Press, paperback; A scholarly work in which individual women scholars take each book of the Bible and offer interpretations on themes contained in the book.

• **§Women in the Hebrew Bible**, *A Reader*. Alice Bach, ed. 1999, Routledge. A VERY scholarly work for the dedicated student of the bible. Not easy reading.

* **The Women's Torah Commentary**, *New Insights from Women Rabbis on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions*. Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, ed. 2000, Jewish Lights Publications, Hardcover; The title mostly says it.

Key:

√√ *Primary Sources —necessary to begin a discussion*

√ *Primary sources—extremely helpful for a well rounded discussion group.*

* *Secondary Sources. Very helpful but not necessary*

• *An extra luxury for the library that wants “everything”*

§ *Scholarly work—for those with a lot of bible background who want to dig deeper.*