

The Holy Book Of Womens Mysteries Feminist Witchcraft Goddess Rituals Spellcasting And Other Womanly Arts Zsuzsanna E Budapest

In The Grandmother of Time, Zsuzsanna Budapest teaches both beginners and experienced practitioners how to integrate wiccan spirituality into their everyday lives. Here are new approaches to today's rituals, from birthdays and dedications of newborn babies to purifying our homes and protecting us in travel.

Experience True Liberation by Seeing Your Beauty, Femininity, and Freedom From Heaven's Point of View Has Christianity kept women trapped in the stone age? In many ways, yes; but this is not by God's design. As society offers women opportunities to explore outer-space and govern nations, the church often stifles and limits them. The tide is changing, though. Amber Picota's God's Feminist Movement is a new covenant manifesto calling women to embrace their true identity in Christ and fulfill their destiny as revolutionaries who shape the course of history with the Kingdom of God. There is a powerful new feminist movement emerging in the body of Christ. It's not politically driven and it's not being championed by an uprising of angry "man-haters." Based on an intense study of Scripture, factoring in historical and contextual hermeneutics and original languages, Picota shares a practical, non-legalistic, and non-traditional (yet deeply Biblical) look at topics that women commonly face, such as: Dating and Modesty Female Leaders in the Church Submission in Marriage Beauty and Self-Image Celebrate the power and beauty of womanhood. God has given you permission to change the world—by being you! Break off religious traditions that keep women trapped in "old school" legalism and move beyond Christian clichés that minimize a woman's true position in Christ!

"Rachel Macy Stafford's post "The Day I Stopped Saying Hurry Up" was a true phenomenon on The Huffington Post, igniting countless conversations online and off about freeing ourselves from the vicious cycle of keeping up with our overstuffed agendas. Hands Free Mama has the power to keep that conversation going and remind us that we must not let our lives pass us by." --Arianna Huffington, Chair, President, and Editor-in-Chief of the Huffington Post Media Group, nationally syndicated columnist, and author of thirteen books <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/> DISCOVER THE POWER, JOY, AND LOVE of Living "Hands Free" If technology is the new addiction, then multi-tasking is the new marching order. We check our email while cooking dinner, send a text while bathing the kids, and spend more time looking into electronic screens than into the eyes of our loved ones. With our never-ending to-do lists and jam-packed schedules, it's no wonder we're distracted. But this isn't the way it has to be. In July 2010, special education teacher and mother Rachel Macy Stafford decided enough was enough. Tired of losing track of what matters most in life, Rachel began practicing simple strategies that enabled her to momentarily let go of largely meaningless distractions and engage in meaningful soul-to-soul connections. She started a blog to chronicle her endeavors and soon saw how both external and internal distractions had been sabotaging her happiness and preventing her from bonding with the people she loves most. Hands Free Mama is the digital society's answer to finding balance in a media-saturated, perfection-obsessed world. It doesn't mean giving up all technology forever. It doesn't mean forgoing our jobs and responsibilities. What it does mean is seizing the little moments that life offers us to engage in real and meaningful interaction. It means looking our loved ones in the eye and giving them the gift of our undivided attention, leaving the laundry till later to dance with our kids in the rain, and living a present, authentic, and intentional life despite a world full of distractions. So join Rachel and go hands-free. Discover what happens when you choose to open

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your heart—and your hands—to the possibilities of each God-given moment.

Find power in your prayer like never before with this inspiring guide from #1 New York Times bestselling author Bishop T.D. Jakes. In a time when women carry more influence than any other generation, the power of prayer has never been more important to remind us that we do not have to bear our crosses alone. We need prayer to stand guard over our hearts and minds and over the hearts and minds of our families. Women today are shattering glass ceilings and forging new paths in the world. What Happens When a Woman Prays is a clarion call for women to continue their progressive march of empowerment by dreaming like their daughters and praying like their grandmothers. Through exploring the lives of 10 prayer-filled women of the Bible, Bishop Jakes emphasizes the life-changing power that women have when they find their identity, their strength, their healing, and their voices in Christ.

A strong Christian woman embarks on a radical life experiment—a year of biblical womanhood. Strong and committed in her faith—but frustrated by the inconsistencies she saw in her evangelical culture's view of women—Rachel Held Evans became an independent woman. But, intrigued by the traditionalist resurgence that led many of her friends to abandon their careers to assume traditional gender roles in the home, Evans had a crazy idea: What if I took "biblical womanhood" literally for a full year? In the next twelve months Rachel: Wore a scarf over her head to pray Called her husband "master" and stood on the roadside with a sign that said "Dan is Awesome" Adopted a computerized baby Perched on the roof for an afternoon of penance for gossiping Camped out in her front yard during her period Visited an Amish schoolhouse, a pig farm in Bolivia, and a Benedictine monastery Took up baking and knitting Interviewed a polygamist, a Quiverfull daughter, and a courtship couple With just the right mixture of humor and insight, Evans takes readers along with her on a lively adventure. In the process she discovers that the journey itself leads her right to the heart of God.

Author shares positive examples resulting from asking a number of her friends to participate in a three-day challenge to evaluate their life and actions by asking the question "What would a holy woman do?"

Acrylic paintings representing notable women from all walks of life, as well as Biblical and mythological figures, with commentary on each by the artist.

There are physical and psychological experiences and rites of passage common to all women's lives, crossing the boundaries of age, class, culture, race, sexual orientation, and religion. While women have a great hunger for ritual to reflect the events in their lives, they often do not know how to begin. For many, the very thought of creating their own rituals is too intimidating, and instead wait for others to take the lead, or simply suppress their own needs, desires, and dreams. Consequently, many women lead lives that too often are physically, emotionally, and spiritually unfulfilled. Finally, comes an author who seeks to provide women with the tools to address and fulfill their own needs for meaning that is sourced from their own intuitive knowing. Together, with open minds and hearts, we can learn to shape chaos and human needs into works of great power and beauty. Women's Rites, Women's Mysteries is a practical and magical, one-of-a-kind guide and resource for both creating and facilitating Goddess and female-centered rituals. Written for individuals and groups, both beginners and experienced ritualists alike, Dianic High Priestess and seasoned ritualist Ruth Barrett guides women through a unique step-by-step process, with practices that weaves personal need with an

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individual or group's intuitive creativity. Barrett demystifies the components of how to design and facilitate an effective ritual for any significant occasion, seasonal holy day, or life-cycle event. Unique from other books on ritual, Barrett emphasizes energetics for ritual, delving into the awareness and conscious working of energy to intentionally align, support, and carry out the ritual's purpose. From personal energetic preparation, preparation for group ritual facilitators and participants, Barrett provides practices and suggestions for this important and often overlooked aspect of the ritual experience. *Women's Rites, Women's Mysteries* is specifically not a didactic ritual "cookbook," that tells the reader exactly what to do, but rarely explains the reason or motivation behind a given enactment or symbol. Ruth Barrett teaches women how to think like a ritualist and develop the inner tools needed to create meaningful rituals for themselves and with others. Beginning with a discussion on the power of women's ritual and the importance of women creating their own ritual experiences, Barrett proceeds with how to use intuition to develop a ritual's purpose, how to work with energy that supports the ritual theme, creating enactments, appropriate structure, creating invocations, and an overview of a female-centered Wheel of the Year for seasonal celebrations. Barrett brings four decades of experience providing ritual facilitation, to discuss the personal and practical skills needed when creating, preparing for, and facilitating small or large group rituals that open to the public - a must for women drawn to providing rituals for others. Rarely addressed in print before is the topic of how to evaluate a ritual in order to constantly learn and improve them. A variety of magical techniques with applications for ritual and spellcraft are woven throughout the book that enhance and deepen a woman's relationship with herself and the powers of nature. Barrett substantially discusses her perspective on the roles and responsibilities of the Priestess in ancient and contemporary times, the herstory and cosmology of the feminist Dianic tradition, its foundational spiritual tenants based on female embodiment, spiritual service, and as a spiritual feminist tool for women to heal from internalized patriarchal oppression.

Women's rights and rites merge in this complete guide to the principles and practices of matriarchal religion.

Ode to Our Wild Feminine Souls This provocative book invites you to create your own spiritual path based on often-suppressed ancient principles and contemporary practices. Using the elements (earth, water, fire, air, ether) rather than traditional patriarchal hierarchies, this 'holy book' is designed to connect each individual to their universal — but often denied — powers. Wild woman Danielle Dulsky takes you deep as she explores and embraces sacred feminine archetypes such as the Mother Goddess, the Crone, and the Maiden. Join her as she guides you to envision and explore a world that enriches and supports your spirit, body, and mind as well as our global community and the Earth.

Presents essays that explore leadership and spirituality in order to inspire women, regardless of their spiritual tradition, to unite and become spiritual leaders.

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Holy Woman chronicles the life, times, hardships, and legacy of Rebbitzen Chaya Sara Kramer, an extraordinary woman whom many considered a Jewish saint. A survivor of the medical experiments of Nazi death camp Doctor Joseph Mengele, she made a new life in Israel, where she married an unusually gifted mystic. In spite of penury and deprivation, the couple was an inspiration and guide to thousands. More of a life manual than a biography, this book explicates the profound life lessons by which Rebbitzen Kramer lived. Author Sara Yoheved Rigler draws the reader into the inner circle of her own close relationship with the Rebbitzen. Herself a serious searcher, Rigler spent 15 years in an Indian ashram before coming to Israel to reconnect with her Jewish origins. Refreshingly written and elegantly relevant, Holy Woman is a book for spiritually oriented persons who yearn to learn secrets of personal greatness from a truly hidden and humble Jewish luminary.

The Bible has been written by sixty-six male prophets, kings, pharaohs, and New Testament authors. The Bible has been written by men, for men, and about men-like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Jesus, and His Apostles. Consequently, the Bible is rather male-oriented, and one can see this in Apostle Paul who says women must not teach, "to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God" (Titus 2:5 NIV). Forgotten Women of the Holy Bible illuminates several outstanding women in Holy Scripture. The author's timeless effort reveals meticulous research and fresh insights into thirty-six important women who have been disregarded, minimized, and even forgotten in Holy Scripture. Some of these remarkable women are Priscilla, Tabitha, Phoebe, Joana, Lydia, Prophetess Miriam, Judge Deborah, Queen Esther, Prophetess Anna, and a female apostle named Junia--who was in prison with Paul. This treasure of chronicles on special women also includes Mother Mary, her sister, wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene who stood at the cross with Jesus, while the apostles were in hiding. After the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus. When the tomb is found empty, these two women run to tell the apostles, and the Risen Lord suddenly appears to "them" on the road! The entire event is recorded in Matthew 28:1-10 NIV where the Risen Lord appears to at least two women, perhaps more than two: "Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings, ' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'" This Holy Scripture is one of many found in the Bible which have been ignored, disregarded, or totally lost to memory. This Bible Study would benefit Christian pastors, teachers, lay students, men, and women alike.

Let your heart be warmed as the oil of T.D. Jakes' teaching flows from your mind to your spirit. The balm in this book will soothe all manner of traumas, tragedies, and disappointments. For the single parent and the battered wife, for the abused girl and the insecure woman, there is a cure for the crisis! In this soft word for the sensitive ear, there is a deep

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cleansing for those inaccessible areas of the feminine heart. This book will help to fight back the infections of life. Woman, Thou Art Loosed! will break the bands off the neck of every woman who dares to read it!

02

"A powerful work of skillful research and personal insight."--Publishers Weekly Biblical womanhood--the belief that God designed women to be submissive wives, virtuous mothers, and joyful homemakers--pervades North American Christianity. From choices about careers to roles in local churches to relationship dynamics, this belief shapes the everyday lives of evangelical women. Yet biblical womanhood isn't biblical, says Baylor University historian Beth Allison Barr. It arose from a series of clearly definable historical moments. This book moves the conversation about biblical womanhood beyond Greek grammar and into the realm of church history--ancient, medieval, and modern--to show that this belief is not divinely ordained but a product of human civilization that continues to creep into the church. Barr's historical insights provide context for contemporary teachings about women's roles in the church and help move the conversation forward. Interweaving her story as a Baptist pastor's wife, Barr sheds light on the #ChurchToo movement and abuse scandals in Southern Baptist circles and the broader evangelical world, helping readers understand why biblical womanhood is more about human power structures than the message of Christ.

A powerful saga of love and family politics.

Christ did not come for the righteous but for the sinner and He calls us to pray like he did to the Father in a continual basis. Bounds in this work outlines what kind of heaven and earth shattering effects prayer can have from the individual person to the very ministry that someone may be trying to perform. There is no limit or bounds to what kind of power to faith prayer can have.

A practical guide for inviting the wisdom of Mary Magdalene into everyday life • Provides a unique workbook for use in the spiritual pathwork of Magdalene Circles • Includes wisdom stories, guided meditations, journaling questions, and essays by Margaret Starbird, author of The Woman with the Alabaster Jar • Designed for those involved in Magdalene Circles and those interested in applying the sacred feminine wisdom of the Goddess to their lives Women's circles have been called a "revolutionary-evolutionary movement hidden in plain sight" by Jean Shinoda Bolen and have been hailed as capable of affecting global change. Magdalene Circles are groups of women who focus their shared energies on the wisdom of Mary Magdalene to gain insight into the role of the sacred feminine in their own lives and to help them advance on their spiritual paths. This book offers 14 lessons to help understand the wisdom offered by Mary Magdalene's story and mythos. Among the lessons are prophecies of the bride, why we need the bride, Magdalene's archetypal pattern of descent, and how modern women carry the Grail. Well-suited for the individual reader as well as a

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group, each lesson includes an introduction, guided meditation, questions for journaling, and an essay by Margaret Starbird as well as suggestions for group sharing. Placing Mary Magdalene within the pattern of "cyclic renewal" of earth-based religions, this book offers the chance to incorporate the sacred feminine wisdom of Mary Magdalene into everyday life for Christians and spiritual feminists alike.

Documents the legendary grassroots and legal struggle of a determined group of Jewish women from Israel, America, and other parts of the world--known as the Women of the Wall--to win the right to pray together as a group out loud, wear ritual objects, and read from Torah scrolls at Israel's Western Wall, a right extremely limited now.

"Dear brothers and sisters, history records almost exclusively the accomplishments of men, when in fact much of it is due to the determined, unrelenting, and charitable action of women." -- Pope Benedict XVI From Scripture through today, women have always played a unique and critical role in Church history. In his weekly addresses, Pope Benedict XVI expertly and thoughtfully explores the life stories of seventeen such holy women. From St. Hildegard of Bingen to St. Catherine of Siena to St. Therese of Lisieux, and many more in between, each one brings a fresh experience and example of faith that is still relevant today. These models of prayer, faith, and action will help you gain a fuller understanding of Church history as well as personal faith. Bring your faith to life with the spark of history as told by the pope himself.

The genuine woman is a woman whose faith is true and manifested by the way she loves God and loves and cares for others; whose beauty comes from a gentle and humble spirit; and when trials and tribulations come her way, does not ask "Why God?" but rather "What, God, are you doing in my life?" The genuine woman seeks God's wisdom rather than wisdom from the world, and is set free from the bondage of her old way of doing life to walk in the newness of life that can only be found in a life lived for Jesus. Your study in the Book of James will give you practical advice for living out your faith journey to the glory of God in the face of pressures and difficulties that often come your way. While maturing in Christ requires you to grow in the knowledge of God's word, James tells us that growing in the Lord will only come when you apply what He is saying to you through His word. The world is watching to see the substance of your faith by the way you live out your faith and walk the talk each day. James show you how to do this in a genuine way.

Put the fun back in small group Bible study! Ideal for newly formed Women's Bible studies or existing groups, this light, fun, 8 week Bible Study encourages group discussion of biblical perspectives on everyday topics. Each weekly lesson begins with an "Ice Breaker" section to get the conversation flowing, then moves on to a "Promise from God" section to provide group focus. This is then followed by a "Scripture References" section to guide the conversation through God's word. Next, a "Commentary" section provides food-for-thought to stimulate the discussion. The next section, "Discussion

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Questions", leads the group into deeper analysis and self-examination. Then, the "Opt. Weekly Challenges" section provides suggestions for ways to translate thoughts into action during the upcoming week. Finally, there is a "Closing Prayer" section to wrap up the session. Unique in its approach, this Bible study focuses on forming strong group bonds and providing an opportunity for women to really get to know and support each other as sisters in Christ. Be sure to check out Group Hug IV, Holidays, and Marriage. Also, watch for Group Hug V thru VII and Hot Topics to be released throughout 2015 as part of this ten book series!

Fourteen centuries of Islamic thought have produced a legacy of interpretive readings of the Qu'ran written almost entirely by men. Now, with *Qu'ran and Woman*, Amina Wadud provides a first interpretive reading by a woman, a reading which validates the female voice in the Qu'ran and brings it out of the shadows. Muslim progressives have long argued that it is not the religion but patriarchal interpretation and implementation of the Qu'ran that have kept women oppressed. For many, the way to reform is the reexamination and reinterpretation of religious texts. *Qu'ran and Woman* contributes a gender inclusive reading to one of the most fundamental disciplines in Islamic thought, Qu'ranic exegesis. Wadud breaks down specific texts and key words which have been used to limit women's public and private role, even to justify violence toward Muslim women, revealing that their original meaning and context defy such interpretations. What her analysis clarifies is the lack of gender bias, precedence, or prejudice in the essential language of the Qur'an. Despite much Qu'ranic evidence about the significance of women, gender reform in Muslim society has been stubbornly resisted. Wadud's reading of the Qu'ran confirms women's equality and constitutes legitimate grounds for contesting the unequal treatment that women have experienced historically and continue to experience legally in Muslim communities. The Qu'ran does not prescribe one timeless and unchanging social structure for men and women, Wadud argues lucidly, affirming that the Qu'ran holds greater possibilities for guiding human society to a more fulfilling and productive mutual collaboration between men and women than as yet attained by Muslims or non-Muslims.

A women's spirituality classic now back in print! *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries* is essential for Pagans, feminists, and women seeking to learn more about the spiritual path as it relates to the feminine and the Goddess aspects of witchcraft and Wicca. This book is not about reinstating a matriarchy or tearing down patriarchy; it is about women's spirituality and its relationship with politics and lifestyle. Z. Budapest is one of the founding mothers of modern women's witchcraft, beginning with the establishment of Susan B. Anthony Coven in Los Angeles in 1971. She catapulted herself into the media spotlight when she was tried as a witch and found guilty in 1975 after being arrested on Venice Beach for reading tarot cards. She fought the charges and, after a nine year battle, won the right for every tarot reader to do so legally. *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries* is a seminal text that contains invaluable information on Dianic witchcraft

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and spells, including everyday magick, sabbat rituals, and divination methods; a section on how vegetarian theories and politics relate to witchcraft and the feminine aspect; and a good deal of information on goddesses and how the patriarchal religions distorted old myths to serve their own needs. There are several unique and beautiful Rites of Passage for women and men that you don't often find, and Budapest's personal life stories are an equally valuable read, from her escape across the mountains from Communist Hungary to her fight for women's religious freedom upon moving to America. * This reprint features a new introduction by Z. Budapest, in addition to essays by luminaries such as Starhawk and Merlin Stone.

The Woman's Bible (1895-1898) is a work of religious and political nonfiction by American women's rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Despite its popular success, The Woman's Bible caused a rift in the movement between Stanton and her supporters and those who believed that to wade into religious waters would hurt the suffragist cause. Reactions from the press, political establishment, and much of the reading public were overwhelmingly negative, accusing Stanton of blasphemy and sacrilege while refusing to engage with the book's message: to reconsider the historical reception of the Bible in order to make room for women to be afforded equality in their private and public lives. Working with a Revising Committee of 26 members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Stanton sought to provide an updated commentary on the Bible that would highlight passages allowing for an interpretation of scripture harmonious with the cause of the women's rights movement. Inspired by activist and Quaker Lucretia Mott's use of Bible verses to dispel the arguments of bigots opposed to women's rights and abolition, Stanton hoped to establish a new way of framing the history and religious representation of women that could resist similar arguments that held up the Bible as precedent for the continued oppression of women. Starting with an interpretation of the Genesis story of Adam and Eve, Stanton attempts to show where men and women are treated as equals in the Bible, eventually working through both the Old and New Testaments. In its day, The Woman's Bible was a radically important revisioning of women's place in scripture that Stanton and her collaborators hoped would open the door for women to obtain the rights they had long been systematically denied. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's The Woman's Bible is a classic of American literature reimaged for modern readers.

The twentieth anniversary edition of a transformative blueprint for ancestral healing—featuring new material and gateways, from the renowned herbalist, natural health expert, and healer of women's bodies and souls “This book was one of the first that helped me start practices as a young woman that focused on my body and spirit as one.”—Jada Pinkett Smith Through extraordinary meditations, affirmations, holistic healing plant-based medicine, KMT temple

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teachings, and The Rites of Passage guidance, Queen Afua teaches us how to love and rejoice in our bodies by spiritualizing the words we speak, the foods we eat, the relationships we attract, the spaces we live and work in, and the transcendent woman spirit we manifest. With love, wisdom, and passion, Queen Afua guides us to accept our mission and our mantle as Sacred Women—to heal ourselves, the generations of women in our families, our communities, and our world.

A much anticipated reissue of *Who Wrote the Bible?*—the contemporary classic the *New York Times Book Review* called “a thought-provoking [and] perceptive guide” that identifies the individual writers of the Pentateuch and explains what they can teach us about the origins of the Bible. For thousands of years, the prophet Moses was regarded as the sole author of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch. According to tradition, Moses was divinely directed to write down foundational events in the history of the world: the creation of humans, the worldwide flood, the laws as they were handed down at Mt. Sinai, and the cycle of Israel’s enslavement and liberation from Egypt. However, these stories—and their frequent discrepancies—provoke questions: why does the first chapter in Genesis say that man and woman were made in God’s image, while the second says that woman was made from man’s rib? Why does one account of the flood say it lasted forty days, while another records no less than one hundred? And why do some stories reflect the history of southern Judah, while others seem sourced from northern Israel? Originally published in 1987, Richard Friedman’s *Who Wrote the Bible?* joins a host of modern scholars who show that the Pentateuch was written by at least four distinct voices—separated by borders, political alliances, and particular moments in history—then connected by brilliant editors. Rather than cast doubt onto the legitimacy of the Bible, Friedman uses these divergent accounts to illuminate a text that was written by real people. Friedman’s seminal and bestselling text is a comprehensive and authoritative answer to the question: just who exactly wrote the Bible?

The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries Weiser Books

Photographer Donna Ferrato goes on a radical 50-year road trip across the USA as women fight for equality in the bedroom and the boardroom. *Holy* follows her journey from the sexual revolution of the '60s through the #metoo era of today. *Holy* is forged from one woman's outrage against a woman-hating world. May it anger you. Donna Ferrato's radical photographs show what women are capable of surviving. More than survive, *Holy* depicts women who prevail. *Holy* is an invitation to understand how it feels being held down by the patriarchy—what we are fighting for, what we are up against—and how we manage to maintain a sense of desire and appetite. Fighting for equality in the bedroom and the boardroom, Ferrato's journey follows the sexual revolution of the '60s through the #metoo era of today. *Holy* is a showcase of power. Donna's images reveal women's bodies in all their monstrous glory—even her own. May these

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photographs mobilize you, whether you are cis or trans, young or old, butch or femme. Human survival depends on women. Embrace your instincts, desires, brainpower, and strength. Embrace each other.

The women of the Bible lived timeless stories—by examining them, we can understand what it means to be a woman of faith. People unfamiliar with Scripture often assume that women play a small, secondary role in the Bible. But in fact, they were central figures in numerous Biblical tales. It was Queen Esther's bravery at a vital point in history which saved her entire people. The Bible contains warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. The first person to witness Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene, who promptly became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news which would change the world forever. In *The Women of the Bible Speak*, Fox News Channel's Shannon Bream opens up the lives of sixteen of these Biblical women, arranging them into pairs and contrasting their journeys. In pairing their stories, Shannon helps us reflect not only on the meaning of each individual's life, but on how they relate to each other and to us. From the shepherdesses of ancient Israel who helped raise the future leaders of the people of God, to the courageous early Christians, the narrative of the Bible offers us many vivid and fascinating female characters. In their lives we can see common struggles to resist bitterness, despair, and pride, and to instead find their true selves in faith, hope, and love. In studying these heroes of the faith, we can find wisdom and warnings for how to better navigate our own faith journeys. *The Women of the Bible Speak* outlines the lessons we can take from the valor of Esther, the hope of Hannah, the audacity of Rahab, and the faith of Mary. In broadening each woman's individual story, Shannon offers us a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform our own lives today.

Reading *The Women of the Bible* takes up two of the most significant intellectual and religious issues of our day: the experiences of women in a patriarchal society and the relevance of the Bible to modern life.

Join Elizabeth's mid-life flight to the Holy Land as she questions her marriage and her life. See how God reaches her through people and events. Experience Elizabeth's walk on the Via Dolorosa, the way of the cross, and her kayak trip down the Jordan River. Sit with her at an outdoor cafe and marvel at the sights and sounds of Jerusalem. Listen as Elizabeth learns the names of God and hears about the matriarchs of the faith: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah. Discover, with Elizabeth, the true nature of agape love on the pilgrimage of a lifetime.

Harlot or Holy Woman? presents an exhaustive study of *qedeshah*, a Hebrew word meaning “consecrated woman” but rendered “prostitute” or “sacred prostitute” in Bible translations. Reexamining biblical and extrabiblical texts, Phyllis A. Bird questions how *qedeshah* came to be associated with prostitution and offers an alternative explanation of the term, one that suggests a wider participation for women as religious specialists in Israel's early cultic practice. Bird's study reviews all the texts from classical antiquity cited as sources for an institution of “sacred prostitution,” alongside a

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comprehensive analysis of the cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia containing the cognate qadištu and Ugaritic texts containing the masculine cognate qdš. Through these texts, Bird presents a portrait of women dedicated to a deity, engaged in a variety of activities from cultic ritual to wet-nursing, and sharing a common generic name with the qedešah of ancient Israel. In the final chapter she returns to biblical texts, reexamining them in light of the new evidence from the ancient Near East. Considering alternative models for constructing women's religious roles in ancient Israel, this wholly original study offers new interpretations of key texts and raises questions about the nature of Israelite religion as practiced outside the royal cult and central sanctuary.

Home Building for the Wise Woman: A Blueprint for Designing a Life That Fits. Seven lessons for group or individual study. Do you feel like a failure next to your best friend who works part-time, helps out at school, and has a perfectly clean house and a husband who's always smiling; while you feel like you're drowning if you have to make cookies for the bake sale? Do you find yourself asking, "Did I choose the wrong priority? After all, aren't the kids more important than . . .?" Do you wish you could just be you? Through Home Building for the Wise Woman, you will develop a personalized blueprint that will help you: visualize your priorities, make wise decisions, defeat guilt, and build the beautiful life God created you to live-a life that fits!

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