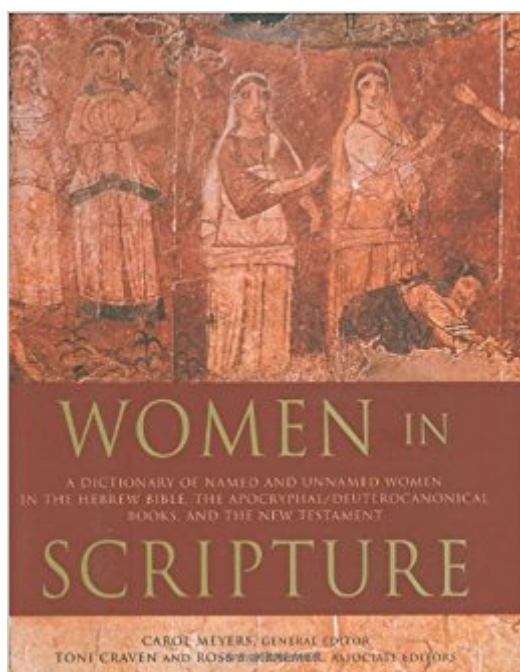


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# Women In Scripture: A Dictionary Of Named And Unnamed Women In The Hebrew Bible, The Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books And New Testament



## Synopsis

Since the 1960s many biblical scholars have studied the Bible with a focus on gender. Yet such research is only slowly reaching a wide audience beyond the academy. Seven years in the making, centuries overdue, *Women in Scripture* is the groundbreaking work that will finally open this field to readers of all backgrounds -- Jews, Christians, and everyone fascinated by a body of literature that has exerted a singular influence on Western civilization. The editors have taken on the ambitious task of identifying every woman and group of women mentioned in the Bible, whether named or unnamed, well known or heretofore not known at all. The result is more than eight hundred articles, written by the finest scholars in the field, that examine the numerous women who have often been obscured by the androcentric nature of the biblical record and by centuries of translation and interpretation that have paid little or no attention to them. At last, *Women in Scripture* gives these women their due. They are remarkably varied -- from prophets to prostitutes, military heroines to musicians, deacons to dancers, widows to wet nurses, rulers to slaves. There are familiar faces, such as Eve, Judith, and Mary, seen anew with the full benefit of the most up-to-date results of biblical scholarship. But the most innovative aspect of this book is the section devoted to the many women who in the scriptures do not even have names. Both in scope and accessibility, *Women in Scripture* is an exceptional work. Combining rigorous scholarship with engaging prose, each of these articles on women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament will inform, delight, and challenge readers interested in the Bible, scholars and laypeople alike. Together, these articles create a volume that takes the study of women in the Bible to a new level.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This splendid reference describes every woman in Jewish and Christian scripture--with or without names--plus female dieties and personifications. The many "unnamed" women--identified by their husband or other family member, by their place or town, by their action, etc.--comprise the largest grouping in this comprehensive work and distinguish it from earlier treatments of biblical women. The succinct articles frequently unite women (e.g., when Noadiah is identified as one of four named female Hebrew prophets, the others are also named) or compare treatment of women in similar categories (e.g., women with bodily emissions in Leviticus and Ezekiel). Frequent cross-referencing and bibliographical suggestions enrich the entries. Useful essays on biblical scholarship, biblical literature, and biblical naming enhance the volume. Many books identify women in the Bible, but none is as comprehensive as this current and meticulous resource. A monumental reference work that resurrects women from anonymity, this is essential for all public, academic, and seminary libraries.-Carolyn M. Craft, Longwood Coll., Farmville, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"By means of adroit organisation and close textual reading, the invisible have become visible; the hidden influence of women, named and unnamed, in biblical times is now manifest from the hundreds of entries in this handy encyclopedia." -- Roland E. Murphy, Professor Emeritus, Duke University and editor of THE NEW JEROME BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

I have been using this book intermittently for reference purposes during the more than two years since I bought it. Big plus: Exhaustive coverage of all women in the Bible, named or unnamed. I don't believe there is any female character or group of women in the Bible who have been overlooked. And navigation (finding any given female character/s in this book) is very well done. The book is easy to use. Big minus: In many cases (but not all), I have been disappointed by the nature of the commentary offered. I know the title says it's a dictionary, not a commentary, but quite a lot of the content (in common with other Bible Dictionaries) is in fact in the nature of commentary. The problem I have with the commentary is that several (again, not all) of the contributors seem to be more driven to make points in support of their particular feminist or womanist hermeneutic than to explore the text and discover what else there might be to say about the woman, or women, being

considered in the entry. Since I am male, I had better add that I sympathise somewhat with the feminist perspective and a great deal with a womanist perspective. My complaint is not that entries are written from these perspectives: in a volume like this the reader should surely anticipate that! What I feel is lacking is a deeper exploration. In some cases, (eg. Jephthah's daughter) I felt that more could have been said from those very perspectives, but that the writer failed to spend enough time in fresh analysis of the text. On balance, I would say that if you need an exhaustive reference, there is not another available like this one. But be prepared, after paying for this book, to do some further exegesis and/or exposition yourself, on occasion.

This book is rigorously researched and very readable. It is a fantastic reference book for anyone teaching Bible or writing homilies or sermons. It is on my shelf for ready reference, and it can be bought new for as little as \$21. I know of no other compendium that covers the content of this book as deeply. I only wish there were an equivalent volume by these authors on the men in the Bible. As stated by other reviewers, the articles at the beginning of the book are excellent.

Great content in the book itself about women and feminine personifications in scripture. I own the Kindle version that I use as part of a class. I wish that there were page numbers that match the print book so that it would be easier to follow along in class. It would also be helpful to have a more detailed table of contents or an index to look up names faster.

An excellent book on this subject.

This book details all women in scripture, whether named or unnamed. A wonderful resource for anyone wanting to know more about women in the Bible.

book in great shape

The book is old and dirty and not in the best condition for someone to purchase. It was a library book at some point and it still had the library's name and tags on it. Not a good purchase.

The seller was incredibly fast (not like me in writing this review) and was very open and personal. I would love to buy from her again :)

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