

Women in Antiquity
Spring 2024

MEETING 10

Women and the Kingdom of Israel

- The Kingdom of Israel
- Abraham and Isaac
- The Babylonian Captivity
- Ruth and Esther
- Monotheism and Female Exclusion

1

Five things today

- 1 The Kingdom of Israel
- 2 Abraham and Isaac
- 3 The Babylonian Captivity
- 4 Ruth and Esther
- 5 Monotheism and Female Exclusion

2

Upcoming dates

- Tuesday, April 23 No class meeting (Spring Break)
- Tuesday, April 30

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Ancient History – Fall 2024

			
History of Ancient Greece	Women in Antiquity	Civilizations of the Ancient World	Classical Myth and Society
HIA 320/720 Thursdays 6:00–8:40 p.m. in-person Prof. Wilson	HIA 311/750 • WST 311 Tuesdays 6:00–8:40 p.m. in-person Prof. Wilson	HIS 246 Tu/Th 3:00–4:15 p.m. in-person Prof. Wilson	HIA 314/714 Fridays 12:00–1:15 p.m. Hybrid Prof. Marianetti

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Quiz #6: Female Pharaohs of Egypt

- What are some of the ways Hatshepsut used imagery, titles, and other representations to establish her legitimacy as a ruler?
- What happened to Hatshepsut's legacy after she died? According to the readings, what are the possible explanations for this?

EC1. All of the following are true of Hatshepsut and her co-ruler Thutmose III... EXCEPT:

- (a) They sponsored an expedition to Punt to obtain exotic materials
- (b) They ruled jointly together for about 15 years
- (c) On some monuments they are depicted as twin male rulers
- (d) They were half-siblings

EC2. What do you think are the main reasons why Hatshepsut was accepted as a "female king" and was able to rule for so long?

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Questions about whatever



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The Kingdom of Israel

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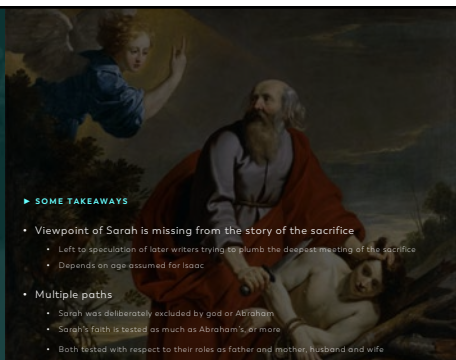
Secondary Source Reading

Sebastian Brock

Reading Between the Lines: Sarah and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis, Chap. 22)

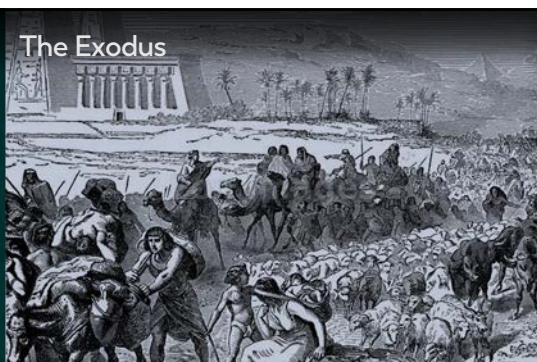
► SOME TAKEAWAYS

- Viewpoint of Sarah is missing from the story of the sacrifice
 - Left to speculation of later writers trying to plumb the deepest meaning of the sacrifice
 - Depends on age assumed for Isaac
- Multiple paths
 - Sarah was deliberately excluded by god or Abraham
 - Sarah's faith is tested as much as Abraham's, or more
 - Both tested with respect to their roles as father and mother, husband and wife



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The Exodus



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Hebrews



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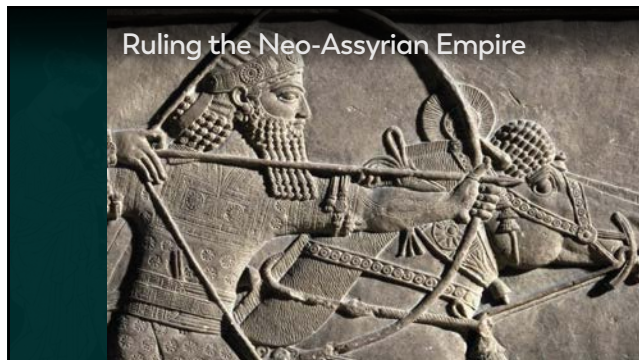
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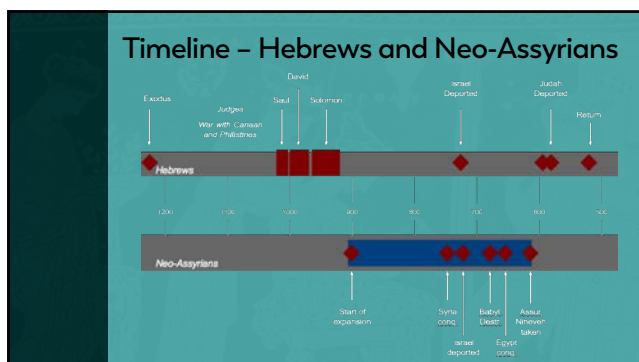
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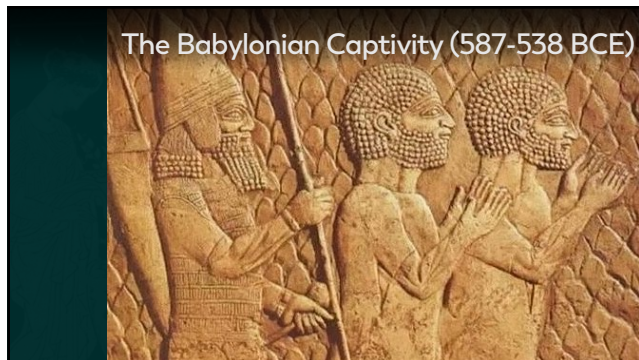
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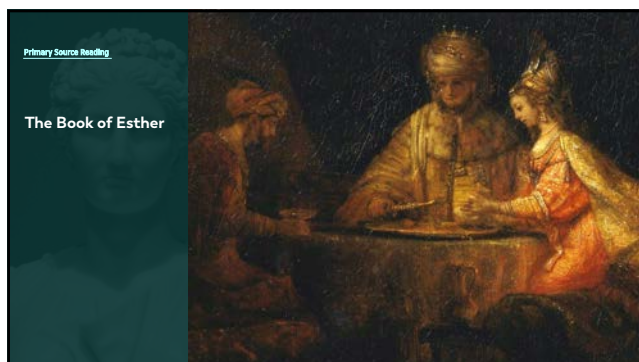
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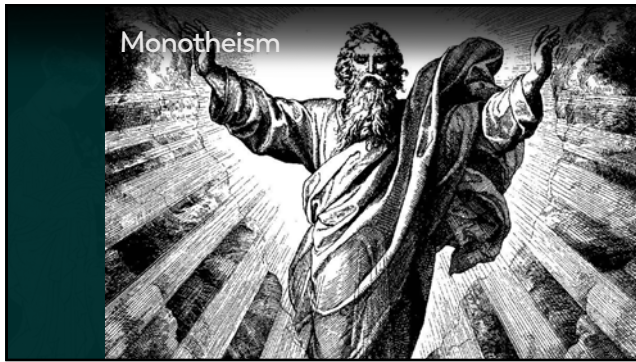
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Why does monotheism lead to female exclusion?

- The covenant creates a mutually conditional relationship
- Need to be worthy creates a focus on purity and education
- Purity is affected by menstruation
 - Jews have a longstanding tradition of taboo regarding blood
 - Menstruation = ritually unpure
- Education requires constant presence for all training, holy days, and rituals

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Secondary Source Reading

Leonie J. Archer

"Notions of Community and the Exclusion of the Female in Jewish History and Historiography"

► **SOME TAKEAWAYS**

- Sense of exclusion varies
 - Across time
 - Across class—what we know most about is toward upper end of society
- Tend to find ways to assert gender identity through their own communities
- Collective expression in public or in an insular way

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Ancient Religions

<p>Polytheism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumer • Akkad • Babylon • Assyria • Egypt • Anatolia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitites • Aegean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minoans • Mycenaans • Classical Greeks 	<p>Dualism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoroastrianism • Mithraism 	<p>Monotheism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel and Judah (Judaism) • Christianity
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Hellenistic Canaan

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Secondary Source Reading

Leonie J. Archer

“The Role of Jewish Women in the Religion, Ritual, and Cult of Graeco-Roman Palestine”

► **SOME TAKEAWAYS**

- Later period when separation reaches the logical extreme
- Only participation publicly is through weeping
- Within the family is profoundly different

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