



Women in Antiquity
Spring 2025

MEETING 10

Women and the Kingdom of Israel

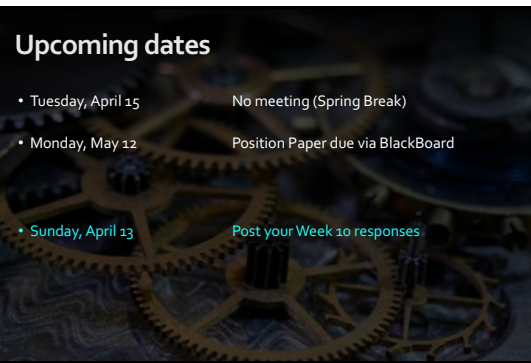
- The Kingdom of Israel
- Abraham and Isaac
- The Babylonian Captivity
- Ruth and Esther
- Monotheism and Gender



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Upcoming dates

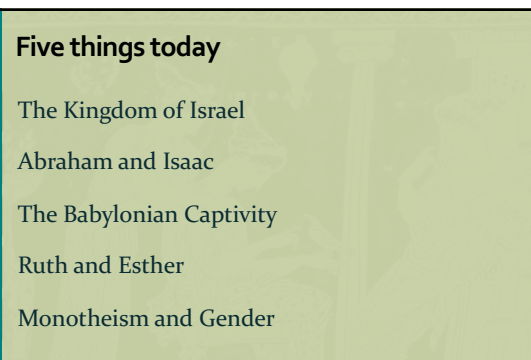
- Tuesday, April 15 No meeting (Spring Break)
- Monday, May 12 Position Paper due via BlackBoard
- Sunday, April 13 Post your Week 10 responses



2

Five things today

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



3



4

Quiz #7: Women and the Kingdom of Israel

1. According to the Book of Esther, Esther saves her people by

- a. defying the law that she cannot present herself to the king and demanding that he do as she asks
- b. hosting a wine banquet for the king and Haman, at which the besotted king offers her anything**
- c. using her authority as the queen to command the guards to prevent the massacre
- d. pleading God for a miracle

2. In the story of Ruth, after her husband, brother-in-law, and father-in-law all die, the Moabite woman Ruth decides to do

- a. wander the Earth as a holy woman
- b. journey to Babylon to become a priestess
- c. stay in Moab alone
- d. remain loyal to her husband's family and return to his homeland, Judah**

3. The Judcan landholder whom Ruth meets at the threshing of the grain and who later marries her is

- a. Boaz**
- b. Ben
- c. Ben
- d. Wener

4. In the Book of Esther, the threat to the Persian Jewish community is posed by

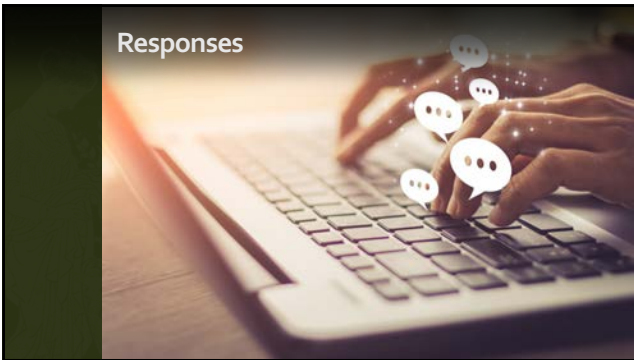
- a. Mordecai's refusal to bow to the king's vizier, Haman**
- b. the Jewish God's wrath at his people's infidelity
- c. the raging, bloodthirsty personality of the king
- d. a rampage of wild animals

5. Abasurus is the name of Esther's

- a. king**
- b. companion
- c. compact with God
- d. cat

EC. In the Book of Esther, how is the behavior of Vashti, the previous queen, contrasted with Esther's?

5



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Questions about whatever

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Ancient History – Fall 2025



HISTORY OF ANCIENT GREECE

HIA 320 / 720
THURSDAYS 6:00–8:40 PM

The unfolding and culmination of civilization in Greece, through key transformations of Greek culture and city-states from the Bronze Age up through the hellenization of the east.

3 credits • Writing Intensive • Research Intensive



WOMEN IN ANTIQUITY

HIA 311 / 750
TUESDAYS 6:00–8:40 PM

Examination of the image, role and status of women in both Ancient Greek and Roman society as seen from the important literary works of antiquity.

3 credits • Writing Intensive • Research Intensive



CIVILIZATIONS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

HIS 246
TUES/THURS 3:00–4:15 PM

A survey of the Mediterranean world, tracing the development of civilization from Mesopotamia and Egypt to ancient Greek City States and the fall of Rome.

markbawson.com/courses

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Questions about whatever

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The Kingdom of Israel

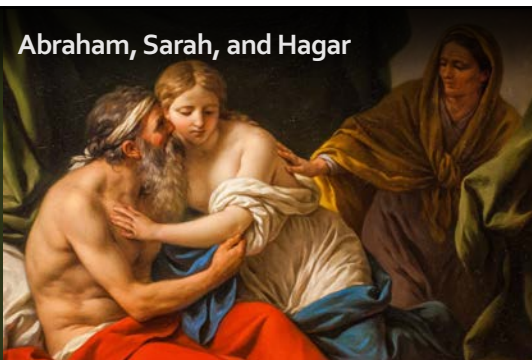
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The Fertile Crescent



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Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar



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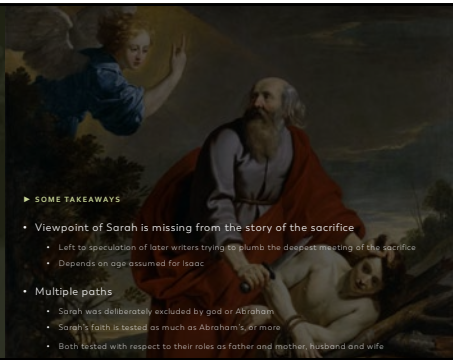
Secondary Source Reading

Sebastian Brock

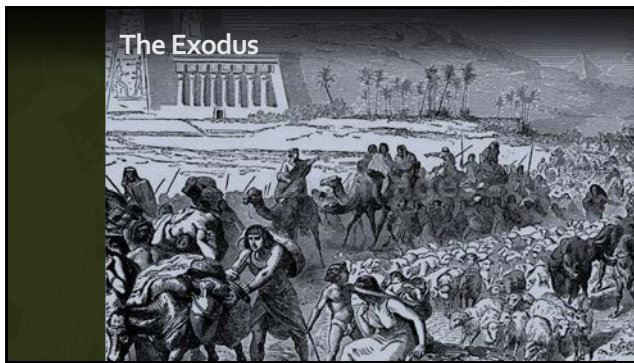
Reading Between the Lines: Sarah and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis, Chap. 22)

► 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, if more
 - Both tested with respect to their roles as father and mother, husband and wife



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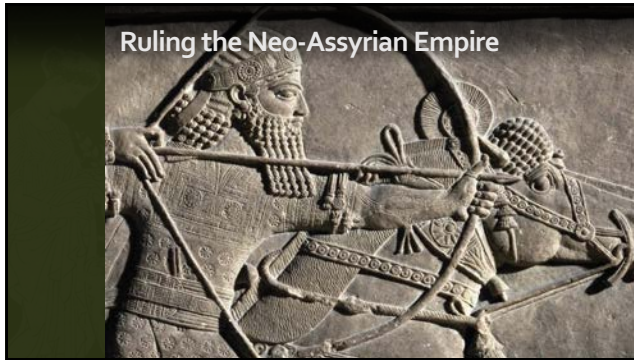
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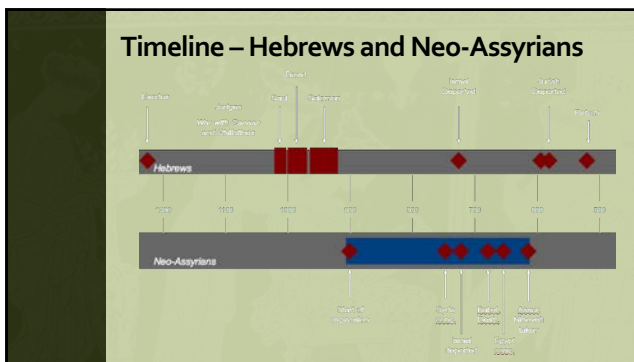
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The Babylonian Captivity (587-538 BCE)



25

Eve



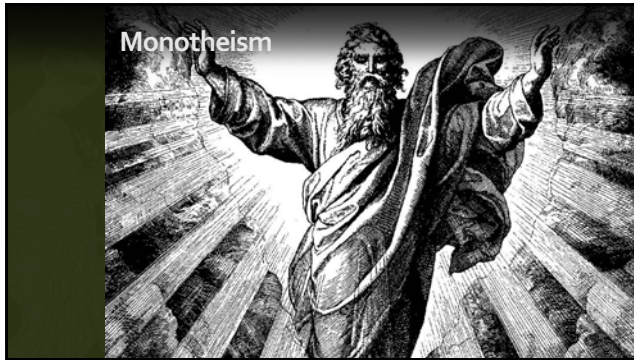
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Primary Source Reading

The Book of Esther



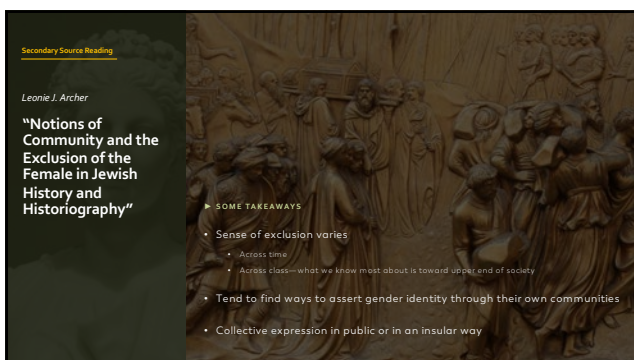
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Ancient Religions

Polytheism

- Mesopotamia
 - Sumer
 - Akkad
 - Babylon
 - Assyria
- Egypt
- Anatolia
 - Hittites
- Aegean
 - Minoans
 - Mycenaeans
 - Classical Greeks

Dualism

- Persia
 - Zoroastrianism
 - Mithraism

Monotheism

- 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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