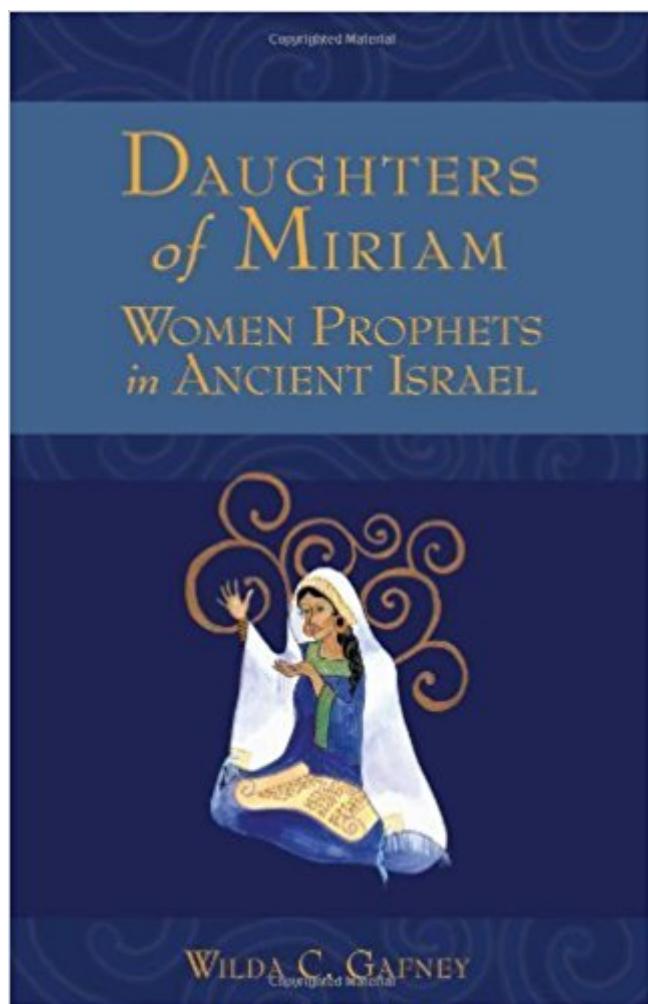


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Daughters Of Miriam: Women Prophets In Ancient Israel



Synopsis

There are untold numbers of female prophets hiding in the masculine grammar and androcentric focus of the Hebrew scriptures. There are women-prophets in the communities around biblical Israel, existing for hundreds of years and even a thousand years before the Israelite and Judean prophets recorded their messages. The rabbinic and Christian fathers analyzed and found more women in the scriptures who function as prophets than the biblical authors identify. All of these female prophets have an intimate connection with the God of Israel; they express that connection by singing, dancing, drumming, speaking with and for God, waging war, performing miracles, exercising statecraft, and giving birth. Each of them is a daughter of Miriam, the mother of all women-prophets. Women prophets gave powerful voice to Yahwist faith at the formative moments in ancient Israel's development, and were expected in biblical visions of the future. Now they come to the foreground as Wilda Gafney explores prophetic practices in ancient Israel, its near eastern environment, and early and rabbinic Judaism as well.

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Customer Reviews

This is for certain people and I chose this for my Christian studies. I enjoyed it very much.

This book is a great read for anyone looking to expand their understanding of women's roles in Ancient Israel. While Rev. Gafney is Christian, I found her to be completely non-dogmatic. I was actually very surprised to learn she is Christian and not Jewish, based on her writing in this book. As a Kohenet ([...]), this book fit beautifully into the teachings of my religious order and expanded my understanding of certain areas of the text we had studied. I recommend this book to anyone Jewish or Christian looking to explore women's roles and traditions in the Torah.

very nice book, have to take your time when reading it. it's deep.

I am a fan of Gafney's work, but was worried that this piece might not be accessible for "the average consumer." Not the case at all! I use one of her chapters with participants in a church Bible study and, with a little help, the people fully engaged around the material.

This book is unique in its genre. It not only gives a great overview of scholarship about women prophets in the Hebrew Bible, but it offers its own theses including the idea that there are many more female voices than the modern reader recognizes in the Hebrew Bible. Gafney is thoughtful and convincing.

well researched and an eye-opener.

This is an excellent book. It gives a good overview of women prophets in Hebrew scriptures and also in the wider Ancient Near Eastern Environment. The book is well documented and provides great bibliographical resources for those wanting to pursue further research.

The author is certainly readable and follows accepted academic standards for citations, etc. Her thesis is that certain Hebrew plural pronouns and verbs POSSIBLY indicate both females and males in translation. She cites the accepted knowledge about prophetic ministries of both sexes in non-Hebraic cultures of the pre-Israelite ANE. Her introductory commentary on feminist interpretations is quite current and most clear. She promotes a "flexible interpretation" (p.18) of scripture, as well as interpretations about the practitioners of "non-sanctioned inquiry techniques" (p. 24). Much of her thesis rests upon her particular translation abilities and interpretations, and her

identification of nuances not evident to Hebraists in the last several centuries. In NIV Ex 38:8 we read "8 They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." The author translates "women" as "warriors" and is certainly not ambiguous in asserting: "In keeping with the martial range of tz-b-' and the desert-sanctuary context, I translate hatzov'ot asher tzaue'v as 'the women-warriors stationed'" (p.154). On the same page, the author claims: "I found it highly likely that their mirrors, mar'ot, were used as signaling devices in combat, making the women a Bronze Age Signal Corps.." If the author's conclusions from the tenuous premises arouse you, then you will undoubtedly like this book. If they don't, then....

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