

- Proverbs 31 Session 1 - For the Love of Eve

Setting up:

Conceptual accuracy & language used

Definitive vs perspective

Goal:

Isaiah 57:14

“Build up, build up the highway! Clear the road! Remove all obstacles from the road of My people!”

2Corinthians 10:3-5

“ Though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every high minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every though captive to obey Messiah.”

Artichokes and Onions: the Parallel Histories of Women & Israel

Back to the beginning:

Genesis 2-3

Pain, Urge & Rule(r)

Ezekiel 10

The Bible's genderless lack of criticism of sneaky behavior

The Snowball:

Ancient world - 70 b.c.e. (Biblical history for Israel)

Paul / Peter:

The courtroom / synagogue function vs. “church” service

Teaching & Exercising Authority, Modesty & the quiet spirit

By the first century BCE traditional interpretations of scripture had centered on the origination of SIN being the focal point of the creation story and the fault/blame is wholly placed on Chava.

70AD, the Jewish Diaspora and the Church

The Wisdom of Ben Sira, (Hellenistic period)

“Better is the wickedness of a man than the goodness of a woman, from a woman did sin originate, and because of her we all must die.”

“Why does the woman walk in front of the corpse at a funeral, and why was the precept of menstruation given to her? Because she shed the blood of Adam (by bringing death to man. And why was the precept of Challah given to her? Because she corrupted Adam, who was the Challah of the world. And why was the precept of the Sabbath lights given to her? Because she extinguished the soul of Adam.”

Genesis Rabbah 1512

Cultural views:

Greek influence:

Women are no better than children and dogs, untamed, animal-like beings that need to be controlled and dominated by men.

Highly segregated society

Mythology: The Battle of the sexes with the victory of males over females = the foundation of civilized society

Pandoras Box Zeus sent women as a punishment to men

Roman influence highly patriarchal

Bible stories were "rewritten" and female behavior eroticized in both Hellenistic & Rabbinical writings

The Mothers of our faith were given attributes not on the page and all their achievements became the result of their seductions and remembered as objects of lust. Our heroines best attributes became their "curses."

ie., Eve is said to have had sex with the serpent, thus bringing lust into the world.

See: The Ten Curses of Chava

<https://wjudaism.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wjudaism/article/view/32359>

Hair coverings, extremes modesty clothing, singing/voices silenced, segregation during prayer, discouraged from participation in communal prayer

"The church inherited the bible and Hellenism and went even further than the Rabbis. To the church fathers sexuality was the antithesis to holiness...a demonic power...and women were the embodiment of that power."

"As the church became more Greek, it became more patriarchal; as it became more Roman, the process intensified. Emerging Christianity incorporated misogynistic and anti-erotic themes and made them central to its ideas about human existence" (Behavior)

On opposite ends of the spectrum of religious teaching the words of the church fathers were held in higher regard by the people, than the Bible/God = The 2nd century - 6th, Talmud, also. (w/stresses segregation)

With the loss of the (Jewish) Apostles and first hand testimonies we run headlong into the dark hole of...

325 CE The Council of Nicaea / Constantine separates the church from Israel and OT/Jewish foundation

Discussed council:

Easter

Trinity

Celibacy of the clergy

Ordination of Deaconesses

SEE WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH PAPER

<http://godswordtowomen.org/walford2.htm>

The world has progressed...but sadly there are still fundamentalist branches of Judeo-Christian practice that hold on to these beliefs.

"It is a tremendous irony that these conservative groups, who hold to the literal authenticity of biblical statements, view these statements through the prism of later interpretation and are in fact reinforcing Hellenistic rather than (Hebrew) biblical ideas."

"Feminism in simple terms means equality among the genders. One must understand that SEX is biological whereas GENDER is something social... Feminism is not the modern fad which claims everything that women do is against men." -Quora.com-

The long climb from 1517 & Luther's reformation

Coincidence on "parallel" timeline:

Suffrage 1918-1920 and the **Balfour** declaration 1917

Regaining Jerusalem 1967 AND USA

Prohibition of sex discrimination by government contractors 1968