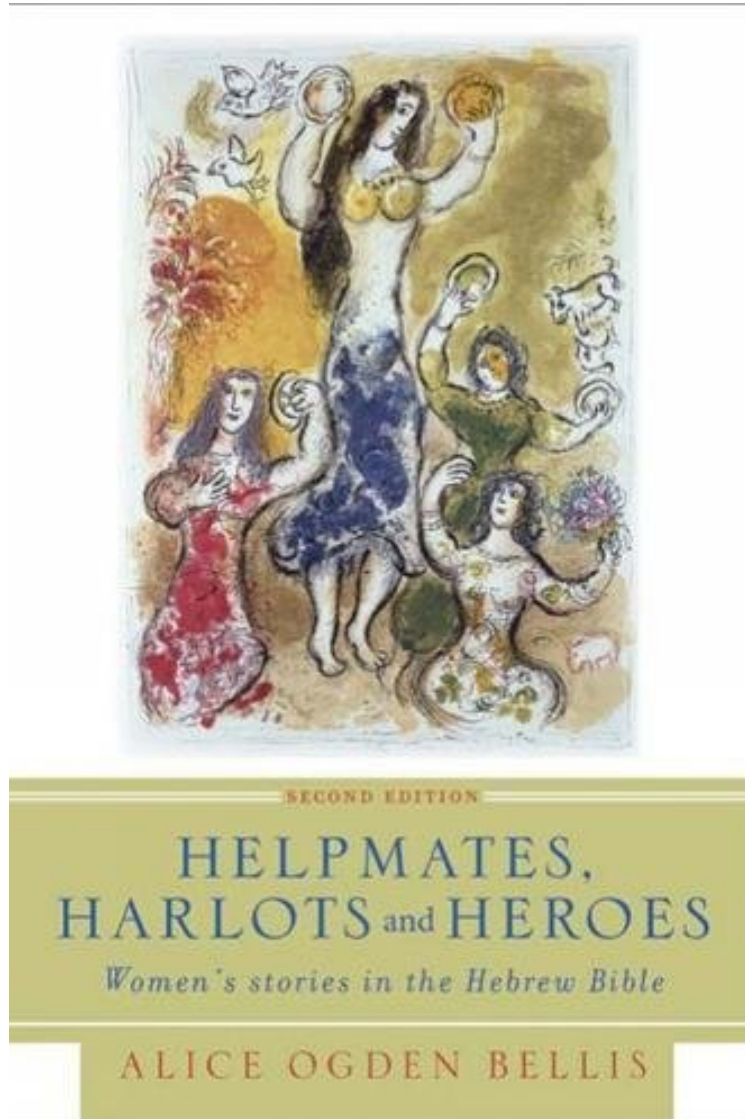


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Helpmates, Harlots, and Heroes, Second Edition: Women's Stories in the Hebrew Bible

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Helpmates Harlots and Heroes of the Hebrew Bible by Alice Ogden

Bellis. By Constant Reader This is not a book for the Fundamentalist Christian that believes that every word in the Bible is inspired by God. The Author's purpose is to present the various secular Feminist and Womanish evaluations of the Women of the Bible in terms of their oppressive, Patriarchal culture and times in which they lived. In most cases their stories are presented in a way that ignores the spiritual context in favor of contrasting the ethical and ethnic contradictions to what women of today must deal with in the area of sexual oppression and harassment compared to similar situations in the lives of Bible women. The author uses the scholarly four points of addressing historical or spiritual women. Quotes from various Feminist and Womanish scholars are used to support the points the author wishes to emphasize in each Bible woman's life. As a book to teach one the acceptable scholarly method of evaluation any book's characters, or to help the Christian understand the non-Christian point of view on these Bible Characters, this book is excellent. Dr. Bellis is a Bible Languages teacher at Brown University in Washington D.C. If the Christian is not offended by other views of Bible Stories, they can learn much from this book. I enjoyed it and recommend it highly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but not a bad read if that's what you're looking for

By Catherine LoI had to buy this book for a college course I was taking on Biblical Studies. I'm not very religious by any means, the book wasn't hard to read in terms of having to have extensive of prior biblical knowledge. The format of the book is set up in smaller "story" sections, and features different author's views on stories from the Bible, particularly from women's views of it. This book treads on the feminist side of perspectives, but not a bad read if that's what you're looking for. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Johnthebaptist Awesome book. Dr. Bellis does a stellar job with an overview and survey of this biblical women.

This best-selling book, now revised and updated, shares the work of many feminist biblical scholars who have examined women's stories for several years. These stories are powerful accounts of women in the Old Testament--stories that have profoundly affected how women understand themselves as well as men's perception of them. Here, Alice Bellis shares the research of feminist biblical scholarship during a quarter of a century, which renders a vast amount of refreshing, exciting, sometimes disturbing material.

From Library Journal Bellis (divinity, Howard Univ.) massages every ounce of meaning from the question, Who are these women of the Old Testament? Bellis is a master of the tools of biblical interpretation, with considerable skills in Semitic languages. Drawing on contemporary scholarship, both feminist and "womanist" (the "banner under which black feminists celebrate their unique identity"), she compares modern interpretation of well-known figures like Rachel and Rebekah ("active and strong women") and the also-rans like Susanna and especially Judith ("one of the strongest heroes in all Jewish literature"). Above all, Bellis is a teacher; this work contains religious education aids, including discussion questions and extensive notes and bibliographies. Truly a labor of love, this work is highly recommended for religion and women's studies collections, seminaries, and churches.- Sandra Collins, SLIS, Univ. of Pittsburgh

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Alice Ogden Bellis is Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature at the Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister and active member of the Society of Biblical Literature.