# Bible Study 88

August 2, 2023

 “THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE.”

This is a suggested and well looked to program that carefully examines the women of the Bible from Eve to those early companions of Paul who built the Early Christian Communities. Just how many of these women can you name?

Eve; Lot’s Wife; Sarah; Rebekah; Leah; Rachel; Zipporah; Deborah; Judith; Naomi; Ruth; Michal; Bathsheba; the Queen of Sheba; Jezebel; Esther; Elizabeth; Mary; Salome; Anna; Lydia; Phoebe.

The problem with the picture of women in scripture, is that scripture was written by men. This in some way explains the paradox of Hebrew / Jewish life. Anyone who has worked, lived among, or indeed had friends in the Jewish community, knows this singular truth: Jewish women are the heart of every family; Judaism; and indeed, the nation.

History was against the women of the Bible, born into a male dominated society. Despite that fact, woman play an enormous role in the Great Saga of Israel’s Salvation. Think about it. Everything in the universe is male or female, including plants. Nothing moves or grows, evolves, or births without this one fact that everything is female and male.

The ‘Praying Mantis’ is a solidary insect that mates once a year. She then bites off the head of the male. Praying Mantis who jumps the gun and bite first, simply do not mate. Moose also roam alone across the frozen Tundra, only coming together to mate in the Spring. Little wonder that the plural of ‘Moose’ is Moose!

In recent Theology it has been a popular topic of discussion to question whether God is male or female, in the light of humankind being created in his/her image. Purists will tell you that God, per se, is ‘pure spirit’. It is an easy ‘out!’---Pragmatists will tell you that women are the creative force in any society, and it is something of a contradiction to think God is male. Certainly the Greeks believed in male and female deities

In Ireland, and other places, authorities educate boys and girls separately. Hence year after year the North of Ireland achieves the highest and best Public Examination results in the whole of the United Kingdom. Results show that boys perform worse when they are in a co-ed school setting and that both sexes do much better educated separately. Overall, in the USA girls out perform boys in every subject by some ten to fifteen percent. In 2001, the New York Times reported that unless top Ivy League schools discriminated again girls, there would be few boys in any of their University Colleges. Hence girls are often refused places to accommodate boys and balance the boy/girl ratio.

Whereas boys once dominated in math and science, this is no longer the case. Girls have caught up and surpassed boys’ level of achievement.---By the age of five most children know some 15 thousand words. Most, taught by a woman at their knee. Women can multi-task much better than men and in the workplace this ability has led to a disparity in performance that is often never rewarded with equal pay or deserved promotion.

So what is the answer? To me it is basic ‘tribalism’ where the biggest and most brutish male dominates and suberates or kills all rivals. Hence, violence, conflict and war as the chosen option for settling all disputes.

My solution” ‘let us explore and learn from the good women of the Bible.’

Fr. Bill