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# Access Free The Divine Feminine In Biblical Wisdom Literature Selections Annotated Explained Skylight Illuminations

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## **9ZIMDM - AINSLEY BOOTH**

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Insightful commentary explains Sophia's way of wisdom through the Wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible and illustrates the countless opportunities to experience Her creative energy through which God fashions all things.

Contemporary translations and powerful commentaries clarify who Wisdom is, what she teaches, and how her words can help you live justly, wisely, and with compas-

sion. Original. \$25,000 ad/promo.

When Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, was published, it did something that many biblical scholars were not able to do. It posed difficult questions about the role of women in Jesus' life and in the early church, and brought these questions to the forefront of biblical conversations. Many grew up with only a sketchy acquaintance with the many women whose stories march through the pages of the Old and New Testaments. Their stories were not

told, and their heroism was unsung. Today, however, more and more scholars are turning their attention to the stories of those women of valor. Nowhere are they as prominent and as central as in the Gospel of John. Judith Kaye Jones contends that the Gospel of John does not just include stories about women, it is structured around stories of women. In this unique testament, women and their encounters with Jesus provide the framework for the central message of Jesus.

The clear and compelling wisdom of the rabbinic sages can become a companion for your own spiritual journey. At the heart of Judaism is an ethical imperative to live life from your true self, as the image and likeness of God. To do this, you must see the greatness of God manifest in all things, and therefore engage each moment with grace, humility, and justice. This imperative flowers in the words of the early Rabbis (250 BCE 250 CE), who captured God's call to be holy in Pirke Avot, a collection of pithy sayings on how best to live an ethical life. This engaging introduction to the wisdom sayings of the rabbinic sages puts you in direct conversation with them, allowing the sages to speak directly to you about what matters in life and how to live it with dignity. With fresh, contemporary translation and provocative commentary, Rabbi Rami Shapiro focuses on the central themes in this Jewish wisdom compendium study, kindness, compassion. He clarifies the rabbinic proverbs and parables in order to expose the ethical principles at their root. By recalling the ancient voices of the rabbinic sages, he shows us the contemporary significance of their timeless wisdom and distills Pirke Avot not as a book about

ethics but as a practical guide to living ethically today. Now you can experience the wisdom of the early Rabbis even if you have no previous knowledge of Judaism or rabbinic literature. This SkyLight Illuminations edition presents the ethical teachings of the rabbinic sages, with insightful yet unobtrusive commentary that conveys Pirke Avot's core challenge of God to the Jewish people, and through them all humanity: We are to be holy as God is holy. We are to be, in a human way, what God is in a divine way.

In all religions, the goddess or the feminine aspect of God has been hidden under doctrine and dogma. The root of equality is left trampled in the ruins of the ancient temples that scatter the globe; Gracie created this book to bring her back to her original glory. This book is intended to help women love their flesh, their original beauty, to do away with the plastic and the pornographic. Real women are organic, their bodies unique; their bodies are their own. Gracie's dreams led her down this path; because of her vivid spiritual and mystical dreams, she began to study Jungian dream analogy; Jung led her to Albert Einstein. Th-

ese two brilliant minds could connect the mysteries for her. She understands it is the mysteries that lead us. It is Gracie's intention to bring into awareness, sacred sexuality through the God and Goddess archetypical wisdom of healthy, mature sexuality for the sake of love, lust, and spirituality.

An enlightening follow-up to the bestselling book *The Case for Christ*, *In Defense of Jesus* follows award-winning journalist Lee Strobel as he explores the most explosive arguments against the identity of Christ as the Messiah. Has modern scholarship debunked the traditional Christ? Has the church suppressed the truth about Jesus to advance its own agenda? What if the real Jesus is far different from the atoning Savior worshiped through the centuries? *In Defense of Jesus* explores such hot-button questions as: Did the church suppress ancient non-biblical documents that paint a more accurate picture of Jesus than the four Gospels? Did the church distort the truth about Jesus by tampering with early New Testament texts? Do new insights

and explanations disprove the resurrection? Have fresh arguments disqualified Jesus from being the Messiah? Did Christianity steal its core ideas from earlier mythology? Evaluate the arguments and evidence being advanced by prominent atheists, liberal theologians, Muslim scholars, and others. Sift through expert testimony. Then reach your own verdict with *In Defense of Jesus*. This title is also available in Spanish, *En defensa de Jesús*.

In this masterful commentary, respected biblical scholar Bruce Waltke carefully interprets the message of the prophet Micah, building a bridge between Micah's ancient world and our life today. Waltke's *Commentary on Micah* quickly distinguishes itself from other commentaries on this book by displaying an unprecedented exegetical thoroughness, an expert understanding of historical context, and a keen interest in illuminating the contribution of Micah to Christian theology. Tackling hard questions about date and authorship, Waltke contends that Micah himself wrote and edited the nineteen sermons comprising the book. Waltke's clear

analytical outline leads readers through the three cycles of Micah, each beginning with an oracle of doom and ending with an oracle of hope, decisively showing that hope wins over doom. Learned yet amazingly accessible, combining scholarly erudition with passion for Micah's contemporary relevance, this book will well serve teachers, pastors, and students alike.

*The Feminine in Jungian Psychology and in Christian Theology* investigates the implications for Christian theology of Jung's special insights into the feminine. In it, Ann Belford Ulanov gathers together in one volume what Jung and Jungians have discovered about the feminine in order to explore what Jungian thought and methods may illuminate about the place of the feminine in Christian theology. Jung focuses on the human person and sees as central its mixture of masculine and feminine elements. In a time when so much is asserted and written about women in society--their rights, roles, identities, needs, and contributions--it is especially significant that Jung asserts the existence of the feminine as a key element, not only in women but in men as

well. No less contested are the roles and identities of Christians. Ulanov brings into focus the deep and fascinating connections between theology and psychology.

Explores the archetypal role of the Divine Feminine in Eastern and Western spirituality and helps to clarify the position of Mary Magdalene. This book includes 55 black and white illustrations, 2 maps and 12 questions for discussion.

Spiritual wisdom for the millions of Americans who are moving away from traditional houses of worship in their quest for God. Endorsements: "A calm, well-balanced, carefully prepared book. . . . Excellent for adult Bible discussion groups, for occasional sermons, for suggesting ways of inclusive language. This book teaches and directs without antagonizing." --*The Bible Today* "A persuasive book, useful for personal reflection and group discussion, and ideal for gift-giving." --*Daughters of Sarah* "This is no dry erudite volume. It rubs salve in personal wounds inflicted by centuries of biblical misreading." --*Sojourners* "The book reflects careful research; it is written in a style that will appeal to those interested in the implications of biblical re-

search but without the time or inclination to follow the involved discussions of biblical scholarship." --National Catholic Reporter

Teilhard de Chardin, twentieth-century paleontologist and Jesuit, envisioned an explosion in global communication that could expand human consciousness to the point of universal empathy. In the process, he joined his scientific knowledge to his religious faith. Exploring Teilhard's ideas in biblical texts, Marie Sabin discovers that his vision has ancient seeds. In the book of Job, the Gospel of John, and in Proverbs' feminine Wisdom, as well as in the gospels' Christ, she finds a persistent theme of evolving human consciousness. The texts ground Teilhard's futuristic thought in ancient wisdom, while Teilhard's evolutionary insights give these ancient voices contemporary relevance.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY has frequently been unkind in its interpretations of things as pertain to women. This has left many women under the impression that they have no voice and no relevance in the Christian life, must accept a subordinate place to men by divine design, or that

they must surrender themselves to an identity that is void of purpose and meaning unless they attach themselves to a human male figure. This has sent many women away from Christian identity, believing that being a woman of purpose and a Christian are mutually exclusive. Despite many years of scholarship, feminist instruction, and teachings on women, it seems like Christianity is doomed to deny its women any sense of proper identity. Such is the result of a lack of Christian scholarship, biased and sexist translators, and traditions that teach us to turn our heads to anything unfamiliar or outside of our customary backgrounds. The multitudes of Christian women (and women in general) never hear of the many female representations, identities, expressions, and spiritual perceptions found within the Scriptures and the history of the church. In *The Divine Feminine: A Treatise On The Female In Christian Spirituality* Dr. Lee Ann B. Marino, Ph.D., D.Min., D.D. explores these different female touch points as found within Biblical understanding, grammatical language, church history, and spiritual understanding, ready for embrace in our present day. Read along to learn why it is a

powerful and blessed thing to be a woman - from a Biblical and Christian perspective - and why all things female - from Eve, to Ruth, to wisdom, to love, to the Church and the Holy Spirit - are identified as female, with female characteristics - for a reason. Almost two decades in the making, whether this book challenges or affirms you, it will definitely be an eye-opening, spiritually changing, read.

The pure and penetrating message of the *Divine Feminine - Wisdom* - can become a companion for your own spiritual journey. The first of God's creations and God's endless delight, Wisdom (also known as Chochma and Sophia) is the Mother of all life, the guide to right living - She is God manifest in the world you encounter moment to moment. Her teachings, embedded in the Holy Scriptures of Jews and Christians, are passionate, powerful calls to live in harmony, love with integrity and act joyously. Through the Hebrew books of Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Job, and the Wisdom literature books of Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon, the *Divine Feminine* speaks to you directly, and Her only desire is to teach you to become wise. Rami Shapiro's contemporary transla-

tions and powerful commentaries clarify who Wisdom is, what She teaches, and how Her words can help you live justly, wisely and with compassion. This is not a book about Wisdom but the voice of Wisdom Herself, liberating, uplifting and compelling. Now you can experience the Divine Feminine and understand Her teachings with no previous knowledge of Wisdom literature. This SkyLight Illuminations edition presents insightful commentary that explains Sophia's way of wisdom and illustrates the countless opportunities to experience Her creative energy through which God fashions all things.

A practical guide for inviting the wisdom of Mary Magdalene into everyday life • Provides a unique workbook for use in the spiritual pathwork of Magdalene Circles • Includes wisdom stories, guided meditations, journaling questions, and essays by Margaret Starbird, author of *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar* • Designed for those involved in Magdalene Circles and those interested in applying the sacred feminine wisdom of the Goddess to their lives Women's circles have been called a "revolutionary-evolutionary movement hidden in plain sight" by Jean Shinoda Bolen and

have been hailed as capable of affecting global change. Magdalene Circles are groups of women who focus their shared energies on the wisdom of Mary Magdalene to gain insight into the role of the sacred feminine in their own lives and to help them advance on their spiritual paths. This book offers 14 lessons to help understand the wisdom offered by Mary Magdalene's story and mythos. Among the lessons are prophecies of the bride, why we need the bride, Magdalene's archetypal pattern of descent, and how modern women carry the Grail. Well-suited for the individual reader as well as a group, each lesson includes an introduction, guided meditation, questions for journaling, and an essay by Margaret Starbird as well as suggestions for group sharing. Placing Mary Magdalene within the pattern of "cyclic renewal" of earth-based religions, this book offers the chance to incorporate the sacred feminine wisdom of Mary Magdalene into everyday life for Christians and spiritual feminists alike.

Almighty Goddess: Presenting the Long-Suppressed Biblical Proof that The Holy Spirit of the Divine Trinity Is a Feminine Person / A Woman's Place Is in God's Plan:

How the Bible Promotes Female Equality By: Dennis Keith Klopp Are you ready to know the truth of the Trinity and live a better and more hopeful spiritual life? For too long Christian religious texts have been misread and misunderstood. The Christian God is made up of the God the Father, God the Son - and Goddess the Holy Spirit, the Divine Mother and Wife, the All-Wise Counselor. Dennis Keith Klopp brings to light the powerful female divine that has always been a part of the Christian faith. Using the Bible, Apocrypha, and detailed Hebrew translations, Klopp proves how feminine Holy Spirit has been with us since the beginning. She is Solomon's female Wisdom, the true Mother of Jesus, and our eternal advocate and comforter. She is in our hearts and will guide you to peace and individual righteousness. Worshipping the Trinity as a Holy Family will change how you see God and your role in the world. Klopp shares how this new view of the inclusive family of God will reveal information about Heaven, angels, and the Divine Plan for humankind. The feminine Holy Spirit is not a new idea - She has been with us always and has and now you can see her role and yours in the world.

The hope of this book is that it awakens desire to know more intimately the God who breaks through our compartmentalization and naming. While most in the West have heard God's name as almost exclusively masculine, a child growing up in Israel would have experienced the Spirit of God, and Lady Wisdom, as female. This ruach, the breath of God, brooded over the face of the deep in the creation story like a hovering mother bird. The God of the Bible and the early church has been described with both masculine and feminine imagery, referred to by the church fathers and mystics as both Mother and Father. In our time we have lost much of this rich feminine imagery. This book explores not only this historical knowing of God but also more contemporary writers, such as Carl Jung, Paul Young (The Shack), George MacDonald, and Thomas Merton. Each of these men engaged with the Divine Feminine, giving us examples of how we too may find God more deeply and more intimately. Reveals the tradition of goddess worship in early Judaism and how Jesus attempted to restore the feminine side of the faith • Provides historical and archaeological evidence for an earlier form of Hebrew wor-

ship with both male and female gods, including a 20th-century discovery of a Hebrew temple dedicated to both Yahweh and the warrior goddess Anat • Explores the Hebrew pantheon of goddesses, including Yahweh's wife, Asherah, goddess of fertility and childbirth • Shows how both Jesus and his great rival Simon Magus were attempting to restore the ancient, goddess-worshipping religion of the Israelites Despite what Jews and Christians--and indeed most people--believe, the ancient Israelites venerated several deities besides the Old Testament god Yahweh, including the goddess Asherah, Yahweh's wife, who was worshipped openly in the Jerusalem Temple. After the reforms of King Josiah and Prophet Jeremiah, the religion recognized Yahweh alone, and history was rewritten to make it appear that it had always been that way. The worship of Asherah and other goddesses was now heresy, and so the status of women was downgraded and they were blamed for God's wrath. However, as Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince reveal, the spiritual legacy of the Jewish goddesses and the Sacred Feminine lives on. Drawing on historical research, they examine how goddess worship thrived in ear-

ly Judaism and included a pantheon of goddesses. They share new evidence for an earlier form of Hebrew worship that prayed to both male and female gods, including a 20th-century archaeological discovery of a Hebrew temple dedicated to both Yahweh and the goddess Anat. Uncovering the Sacred Feminine in early Christianity, the authors show how, in the first century AD, both Jesus and his great rival, Simon Magus, were attempting to restore the goddess-worshipping religion of the Israelites. The authors reveal how both men accorded great honor to the women they adored and who traveled with them as priestesses, Jesus's Mary Magdalene and Simon's Helen. But, as had happened centuries before, the Church rewrote history to erase the feminine side of the faith, deliberately ignoring Jesus's real message and again condemning women to marginalization and worse. Providing all the necessary evidence to restore the goddess to both Judaism and Christianity, Picknett and Prince expose the disastrous consequences of the suppression of the feminine from these two great religions and reveal how we have been collectively and instinctively craving the return of the Sacred

Feminine for millennia.

"The face of the divine feminine can be found everywhere in Mexico. One of the most striking features of Mexican religious life is the prevalence of images of the Virgin Mother of God. This is partly because the divine feminine played such a prominent role in pre-Hispanic Mexican religion. Goddess images were central to the devotional life of the Aztecs, especially peasants and those living in villages outside the central city of Tenochtitlan (present day Mexico City). In these rural communities fertility and fecundity, more than war rituals and sacrificial tribute, were the main focus of cultic activity. Both Aztec goddesses and the Christian Madonnas who replaced them were associated, and sometimes identified, with nature and the environment: the earth, water, trees and other sources of creativity and vitality. This book uncovers the myths and images of 22 Aztec Goddesses and 28 Christian Madonnas of Mexico. Their rich and symbolic meaning is revealed by placing them in the context of the religious worldviews in which they appear and by situating them within the devotional life of the faithful for whom they function as powerful me-

diators of divine grace and terror"--Publisher.

More than ancient erotic love poetry, this celebration of the human relationship with Wisdom can be a companion for your own spiritual journey. The Song of Songs is the Hebrew Bible's deeply erotic poem of love, sexual yearning and consummation. Holding it sacred yet troubled by its thinly veiled eroticism, Jews and Christians for millennia have read the Song of Songs as an allegory of God's love for Israel—the classic Jewish understanding—or Jesus's love for his Church—the classic Christian understanding. This fresh translation restores the Song's eroticism and interprets it as a celebration of the love between the Divine Feminine and the contemporary spiritual seeker. Scholar and award-winning teacher Rami Shapiro renders this ancient love song as Lady Wisdom offering seekers physical and spiritual intimacy with her so that they might awaken to and participate wisely in the unity of God, woman, man and nature. His intriguing facing-page commentary provides historical, religious and spiritual insights from Christian and Jewish wisdom traditions as well as clear comparisons to other translations. Now

you can understand the poetry, beauty, genius and mystery of the Song of Songs with no previous knowledge of the Hebrew Bible or wisdom literature. Compelling in its novelty and accessible in its presentation, this version of the Song of Songs will beckon you more deeply into Jewish-Christian sacred texts while offering you wisdom teachings and practices rooted in but not limited to religion.

Here are the stories about biblical women that are not widely known but remain relevant particularly today for women and men of all faith and backgrounds. As archetypes, biblical women hold the spiritual keys for transforming ourselves and the world.

Drawing on mythology, history, and transpersonal psychology, trace the iconic Celtic goddess and Christian saint Brigid's evolution from incarnation as goddess of wisdom, craft, and healing to embodiment as a saint of Celtic Christianity.

In this beautifully realized study, Peter Schäfer investigates the origins of a female manifestation of God in Jewish mysticism. The search itself is a fascinating exploration of the idea of a feminine divinity.

And Schäfer's surprising but persuasive conclusions yield deeper understanding of the complex but frequently intimate relationship between Christianity and Judaism--and of the development of religious concepts more generally. Toward the end of the twelfth century, a small book titled the Bahir (Light) appeared in Provence. The first document of Judaism's emerging kabbalistic movement, it introduced a completely new view of God, one that included a divine potency that was essentially female. This female divinity was portrayed both as a mediator between Jews and God and as part of the Godhead itself. Examining Judaic history from the biblical Wisdom tradition to the Middle Ages, Schäfer finds some precedents for the Kabbalah's feminine divinity. But he cannot account for her forceful appearance in twelfth-century southern France without reference to the immediate Christian environment, particularly the flourishing veneration of the Virgin Mary. Indeed, twelfth-century Jews and Christians were simultaneously rediscovering the feminine as an aspect of the Godhead after having abandoned it in favor of either an abstract, disembodied God or an exclusively male one. In proposing that

the medieval cult of Mary--rather than eastern Gnosticism--is the appropriate framework for understanding the feminine elements in Jewish mysticism, *Mirror of His Beauty* represents a sea change in Kabbalah and Jewish-Christian cultural studies. It shifts our attention from the Byzantine East to the Latin Christian West. And in contrast to histories that treat the development of Judaism and Christianity in isolation, it leads us to a fuller understanding of Jews and Christians living in proximity, aware of each other.

This booklet is a compendium of articles concerning the Holy Spirit as the Divine Feminine who wishes to also be known as Sophia.

Honorable Mention for the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize from the Canadian Historical Association Chosen by Choice Magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title of 2003 In 1891, newspapers all over the world carried reports of the death of H. P. Blavatsky, the mysterious Russian woman who was the spiritual founder of the Theosophical Society. With the help of the equally mysterious Mahatmas who were her teachers, Blavatsky claimed to have brought the

"ancient wisdom of the East" to the rescue of a materialistic West. In England, Blavatsky's earliest followers were mostly men, but a generation later the Theosophical Society was dominated by women, and theosophy had become a crucial part of feminist political culture. *Divine Feminine* is the first full-length study of the relationship between alternative or esoteric spirituality and the feminist movement in England. Historian Joy Dixon examines the Theosophical Society's claims that women and the East were the repositories of spiritual forces which English men had forfeited in their scramble for material and imperial power. Theosophists produced arguments that became key tools in many feminist campaigns. Many women of the Theosophical Society became suffragists to promote the spiritualizing of politics, attempting to create a political role for women as a way to "sacralize the public sphere." Dixon also shows that theosophy provides much of the framework and the vocabulary for today's New Age movement. Many of the assumptions about class, race, and gender which marked the emergence of esoteric religions at the end of the nineteenth century continue to shape alternative spiritual-



ities today.

An exploration of the repressed, esoteric feminine mysteries in the Bible through the lives of four women, all archetypes of the sacred prostitute • Shows how these four archetypal women represent the four stages of development of soul consciousness • Reveals how the fear of the power of the sacred prostitute led to a rejection of female sexuality and a destructive dualistic notion of men and women • Explains how the dogma of the Immaculate Conception represents the repression of the divine feminine in Christianity In *Feminine Mysteries in the Bible*, Ruth Rusca unveils sacred mysteries of the feminine and the alchemical relationship of the male and female forces at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Drawing on over 30 years of research, she explores four archetypal women in the Bible: Tamar, the sacred prostitute; Rahab, the meretrix; Ruth, who redeems the soul; and Bathsheba, the daughter of the Goddess. These women--sacred prostitutes one and all--represent the indestructible feminine life force, the wisdom of the Goddess, and the transformative power of the soul, and they symbolize the four stages of the development of soul con-

sciousness. Mary, mother of Jesus, is the quintessence of these four women, but Rusca shows that the dogma of the Immaculate Conception has repressed the significance of Mary and subverted the divine feminine in Christianity due to the church's fear of women and their life-giving energy. These women pass an imperishable feminine life force from generation to generation, and understanding their lives creates a path to overcoming the destructive tendencies of dualistic "male-female" thinking--a duality that profanes feminine sexuality and mysteries rather than revering and celebrating them.

This book is a radical exploration of the mystical teachings in the Gospel of John. It helps the reader to experience these spiritual truths for themselves, and go beyond the everyday mind, which is dominated by the ego and realize their eternal Being, which John's Gospel calls Logos. By approaching the teachings in a meditative state, the symbolism contained within the Greek text opens out and comes alive in the present moment. The Gospel is not a historical document; it speaks directly to each person now and the states of consciousness represented in the stories are ac-

cessible now. The book contains guided meditations to help bring this to life for the reader. This awakening concerns our relationship with the whole of life. Spiritual consciousness means that we are aware of the sacredness of our connections to each other as fellow human beings, and to the creatures of the natural world. Christ and the Logos contain both masculine and feminine in balance; at this critical time, our well-being and that of our fellow creatures is dependent on this realization.

The question isn't whether grace is God's love freely given is there for you in Judaism. The question is, do you have the courage to accept it? Ask almost any Jew whether grace is a central concept in Judaism and an essential element in living Jewishly, and, chances are, their answer will be "no." But that's the wrong answer. This fascinating foray into God's love freely given offers the reader a way to answer that question in the affirmative. Drawing from ancient and contemporary, traditional and non-traditional Jewish wisdom, this book reclaims the idea of grace in Judaism in three ways: It offers a view of God that helps the reader understand what grace is, why grace is, and how grace manifests in

the world. It sets forth a reading of Judaism that is grace-filled: an understanding of creation, Shabbat and other Jewish practices from a grace-filled perspective. It challenges the reader to be embraced and transformed by grace, and to live life as a vehicle for God's grace, thereby fulfilling the promise of being created in God's image and likeness.

Presents a portrait of sacred female and goddess imagery in Western culture, from their creation to the present day.

Departing from the traditional image of God as masculine, Joan Chamberlain Engelsman examines the feminine dimension of the divine. She recovers female images of the divine, examining the goddesses Demeter, Isis and in particular, Sophia, to demonstrate how the feminine aspect of God was repressed in Christianity. This revised edition contains a new preface, introduction and updated bibliography by the author. Some books are written so well that they attract different kinds of readers as times change. *The Feminine Dimension of the Divine* is such a book. The spiritual needs and interest of both men and women have changed enough to merit a new

edition of this superbly crafted, scholarly study of Sophia. -Janet Forsythe Fishburn, Dean of Theological School, Drew University  
Joan Chamberlain Engelsman is a well-known author and lecturer in the fields of psychology and spirituality. She is a faculty member at Drew University and is a noted consultant on family violence, director of the Clergy Partnership on Domestic Violence. She is the author of *The Queen's Cloak: A Myth for Mid-Life*.

*God is Not Alone* will challenge your views of what you thought you knew about the Bible and Christianity. It is a wide-ranging scholarly exposition of the divine feminine, drawing on numerous ancient Christian and pre-Christian texts to deliver its central message: that throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, God is not alone, but is accompanied by a Mother-Goddess, the Holy Spirit, personified as Wisdom. While examining the roots of the divine feminine, this book tackles many aspects of femininity throughout the Bible, beginning with a new interpretation of the creation story where men are made in the image of God and women of His Wife. It is who She is that this book is ultimately about. The author, Marianne Widmalm,

clearly illustrates the original feminine nature of the Holy Spirit, lost in translation from the Hebrew texts. By demonstrating the influence of the early Canaanites, Mary Magdalene, the Shekinah, the Holy Spirit and the role of women in the development of the Church in the first centuries, the author weaves together disparate texts that point us back to the goddess Asherah, and how She is one and the same as the Holy Spirit and Wisdom personified. The survival of the divine feminine is also shown through the Kabbalah and Apocryphal texts that drew from the Wisdom texts in the Hebrew Scriptures. Most significantly, according to numerous early church fathers, Jesus himself called the Holy Spirit as his "Mother" in, what the author argues, could be the first written Gospel. Additionally, the author explores key doctrinal issues faced by the early Church Fathers such as baptism with oil representing the Holy Spirit; the original role of women as deaconesses; as well as the development of the concept of the Trinity. This idea that God is three-in-one provides a key framework for understanding the marginalisation of the divine feminine. Step-by-step, assertions of sexism in the Bible are

stripped away and the reader is returned to the original divine balance of the feminine and masculine that was lost through centuries of church doctrine and translations from Hebrew and Aramaic, to Greek and English. This provocative work is essential reading for anyone interested in first century Christianity as well as Judaism, the early Hebrews, Biblical research, Goddess Spirituality, the origins of Gnosticism, and the theological role and true nature of the Holy Spirit.

The pure and penetrating message of the Divine Feminine - Wisdom - can become a companion for your own spiritual journey. The first of God's creations and God's endless delight, Wisdom (also known as Chochma and Sophia) is the Mother of all life, the guide to right living - She is God manifest in the world you encounter moment to moment. Her teachings, embedded in the Holy Scriptures of Jews and Christians, are passionate, powerful calls to live in harmony, love with integrity and act joyously. Through the Hebrew books of Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Job, and the Wisdom literature books of Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon, the Divine Feminine speaks to you directly, and

Her only desire is to teach you to become wise. Rami Shapiro's contemporary translations and powerful commentaries clarify who Wisdom is, what She teaches, and how Her words can help you live justly, wisely and with compassion. This is not a book about Wisdom but the voice of Wisdom Herself, liberating, uplifting and compelling. Now you can experience the Divine Feminine and understand Her teachings with no previous knowledge of Wisdom literature. This SkyLight Illuminations edition presents insightful commentary that explains Sophia's way of wisdom and illustrates the countless opportunities to experience Her creative energy through which God fashions all things.

The Hidden Goddess delves into the Bible to uncover the goddesses that have been buried within it. As well as discussing familiar figures such as Eve and Mary, the book also features Asherah, Sophia, Lilith, and others, exploring their histories, their roles in early Judaic Christian belief and their subsequent suppression. "...a readable and accessible antidote to the stereotype that the divine feminine is absent in the biblical traditions. A great resource for

women and men seeking the Goddess in unlikely places. Professor Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D., St. Thomas More College "I was amazed to find that I had no idea how to unfold my spiritual life in a feminine way. I was surprised, and, in fact, a little terrified, when I found myself in the middle of a feminist spiritual reawakening." --Sue Monk Kidd For years, Sue Monk Kidd was a conventionally religious woman. Then, in the late 1980s, Kidd experienced an unexpected awakening, and began a journey toward a feminine spirituality. With the exceptional storytelling skills that have helped make her name, author of *When the Heart Waits* tells her very personal story of the fear, anger, healing, and freedom she experienced on the path toward the wholeness that many women have lost in the church. From a jarring encounter with sexism in a suburban drugstore, to monastery retreats and to rituals in the caves of Crete, she reveals a new level of feminine spiritual consciousness for all women- one that retains a meaningful connection with the "deep song of Christianity," embraces the sacredness of ordinary women's experience, and has the power to transform in the most positive

ways every fundamental relationship in a woman's life— her marriage, her career, and her religion. This Plus edition paperback includes a recent interview with the author conducted by the book's editor Michael Maudlin.

This philosophical game changer looks critically at the Golden Rule in the context of game theory to see where it works and where it doesn't, when it is applicable and when it isn't. It shows you why knowing the difference can offer you a powerful way to transform your life from one driven by fear to one driven by love.

Through the fascinating stories of pioneering ministers, this book reveals a unique picture of progressive changes occurring in the Christian tradition. Meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles, these twelve diverse ministers are changing the church as they take prophetic stands on gender, race, interfaith cooperation, ecology, sexual orientation, economic opportuni-

ty, and other social justice issues. Believing in the power of sacred symbolism to shape social reality and to provide a foundation for justice and freedom for all people, these ministers lead worship with inclusive language and imagery for humanity and divinity. They include multicultural female and male images of the Divine. Their stories affirm the connection between this expansive theology and an ethic of justice and equality in human relationships. In working from within to change the church, these ministers have risked censure by denominational authorities, loss of opportunities for promotion to larger congregations or to prestigious denominational positions, and even loss of their jobs. They have found creative ways to balance advocating for change and working to support the church, using their positions as ordained clergy to bring liberating change to the church and the wider culture.

Drawing on timeless texts from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and more, this compendium of wisdom is a new scripture for the spiritual but not religious. Where conventional Bibles and scriptures speak to believers of one religion or another, this is a global spiritual conversation for seekers of every faith and none.

This book offers a stunningly new interpretation of the role of the women in the Hebrew Testament. Using the Judaic mysticism of the time it represents them as aspects of the Divine Feminine — the Creatrix of the World. The lives of the Matriarchs and Heroines of the Bible viewed through the eyes of mystic and bible historian, Rev. Maggy Whitehouse, outlines the development of the feminine aspect of the human soul. This reveals the women as archetypes as relevant to us today as to the Jews and Christians 2000 years ago.