



*Notorious Women
of the Bible*

TIMELESS STORIES OF
LOVE, LUST & LONGING

CHAPTER 1
The creation of heaven and earth, 1-5
the lights, 6 of the firmaments, 7 of the
earth separated from the waters, 8 and
made fruitful, 9-10 of fish, 11 and
stars, 12 of the sun, moon, and
and cattle, 13 of fowl, 14 of beasts
God, 15 Also the appointment of food,
16 a beginning b God cre-
ated the heaven and the
the earth was without
and darkness
the deep.

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Famine, assimilation, adultery, rivalry, surrogate motherhood, politics, murder, mayhem, and the seduction of the worst biblical bad boys; this series of programs will look at the Old Testament stories of women who dared to take the initiative and assume responsibility for the destiny of their people.

The Women portrayed in the Old Testament all played decisive roles during the thousands of years covered by the biblical narrative. Some may be real women of history, some legends, or literary composites in the morality plays of the time. What they did earned them a place on the Who's Who lists of all times.

Why do they remain important to us after thousands of years? This series will investigate the historical, geographical, cultural and theological context of the stories surrounding these infamous females; challenging everything you thought you knew about them. The mists of myth and misunderstanding will be blown away, revealing a colourful tapestry of fresh ideas and unique perceptions, making the timeless tales from the Old Testament as new and relevant as the headlines of today.

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Rather than using a single host/personality, we will engage fascinating experts in the fields of history, theology, art, anthropology and more, to offer a contemporary full-spectrum analysis of the place these legendary women hold in history and their continued relevance in the 21st century. In keeping with this varied perspective, a full range of visual and narrative concepts will be engaged to bring these classic stories to life as never before.

On-location interviews, classic works of art, dramatic re-enactments, music and archival footage from vintage films will be employed to present an engaging visual flair which will keep us worlds away from a dry academic approach. These colourful, dramatic stories will be presented in the style of modern reportage, using the approach of up-to-date investigative journalism to plumb the shadows and depths of these seemingly familiar stories, bringing exciting new opinions and observations to light.



FROM EVE TO JEZABEL...

These were passionate, sensual, empowered, intelligent, women. They belonged to a patriarchal society in which men held all visible power, and their options were few and stark. Given these circumstances the women challenged, seduced and tricked. They took risks, and some were prepared to stake their lives on the outcome. What is particularly intriguing about them is that most of them circumvented, or even subverted, male authority, usually when the men failed to act, or acted unjustly.

Not only did the men respond, but the descendants of their acts of seduction became progenitors of the House of David generations later. They took great risks to ensure the survival of the family, and most often were rewarded for it.

Standing at the crossroads of history and legend, the first season of Notorious Women of the Bible will scrutinize these women who remain lightning-rods for controversy, yet continue to inspire poets, theologians, artists and more.

EVE - THE ORIGINAL REBEL

The story of Eve opens with a vision of loneliness, companionship, desire and love. It tells how woman, made in the Creator's image, gives up a life of ease in an idyllic setting, along with the promise of immortality, and instead chooses to pursue wisdom and intimacy with her man. Locked in the story of the first couple is a matrix for all the male/female partnerships that follow. Stereotypes of Eve haunt our societal view of women today.

SARAH AND HAGAR - DUELLING MOTHERS

Jealousy, old age, childlessness, surrogate motherhood, and oppression- it's all here in the twist and turn-filled story of Sarah and her Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar.

Both women bear a son for the patriarch Abraham. Jews see themselves as descendants of Isaac, Sarah's son, while Arabs and Muslims trace their lineage to Hagar and her son, Ishmael, Abraham's first born. Thus begins the battle over the land that continues to rage to this day. Feminist scholars say this story reflects the male-dominated societies of the times, but that it also misrepresents the cooperative relationships that more likely existed among women. The lessons of centuries ago can teach us something today

BATHSHEBA - WIFE, MOTHER, QUEEN

The setting: a late afternoon in Jerusalem some 3,000 years ago. A beautiful young woman bathes on the roof under the last rays of dusk, espied by the lustful eyes of a hidden admirer. The admirer, King David, is not where he is supposed to be, on the battlefield with his troops. And the woman, Bathsheba, is married. Her husband is a general in David's army. Though normally a righteous man, with a harem already full of wives and concubines, the king succumbs to his overwhelming desire. Every hero must have his fatal flaw, and Bathsheba is his.



JEZEBEL - THE ULTIMATE BAD GIRL

No biblical woman is more reviled than Jezebel. Her name lives to this day as a synonym for feminine evil. Jezebel's story is a rich stew of historical events, allegorical interpretation and metaphorical license. At the climax of her long struggle to bring pagan worship to the kingdom of Israel, Queen Jezebel pays a terrible price.

To modern feminist authors, Jezebel is one of the most intriguing women in the Scriptures. Though denounced as a murderer, prostitute and enemy of God, some still find reason to admire this ancient queen.

ESTHER - A CLEVER HEROINE

The book of Esther tells the story of a beautiful orphan who hides her Jewish identity, becomes Queen of Persia, and saves her people from destruction. A controversial figure, Esther has been criticized for being a "bad Jew"; flouting a tradition, marrying a gentile, and being vengeful and bloodthirsty. Still, with great courage she stops a pogrom. Brave, courageous, and controversial, Esther used her imagination and wisdom to save her people, and succeeds where her predecessor failed. been criticized for being a "bad Jew"; flouting a tradition, marrying a gentile, and being vengeful and bloodthirsty. Still, with great courage she stops a pogrom. Brave, courageous, and controversial, Esther used her imagination and wisdom to save her people, and succeeds where her predecessor failed.

DELILAH - ONE FEISTY FEMME

Samson may have been the classic biblical Israeli strong man, but he was no match for a pretty young Philistine named Delilah. We all think we know this traditional tale, but do we? Was Delilah a pawn, a Judas, or a survivor? Hers is a rich, complex story of romance, betrayal, and revenge that will bring down the house as we explore this legend from an entirely new perspective.

DEBORAH - CHAMPION OF THE ISREALITES

It was a time of chaos in the highlands of Israel. In answering the call, Deborah became an unlikely commander who led an army of 10,000 Israelites to the Battle of Mount Tabor, a decisive battle of the time. The story of Deborah is a tale of battle strategy and triumph with a twist, appealing to women and men of every generation.

Far from a simple re-telling of their stories, Notorious Women of the Bible will look at their lives through the eyes of the 21st century. Are the stories relevant today? Have women changed? What have we to learn from a fresh look at these timeless stories? Our series will question and challenge as well as entertain.