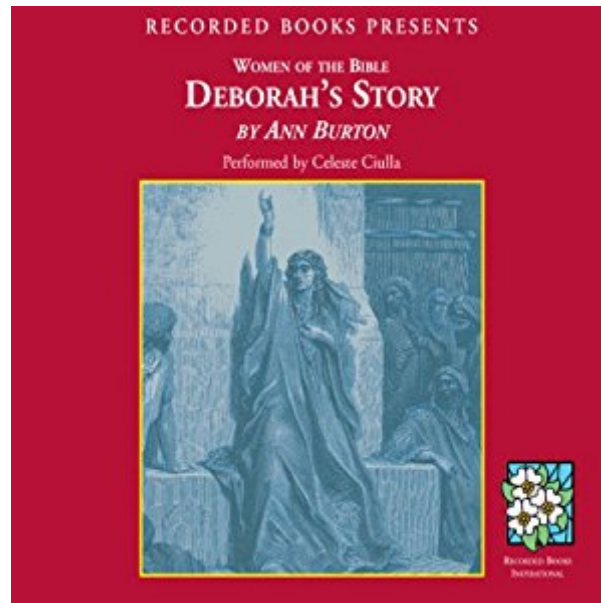




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Women Of The Bible: Deborah's Story



Synopsis

A lifelong slave, Deborah still dreams of a stranger destined to bring her joy. Then she meets Lappidoth, risking her life to save him. Later, as she recovers in his house, Deborah's dreams all come to pass-so she puts her gift to use. For she has dreamt: "The Lord will use a woman to defeat Sisera." And so will Deborah be known-as a heroine, a prophetess for God's chosen people, and one of the greatest judges of all time. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book on a recommendation of a friend. Since I don't usually read Christian books, I was very surprised to find how wonderful this book is. First of all, it is very evident that Ann Burton has done a lot research in order to make her books authentic. She weaves her descriptions of the geography, food, family culture and religious beliefs, seamlessly into the plot of her story and the descriptions are never intrusive. On the contrary they add richness and depth to the narrative voice. Deborah's story is both fascinating and compelling. Her growth as a seer and a prophet (during a time when women were not accepted in this role), as well as her reluctance to be one, makes a wonderful story. Deborah gains wisdom, courage, and love in this wonderful book. I highly recommend it and I plan to read all the other Ann Burton Women of the Bible series.

I understand the need for "artistic license" but this book goes way too far by trouncing upon basic

bible fundamentals. If I were picking up this book for a wholesome fantasy novel, this would be a good choice. However, when trying to stay true to scripture this book fails miserably. First, a prophet/prophetess does NOT mean that you can't tell a lie (they were not sinless), that you can see into the future (especially about mundane things) nor can you find in scripture that prophets had psychic abilities! So what is a prophet? It is one who receives a message from the Lord and who is entrusted to deliver that word in truth. In this book you'll find Deborah laying her hands on random people and telling them their past, present and future; talking with her dead mother; and being unable to have free will (such as tell a lie). Adding to this disturbing account, we find the author misleading us by stating that prophets/prophetess can be/were descended by blood line and superstitions; making up a brother/sister relationship between Barak and Deborah and turning Deborah into a slave from the onset of the book. To the author I say: Where the bible is silent on something - PLEASE do not make unscriptural things up. Where you must use artistic license, compare scripture with scripture to understand God's ways. To the potential reader: yes, the author did a fabulous job in understanding ancient history and making you want to read the next chapter. However, if you're looking for a book to help you truly understand Deborah, this book is not for you.

As far as literature goes, this is a good story. It is well written, and engaging and keeps the reader interested. However, it is not biblically correct. If you just read it for entertainment, it is a good read.

People who criticize the author for deviating from scripture annoy me. This is FICTION. If you want to read the Bible, just read the Bible. THAT will be 100% accurate. This is a novel, you know, a work of art where someone uses his or her IMAGINATION to write STORY. It's not meant to replace the Bible, but only to spark the reader's imagination... Chillax, people. It's a great book. I love Biblical fiction. And for the record, I thought it was pretty accurate to the story of Deborah in the book of Judges.

This was the second of Burton's books I've read, *Women of the Bible: Jael's Story: A Novel* having been the first. I expressed my reservations about Burton as a biblical fiction author in that review as well. Let me start though by saying that if I was reading this book from purely a fictional standpoint it would easily receive 5 stars. It had me thoroughly engaged - I could hardly put it down! There is no doubt Burton is a gifted writer as she weaves a marvelous tale with a touching love story and heartwarming friendships, bad guys you love to hate, redemption and forgiveness that moves you, and heroism that inspires. Where I begin to struggle is with Burton's apparent lack of

respect for the divinely inspired Word of God. Just as I felt with Jael's Story, at best Burton takes liberties - at worst she's intentionally misleading some who may not take the time to read scriptures to know any better. Deborah is a character in Jael's Story and one of the reasons I read this book next was to hear the other side of the scene I'd already read from Jael's perspective. Imagine my surprise when that section was completely glossed over and hardly touched - especially since that is the portion we have the most detail on in scripture! Other portions of scripture were barely touched and in some cases the way they were addressed felt not to align with how scripture addressed them. My other concern was the way Deborah's prophetic gifting was portrayed. Having been part of the charismatic movement for the better part of a decade and heading a prophetic ministry for five and a half years, the way she describes Deborah's gift looked nothing like how I've seen prophetic giftings flow. And even if you believe in the cessation of the gifts, it doesn't look like old testament prophecy either. It had more of a psychic flavor than prophetic to me... though I acknowledge God was given credit consistently so I was able to suspend my disbelief and enjoy the story she was telling nonetheless. With my concerns so specifically noted you may be wondering why I gave it 4 stars. The concerns noted were only a portion of the biblical/spiritual aspects and the other portions were as pleasing as the fictional story itself. So if I were judging solely from this perspective I'd give it a 3 star and when averaged with the 5 star I'd give it as a work of fiction I determined 4 star was fair. At the end of the day, I'm sure I'll read it again. My hope is that Burton begins to allow her incredible talents for storytelling to fully align with the scriptures she professes to be writing about (or that she simply writes Christian fiction). I would love to read more of her work, but based on the reviews I've read on the other books in this series it seems certain they will be equally if not more frustrating from a biblical perspective as Deborah and Jael were.

I have read many novels revolving around the story of Deborah in the Book of Judges and this was the best so far! The back story the author created was riveting and really gave the character great depth and courage. Her detail in scene description was amazing, you felt like you were there. I would recommend this book to anyone of any age group who wants to better understand Deborah and the heart of her God.

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