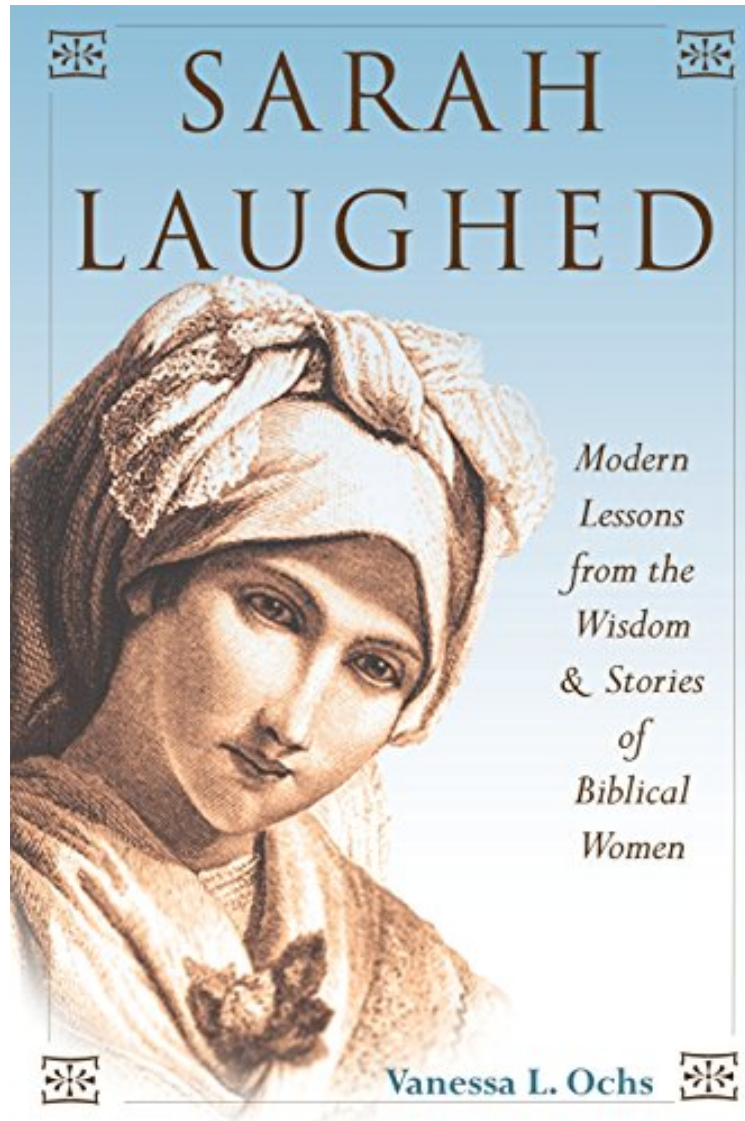


[Download pdf] Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women

# Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women

*Dr. Vanessa L. Ochs*

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2025308 in Books The Jewish Publication Society 2011-02-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .58 x 5.98l, .86 #File Name: 0827609280250 pages | File size: 77.Mb

**Dr. Vanessa L. Ochs : Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... is what I ordered and I am a very satisfiedBy GriggyThis item is what I ordered and I am a very satisfied customer0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. arrived quickly and

in great shape. By Nat Cohen. It was purchased for book club. It arrived on time and in time for the first meeting. It is a great read. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. *Lovely, Full of Comfort and Learned Wisdom*. By Customer Vanessa Ochs has written a lovely book in which she fleshes out the stories of Old Testament women - stories that, very often, are short on detail and leave us with more questions than answers. In the process of filling in the gaps with imaginative and meditative narratives, Ochs supplies ideas on how modern women may use the lessons of our Old Testament forebearers to ease our souls, bodies and minds. The book is divided into six sections, each addressing one aspect of modern womanhood - Being a Friend, Being a Parent, Living in a Woman's Body, and so on. Each section contains several chapters, each of which focuses on a single biblical woman. The opening chapter, in a section entitled *Being Wise*, focuses on Eve. The imaginative retelling of Eve's story (from Eve's perspective) following a modern-English version of a portion of the bible dealing with Eve, puts an interesting spin on the story and adds layers to what we assume we understood about the oft-blamed and misunderstood woman. A short essay (I'm tempted to call it a sermon) suggests ways in which we may hear echoes of Eve's story in our own lives - the ways in which we are misunderstood and blamed for the consequences of being too inquisitive, too adventurous and ignoring our own developing wisdom. Finally, we are invited to "Embrace the Gift of Eve" and Ochs offers suggestions for making the most of our abilities to explore and learn under our own volition and without apology. She recommends additional readings, rituals and even a recipe for apple cake to celebrate our existence as learning beings. Other biblical women receive similar nuanced treatment. Miriam, "The [Unnamed] Woman of Valor", Esther, the titular Sarah and even Job's wife are among those whose stories gain new relevance and interest under Ochs's able scholarship. No longer do women seem to hold a lesser place in the bible for Ochs fills in the blanks in their narratives and offers us valuable lessons for today and helps us learn their lessons - not just with our eyes and ears, but with our hearts.

In this vivid collection, Judaic scholar Vanessa Ochs brings the legends of the biblical matriarchs to new life. Intimate, familiar and wise, the heroines in *Sarah Laughed* are revealed to be inspiring role models for women today. From Eve's rebellious taste of wisdom to the righteous anger of Job's wife, each woman's story is retold in imaginative prose and accompanied by real-life rituals that can help us gain insight into various aspects of our everyday lives.

From Publishers Weekly. With warmth, erudition and a very contemporary sensibility, Ochs offers reflections on the lives of Old Testament matriarchs that should appeal to women across religious lines. Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Virginia, Ochs uses her own research with unobtrusive grace to shed light on gaps in the biblical stories. While focused on the narratives, she chooses to combine an inspirational self-help message with Jewish lore and the testimony of modern female friends. Most often, she is successful, as when she discusses well-known figures like Sarah, laughing in reaction to the news that she will bear a child in her old age. "Sarah's laughter gives us perspective on our yearning. We can hear her laughter when we hold on to our dreams and when we decide it's time to relinquish them." Even when she grapples with enigmatic or tragic women, like Jephthah's daughter, Ochs finds parallels between their stories and the dilemmas of her modern readers. Divided thematically by topics such as friendship, parenting and healing, the chapters include translations from the Hebrew, a "midrash-like" commentary on the story and practical rituals designed to bring home the diverse lessons of this appealing book. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Ochs offers readers a rare treat--fine scholarship combined with inspirational connections to life in the modern world. Jewish Book World