

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES of the Old Testament

1. EVE: Desperate for a taste of forbidden fruit
Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-25; 3:1-6; 4:1-26; I Timothy 2:13-14
2. ABIGAIL: Desperate to save her household
I Samuel 25:2-42; Psalm 30:10-12
3. ABISHAG: Desperate to win
I Kings 1:1-4, 15; 2:13-25
4. SARAH: Desperate to bear a child
Genesis 12:1-20; 16:1-8; 17:1-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-13; Hebrews 11:1-16
5. DEBORAH: Desperate to get rich
Judges 4:1-24; 5:1-31; Hebrews 11:32-34
6. DELILAH: Desperate to get rich
Judges 16:4-21; Proverbs 5:20-33
7. JACHEBED: Desperate to save her son's life
Exodus 1:1-22; 2:1-11; 6:20; Numbers 26:59; Hebrews 11:23
8. MICHAL: Desperate for prestige
I Samuel 14:49; 18:20-28; 19:11-17; 25:44; II Samuel 3:13-14; 6:16-23; 21:8; I Chronicles 15:29
9. RACHEL: Desperate to have a family
Genesis 29-35; Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:18
10. LEAH: Desperate for a husband's love
Genesis 29-35; 49:31; Ruth 4:11
11. KETURAH: Desperate to marry a rich man
Genesis 25:1-6; I Chronicles 1:32-33
12. RIZPAH: Desperate for mercy
II Samuel 3:1-7; 21:8-14
13. RAHAB: Desperate to change her lifestyle
Joshua 2:1-21; 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25
14. LOT'S WIFE: Desperate to have it all
Genesis 18:16-19:38; Luke 17:28-33; II Peter 2:7-9
15. RUTH: Desperate to belong
Ruth 1-4; Matthew 1:5
16. THE QUEEN OF SHEBA: Desperate for answers
I Kings 10:1-13; II Chronicles 9:1-12; Matthew 12:42
17. QUEEN JEZEBEL: Desperate for power
I Kings 16:31; 18:4-9; 19:1-2; II Kings 9:1-37; Revelation 2:18-29
18. WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH: Desperate to survive
I Kings 17:8-24; Luke 4:25-26
19. QUEEN ESTHER: Desperate to save her people
The Book of Esther
20. GOMER: Desperate to feel loved
Hosea 1:1-11; 3:1-5
21. REBEKAH: Desperate to see her son succeed
Genesis 22:23-24; 24:1-67; 25:20-28; 26:6-28:9; 29:12; 35:8; 49:31
Romans 9:6-16

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF THE O.T.

EVE – desperate for a taste of forbidden fruit

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-25; 3:1-6; 4:1-26; I Timothy 2:13,14

What must it have been like
to be the very first woman to set foot on this earth
and the first housewife to take care of a family?
We can only imagine.

There is not a figure in history
who has been blamed more than Eve.

She came into this world fully formed
and completely mature -
except - she was not born,
she had no history,
because she was created.

She lived in a garden home, designed by God.
& God personally visited her and Adam often.

She & Adam had access to everything in the garden,
except the “tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

On a day like any other day,
she strolled to the middle of the garden alone
& in front of her was the special tree.

Then the “serpent” appeared.
He enticed, bewitched, confused, and lied.

He told Eve that she would not die if she ate the
fruit, that God knew when she did eat,
she would become like God.

At the first appearance of the serpent,
she should have run!
Instead she tarried & was tempted.

She reached out her hand, grabbed the fruit.
Nothing happened.

It was round, smooth, & smelled wonderful!
She brought it to her mouth,

& the pleasure of it filled her to overflowing.
Nothing happened.

She grabbed another piece & ran to Adam.
tempting him even as she had been tempted.

He ate!
& then it happened.
They looked at each other and realized,
“WE ARE NAKED!”

Here the “blame game” started.
Adam blamed God and Eve; Eve blamed serpent.

Let’s look at the TRUTH of the matter.

I Timothy 2:13-14

“For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

SHE WAS DESPERATE TO TASTE THE FORBIDDEN
& had to pay the penalty
for her disobedience.

She went from being Eve, “the mother of life”
in the Garden of Eden,
located in Paradise,

to being Mrs. Adam,
in some place east of the Flaming Sword Gate,
somewhere in Southwest Asia.

It was “Paradise Enjoyed” turned into
“Paradise Lost, Forever.”

They were unceremoniously
moved out of the garden
by angels;
& life outside the garden was filled sorrow.

Adam worked from sunup to sundown.

Eve began having babies with lots of pain & no one to help.

One of her sons murdered his brother.

THEN GOD HAD MERCY –

Seth was born;
& he brought new hope to this first earthly family
because he was the beginning of
an entire generation of people
who loved and served Jehovah God.

EVE BLEW IT because she walked in disobedience.
but God gave her a new start.

We, too, may blow it.
but, get up one more time;
turn to God for comfort, help, and answers.

Eve's grief over losing her most promising son, Abel,
and the lost hope of her wayward son, Cain,
must have caused her pain beyond belief.

Yet she learned that God is not only just,
but He is also the God of second chances.

SARAH – desperate to bear a child

Sarah is an interesting study in the highs and lows of life.
She laughed and she sorrowed.
She showed both anger and submission.

Sarah was a life-long beauty.

As a child, her beauty shone with
flawless skin,
bright shiny clear eyes with a merry twinkle,
a perfect nose,
and flawless white teeth.

BUT, she was more than a beautiful face.
Sarah is the first woman in the Bible
whose faith we are told to observe.

We know nothing of her childhood,
only that she appears on the scene
as the wife of Abraham.

Her husband treated her as an equal partner,
she was the mother of Isaac,
the grandmother of Jacob and Esau,

and through Jacob
she was the great-grandmother
of the twelve men
who became leaders of the tribes of Israel.

Quite a woman!

Her life was full of adventures –
some great, some not so great.

Her parents were wonderful people
& their home was filled w/laughter.

It was a typical Middle Eastern home,
in an upper-class neighborhood,
because her dad was wealthy.

In her teens, she had many suitors;
but the tall, handsome, wealthy Abram
snagged her attention;
& she fell in love.

Did you know
that they were half brother and ½ sister?
Same father but different mothers.
This was fairly common practice in Sarah's day.

Their marriage was unusual,
because from day one
he made her an equal partner
in all his business dealings.

He always made sure her camel
was next to his
in the procession
when they moved from place to place.

They did not worship idols,
as was the custom of the land,
they only worshipped Jehovah God.

At 65, God told Abram to move hundreds of miles
South to Canaan.
He said it would be a fertile land for them
to raise their offspring. BUT, they had no offspring!

Now the thought
that must have intrigued Sarah about this move,
was the promise from God to her husband
that they were to be the parents of a whole new nation,

A nation God said that would bless the world.

Well, they got to Canaan.
There was a famine.
They moved to Egypt.
Abram was afraid of the Pharaoh
& asked Sarah to help save his life.

He was afraid to tell the potentate that she was his wife,
and told him she was his sister instead.
(Well, that was a half-truth?)

Before you could say Alakazam,
she was abducted by the Pharaoh's eunuchs,
bathed, oiled, perfumed, coifed, veiled
& presented to King Pharaoh.

Well, all _____ broke out for the Pharaoh.

He finally decided it had something to do with Sarah,
called in Abram,
found out the truth,
and sent them packing.

Pharaoh was so glad to be rid of them,
he gave them
a whole flock of sheep,
cattle,
donkeys,
camels
and servants.
O, yes, & HAGAR!

(She was, by the way, one of Pharaoh's many kids
through one of his concubines.)

Evidently Abram didn't learn a lot that first time,
so it happened again with King Abimelech.
but God, once again, intervened.

Well, eventually God changed their names –

Abram to Abraham
Sarai to Sarah.

When she was 90 years old,
three visitors stopped by for lunch.

They talked privately to Abraham
w/Sarah listening at the door,
and told him that
he & Sarah were going to have a child.

Sarah started laughing.
Can't blame her.
She = 90
Him – 100!

When the stranger asked her why she had laughed,
she denied it.

But he knew and said he'd be back in a year
& she would have a baby in the house!

Well, the sad truth was,
there was already a baby in the house.

It was a child by Abraham alright,
but the mother was Hagar, the Egyptian maid.

In an act of desperation,
tired of waiting on God,
void of all hope that the promise would ever come,
she had coerced her husband
to sleep with the Egyptian maid
& the result of that night was Ishmael.

Throughout all the centuries since
this situation has grown more and more intense –
Arab and Jew
fighting for possession and rights
to the Promised Land.

Sarah's child and Hagar's child are still at war in 2006!

In her desperation she got ahead of God
... she took matters into her own hands.

But in spite of all that,
God was faithful!

When she was 90 ISAAC WAS BORN!

Isaac – “God has brought me laughter!”

Hebrews 11:11-12

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Therefore sprang there *even of one* (Abraham), and him as good as dead (100 years old), so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

(All descendents of Isaac.)”

If the Guinness Book of Records
had been around,
she would have been featured
as the world’s oldest moth.

She lived to be 127.
She was still extremely beautiful.

She is the only woman whose age at death
is recorded in the Bible.

She left behind a son and a husband
who never forgot her
& a world full of people who are well acquainted
w/the story of this beautiful, desperate woman
called Sarah.

21ST CENTURY LESSON:

She taught us -
Don’t panic when the promises of God
seem like they are delayed.

In due season,
God, who sees the long-range plan,
will fulfill it better than you
could ever do by yourself.

Think of the sorrow and heartache and troubles (historically as well as contemporary) this world has been caused by the “Sarah solution.”

One other thing Sarah taught us –
Learn how to laugh & release the tensions of life.