

FORMING FEMININITY IN ANTIQUITY

Eve, Gender, and Ideologies in the
Greek Life of Adam and Eve

书馆

VITA DAPHNA ARBEL

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For Menashe with love

PREFACE

This book investigates representations of the emblematic first woman by examining one of the earliest and most influential accounts of Adam and Eve subsequent to the Hebrew Bible, namely the apocryphal Greek *Life of Adam and Eve* (GLAE) from antiquity. It further considers the cultural and ideological significance of these representations.

Treating the figure of Eve as a culturally constructed representation of woman, this book employs observations from contemporary sociological perspectives, traditional biblical scholarship, studies of the Books of Adam and Eve, as well as critical feminist theory to demonstrate that the GLAE is not a single-voiced source representing one authoritative/dominant tradition. Rather, it incorporates a range of conventional, authorized traditions as well as unofficial countertraditions about the archetypal first woman, paradoxically associating her with notions that are considered to be both loathed and laudable in theological and social circles. Further, the book shows that these representations of Eve betray not only overlapping literary traditions; rather, they are closely linked to larger voices, concepts, and values of the broader hybrid Greco-Roman cultural world in which they emerged, both corresponding and responding

to contemporaneous exegetical views as well as cultural norms of the time.

The last few decades of scholarship have yielded exciting, significant studies on gender, women, and the biblical figure of Eve, as well as on the complex literary, theological, and cultural features of the *GLAE*. However, comparatively little attention has been devoted to the salient and diverse representations of Eve in the *GLAE* and their cultural and ideological implications. Similarly, comparatively little attention has been paid by feminist critics to the representation of femininity in the *GLAE*, even though the work seems to be a major turning point in the ongoing discourse on Eve and women in antiquity. This book aims to advance these relatively unexplored areas and thus to contribute to the ongoing study of the *GLAE*, its representations of Eve/femininity, and the ideological, rhetorical, and cultural significance of these representations.

The book offers a nuanced examination of the *GLAE*'s multifaceted and at times contradictory depictions of Eve and femininity. It further situates these literary depictions within the hybrid Greco-Roman cultural world in which they emerged and looks at the extent to which they both reflect and construct contemporaneous concepts in regard to Eve's and women's standing, role, authority, and realms of experiences. Finally, the book considers how the *GLAE* narrative endows the biblical story of Eve with new details and meanings that resonate with both contemporaneous and later traditions. Aiming to introduce a dynamic study of the *GLAE*'s Eve, each chapter investigates a distinct representation of the first woman, revealing a web of traditions and voices—be they official, dogmatic, popular, or subversive—that converge in a multivocal dialogue on Eve and femininity in the cultural landscape of antiquity.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i>
ARN	<i>Armenian Life of Adam and Eve</i>
b.	Babylonian Talmud (Talmud Bavli)
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
Bar.	Baruch
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BCE	Before the Common Era
BDAG	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum lovaniensium
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
BICS	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i>
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>

ABBREVIATIONS

BW	Book of the Watchers (1 Enoch 1–36)
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CE	Common Era
CIS	<i>Corpus inscriptionum semiticarum</i>
CJ	<i>The Classical Journal</i>
Cor.	Corinthians
CSCO	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium
Dan.	Daniel
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
En.	Enoch
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
Ezek.	Ezekiel
Ezr.	Ezra
Gen.	Genesis
GLAE	<i>Greek Life of Adam and Eve</i>
GosMar	Gospel of Mary
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
Isa.	Isaiah
j.	<i>Jerusalem Talmud (Talmud Yerushalmi)</i>
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JECS	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
Jer.	Jeremiah
JFSR	<i>Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSHJ	<i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i>
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Periods</i>
JSJSup	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplement Series</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series</i>

ABBREVIATIONS

JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series</i>
JSQ	<i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i>
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supplement Series</i>
JSPSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supplement Series</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
m.	Mishnah
Nah.	Nahum
NovTSup	<i>Novum Testamentum Supplements</i>
NT	New Testament
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OTP	<i>The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> (J. H. Charlesworth, ed., 1983, 2 vols., New York)
Prov.	Proverbs
RB	<i>revue biblique</i>
RelSRev	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>
Rev.	Revelation
RevQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
Rom.	Romans
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature
SBLSP	<i>Society for Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
SNTSMS	Society of New Testament Studies Monograph Series
STDJ	<i>Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah</i>
SVTP	<i>Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha</i>
Tim.	Timothy
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
VC	<i>Vigiliae christianae</i>

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Vita</i>	<i>Latin Life of Adam and Eve</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplements
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
Zech.	Zechariah
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>

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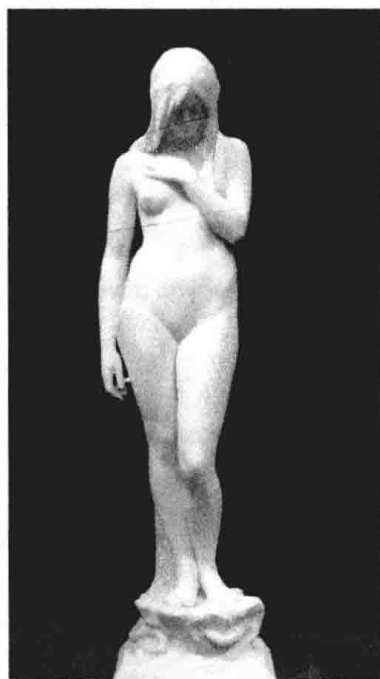
CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xiii</i>
 Introduction: Traditions of Eve in Antiquity: The Greek <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i>	 1
 1. Eve and the Fallen Angels: Traditions of the First Sin	 17
2. Representations of Eve: Forming Femininity	38
3. Eve and the Account of Adam's Demise: Social Performances of Death	60
4. The Visions of Eve, Conceptualizations of Women, and Parallel Discourses	87
 Conclusion: The <i>GLAE</i> 's Eve: Multivocality, Women in Antiquity, and Paradigms of Womanhood	 111

CONTENTS

<i>Notes</i>	122
<i>Bibliography</i>	185
<i>Index of Modern Authors</i>	213
<i>Index of Primary Sources</i>	219
<i>Subject Index</i>	227

Traditions of Eve in Antiquity: The Greek *Life of Adam and Eve*



Sir Thomas Brock, *Eve* (1899).

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*And when he [Satan/the Serpent] had received the oath from me [Eve], he came and entered and placed upon the fruit the poison of his wickedness—which is (the sense of) desire, for it is the beginning of every sin—and he bent the branch on the earth and I took of the fruit and I ate.

(GLAE 19.3)