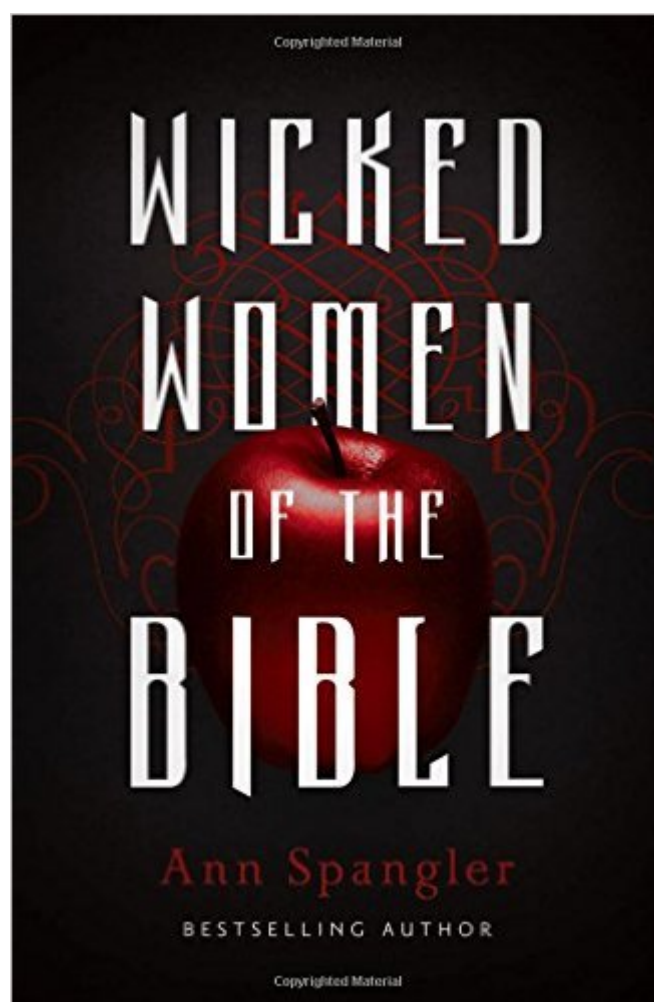


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# Wicked Women Of The Bible



## Synopsis

What can Jezebel, the Bible's wickedest queen, reveal about God's holiness and power and even about his sense of humor? What about the Woman at the Well—the one with five husbands and a live-in lover? And what of the prostitute whose tears bathe the feet of Jesus in front of people who despise her? There are also "wicked good" women like Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, Abigail, Esther, Mary, and more. What do their lives tell us about God's invincible love and his determined plan to save us? In *Wicked Women of the Bible* Ann Spangler tells the stories of twenty wicked and "wicked good" women in greater detail. At the end of each story, Ann provides a brief section including additional historical and cultural background as well as a brief Bible study in order to enhance the book's appeal to both individuals and groups. The stories of these women of the Bible reveal a God who is not above it all but who stoops down to meet us where we are in order to extend his love and mercy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ann Spangler is an award-winning writer and the author of many bestselling books. After using her book *Praying The Names of God* for a leadership study in Community Bible Study last year, I am thrilled with the opportunity to read *Wicked Women of the BIBLE* and take part in the launch of the book. However, as I read down through the chapter list of the 20 women of the BIBLE she chose to write about I immediately got defensive thinking about some of my own heroines. How could she possibly associate the word wicked with the likes of Deborah, Ruth, Abigail and one of my favorites, Esther? Luckily for me it wasn't too far into this anointed page-turner that I found these

definitions: WICKED: 1. Morally very bad. EVIL. 2. A Fierce, Vicious • |She continues on with the Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary with the rest of the well-known definition. BUT then, from The Online Slang Dictionary she includes: WICKED: very, very good, excellent, extremely, in a grand way; • cool •; • awesome •. As in that concert was wicked! Author Ann Spangler uses these two definitions to creatively weave details into the stories of 20 women of the BIBLE to give us a better understanding of these women and the lives they lived. Under her pen the story of each woman from ancient times comes alive as they mirror the stories and lives of women today. Wicked lies, wicked disguise, wicked girlfriend, to a wicked predicament, each life story has a lesson for women and men of our times. At the end of each woman's story, Ann provides a historical account of the times surrounding that woman's life. Following this historical information each chapter concludes with what Ann calls The Takeaway.

The title of this book is misleading. It's a selection of 20 Bible stories that are as much about the men as the women. So Miriam's story was also about Moses and Aaron, Abigail's story focused mostly on Nabal and David, and so on. The author took about 5 pages to retell each Bible story. She switched between tenses, so she'd start off in present tense ("run"), have a few "am running" mixed in, then switch to past tense ("ran"). It found this distracting, and it felt poorly edited to me. The author added fictional elements to "flesh out" the stories, but it was usually physical descriptions or comments like: Pharaoh made a "brainless attempt" to overtake the Israelites as they left Egypt. She also portrayed people in ways I don't agree with, like in Rahab's story: "Their husbands give her looks that tell her they are wondering what it would be like to caress her honey-gold skin" and this pleases Rahab. So we're left to believe God saved this apparently unrepentant woman simply because she decided He was more powerful than her gods. And some details didn't need to be added, like David watched as Bathsheba "rubs a sponge across her body--caressing her face, her neck, and then her breasts." Each story was followed by one page (or less) of information on "The Times" which told where the story is found in the Bible and about the larger historical context of the story. We're also given information on topics like harems, eunuchs, kinsmen redeemers, and such. The New Testament stories also included some cultural background information. She also included 4 or 5 questions about each story, like "What three to five words would you use to describe Abigail's character?"

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