Scriptures and Doctrine :: 3rd Wife?

3rd Wife? - posted by joyinjesus8 (), on: 2007/3/8 10:34

I have heard that in Jewish tradition Eve was Adam's 3rd wife. I would be interested if anyone knows how this story came about. It is all new to me.....:-(

Blessings

Re: 3rd Wife? - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/3/8 10:42

Never heard that before. Sounds very far-fetched.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/3/8 11:09

where did the two first came from? did God use three ribs? or did he not get it right the first time? i don't get it...can you give some more info? why does anyone think or believe this? surly nothing in scripture to my awareness points to this.

Re: 3rd Wife? - posted by MSeaman (), on: 2007/3/8 11:31

I have heard she was his second, but I don't believe the traditions of men. I go by what the Bible says. Genesis says God made Eve the helpmate for Adam. One woman, one man as Jesus quotes later.

Re: 3rd Wife? - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2007/3/8 11:44

It was Eve that was made from Adam's rib not Mabel.

Re: 3rd Wife?, on: 2007/3/8 12:11

I did some searching and found that there is a Jewish myth that Adam's first wife's name was Lilith and she turned out to be very evil. I don't recommend doing much research on this...I don't think it would be very profitable. For sure do not research this on wikipedia; I was shocked at what was there. :eek:

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/3/8 12:35

Quote:
------------------------I did some searching and found that there is a Jewish myth that Adam's first wife's name was Lilith and she turned out to be very evil.

I hear that on the street from time to time. Many pagans and wiccans seem to bring it up.

Re: - posted by mom23beagles, on: 2007/3/8 12:40

Call me closed-minded, but if I can't find it in God's Word, it's not from God and is merely something that man conjured up in his mind - like alot of the doctrines/traditions that are held by both Catholic and Protestant churches.

Mia and Bailey, Dugan, Buddy & Agnes the beagles.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/3/8 12:46

I found this on a website.

Hello. This has been a very enlightening newsgroup. I have a question.
I happen to notice in the dictionary that Lilith was Adam's first
wife prior to Eve's creation. Does anyone have any more information
about this. Thanks.

The traditions concerning Lilith are found in...

Graves, Roberts and Raphael Patai
Hebrew Myths: The Book of Genesis
New York: Greenwich House, 1983

The name 'Lilith' occurs at one point in Scripture, in the middle of
Isaiah. From context, it is apparent that this is to be understood as
the name of a demon.

Aside from that, Lilith is a notable figure in Gnostic heresy.

One of the notable tendencies among heresies is to distort the
fundamental simplicity of the Gospel message. The Judaizers, where
orthodox Christians had preached the forgiveness of sins through faith
in Christ crucified, insisted in appending to the works of faith a
dietary code, elaborate calendar, ... Gnosticism, in this regard, was
even worse.

According to Gnosticism, we are saved by acquiring wisdom and knowledge.
Where Christianity is simple and freely proclaimed, Gnosticism has to be
complicated, intricate, and obfuscated; deep secrets reserved for the
elite.

So, instead of Adam having one wife -- Eve -- Gnosticism had to have
Lilith be the wife before Eve, in an elaborate tale of ... You get the
picture.

There are several Gnostic ideas which have been cropping up lately.
There are three which I think should be mentioned:

1: We are saved by wisdom and knowledge. This is patently false. While
   we are to grow in wisdom and knowledge, it is within a context of
   faith. The mark of a Christian is love, not being able to recite
   such and such many Bible verses or explain such and such many
   doctrines. Solomon, who was wiser than anyone here on s.r.c, is
   damned. When we pursue wisdom, it must be within a proper context.

2: The spiritual is attained by escape from the physical; an ascetic
   code, "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" (as summarized
   by Paul) will draw us near to God. In the most extreme form, this
   idea led to denial of Christ's physical incarnation, and the
   blessedness of the hope that we await in the bodily resurrection.
   Christ, who was the second Adam and the model of perfection, ate and
   drank enough to be accused of being a glutton and a drunkard; his
   first miracle consisted of turning water into wine. Paul spoke of
   marriage and foods and then everything created by God as good, "to
   be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the

truth." (I Tim. 4:1-5). It is God who created the forests and the
sunsets; we spit on a gift when we act as if we will become more
spiritual by refusing to enjoy them.

3: Good and evil are a balanced pair which bear a higher order unity.

Good exists to accomplish its own ends; the rebellion in which evil
stands in no wise makes it a balancing force to serve a higher weal.
Evil does not balance good. Good balances good.

I've made this post long enough. At any rate, Gnosticism is a false
knowledge which is really not knowledge at all; it is heresy to be
refuted at every occurence.

According to medieval Jewish folklore, Lillith was Adam's first wife.
However, this belief has absolutely no scriptural basis that I am
aware of (I am not Jewish). It is believed that the name was
originally the Assyrian storm god. In older Jewish folklore, it was
the name of a female demon/vampiress child-killer.

One of the reasons, I've heard, is that if you read Gen 1:27, it talks
about how God created man, both male and female. Yet, in the second
chapter, Adam has no wife!

OTOH, the way I understand it, Jewish narration often went on a
thematic basis: they would discuss along a theme, and sometimes "get
ahead of themselves" in an attempt to keep the theme clear, and then
go back and "fill in the blanks". So, in other words, Gen 1 is the
story of the creation, and details are left out in order to present
the theme. Gen 2 goes back and details the creation of Eve and God's
ordination of marriage. (For evidence of this type of writing, see
the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, as well as Esther and
other history books.)

I suspect that the mingling of cultures led to some false legends
springing up.

My only reference on a question like this is that I don't know of
anywhere in the Bible it suggests that idea. What I've always read is
that all the animals had mates and Adam didn't, so God created Eve...

The origin of the Lilith story comes from the Talmudic commentary on
the verse in Genesis 1: "...male and female he created them..."
Various explanations of this are put forth in different midrashim. One
was that until Eve was created, Adam was a hermaphrodite (which is why
the Hebrew word for face, panim, is plural in form). The relevant
story, however, is that of Lilith, Adam's first wife. She refused to
have sex with Adam because he insisted on being on top, and finally
used the power of the Tetragramaton (the proper pronunciation of the
Lord's holy name) to fly out of the Garden of Eden. Meanwhile, Eve was
created from Adam's rib as a more submissive wife who would stay on
the bottom during sex.

When Lilith landed, it was on the shores of the Red Sea. It was here
that she met with the demons--beings who were souls left over from
creation. They were also all male and perfectly willing to be on the
bottom, so they made Lilith their queen. Her husband is named Asmodeus
in some folk tales. There are other folk tales which name her son as
well.

According to legend Lilith haunts the wilds and deserted cities. She's
mentioned somewhere in the Wisdom books, I forget where. Proverbs, I
think. Traditionally she's associated with dangers to pregnant women
and small children and their are traditions associated with specially
inscribed coins which are meant to protect against her.

This is all from memory, so I'm sure there are a few omissions and/or
inaccuracies in it. The Reader's Encyclopedia has a short article
giving some of the details above. Also worth checking out are Howard
Schwartz's collections of Jewish folktales, particularly Lilith's
Cave.

Isaiah 34:14   ysh`yh 34,14

Wildcats shall meet hyenas,   wpgshw Syym 't-'yym
Goat-demons shall greet each other;   ws`yr `l-r`hw yqr'
There too the lilith shall repose   'k-shm hrgy`h lylyt
And find herself a resting place.   wmS'h lh mnwH

Though Lilith as the wife of Adam does not occur in the Hebrew bible,
the word does occur in the book of Isaiah. The KJV translates the
word as "screech owl". The NIV translates it "night creatures".
The NJB and the JPS transliterate it, thereby preserving its recognition.

http://www.angelfire.com/me/Merethe/Lilith.html

By the way I know nothing of this website...

Re: 3rd Wife? - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2007/3/8 13:11

Hi joyinjesus8...

This is a reference to an extrabiblical Jewish text called "*The Alphabet of Ben-Sira*." It is attributed to "Ben-Sira" who lived in the time between the Testaments and supposedly authored the apocryphaic book, " *Ecclesiasticus*". However, the earliest reference from the book is much, much later -- and was probably falsely attributed to Ben-Sira.

"*The Alphabet*" was not considered a reliable text by any believers (of course) and was hardly considered as anything other than historical-fiction proverbs in the form of poetry by major Jewish leaders.

It says that "Lilith" was created as a wife for Adam -- but they got into an argument over gender roles (particularly in reference to sexual roles). After Lilith stated the "divine Name" aloud, she was taken away (or possibly, she left him). It is sort of indicative that "Lilith" became the mother of demons or evil spirits. After this, according to "*The Alphabet*," Adam eventually became lonely again.

"*The Alphabet*" says that God created another woman from "nothing." However, Adam was allowed to watch her creation. Since she was created from nothing, God created her from the inside-out. This disgusted Adam, who saw her as a walking body of organs and blood. So Adam remained lonely, until God created Eve (while Adam slept).

As you can tell, this is a really silly story. There is no Scriptural basis for the story of "Lilith." However, some individuals point to Isaiah 34:14 as a reference to "Lilith" -- even though the King James translates the word as a "screeching owl" and the NIV and most other major texts as simply a "night creature" (of which both make sense in the context of the passage). The only translation that I know of that translates the term as "Lilith" is the Darby Translation.

Regardless, I wouldn't pay any attention to the concept of "Lilith." It is an obvious addition to Scripture. This, of course, is extremely dangerous. As someone has already stated, the tale has become "ammunition" in the mouths of Wiccans and other pagans. This tale asserts that God made two "mistakes" before creating a suitable helpmeet for Adam.

Yet we know that God is <u>infallible</u>.

 :-)

Re: 3rd Wife? - posted by joyinjesus8 (), on: 2007/3/8 21:30

I really thank you all for you enlightenment, and your time in answering my query.

For me if it's not in the Word I ignore it - but to be honest this one caught my curiosity and I wondered how it came about.

It is a very silly fable indeed!!

Blessings

Re: Lilith etc. - posted by UniqueWebRev (), on: 2007/3/10 8:14

All that from memory - Very impressive!

Lilith is also used as a figure in Satanism, where Lilith is the High Priestess to Lucifer.

It is a majorly bad witchcraft situation, with child sacrifice being the ultimate service.

Sounds just like Moloch!

Regarding the story of three wives for Adam, nothing would surprise me in the massive amount of Jewish literature, though this is the first time I have seen it.

In studying Judaism, you start out believing there are three denominations, then four, then suddenly there are so many versions, literally changing city by city and synagogue by synagogue, that it's quite hard to follow.

It seemed strange to find so many differences in the Jewish side of our faith as we have on the Christian side, but human nature is human nature!

Frankly, I can't wait to get 'Home', and find out what really happened between Gen. 1:1 and Gen 1:2. I've got a lot of wild ideas that would make great science fiction, but oddly, this one might actually be stranger than fiction since God literally destroyed and remade the earth for us.

Blessings,