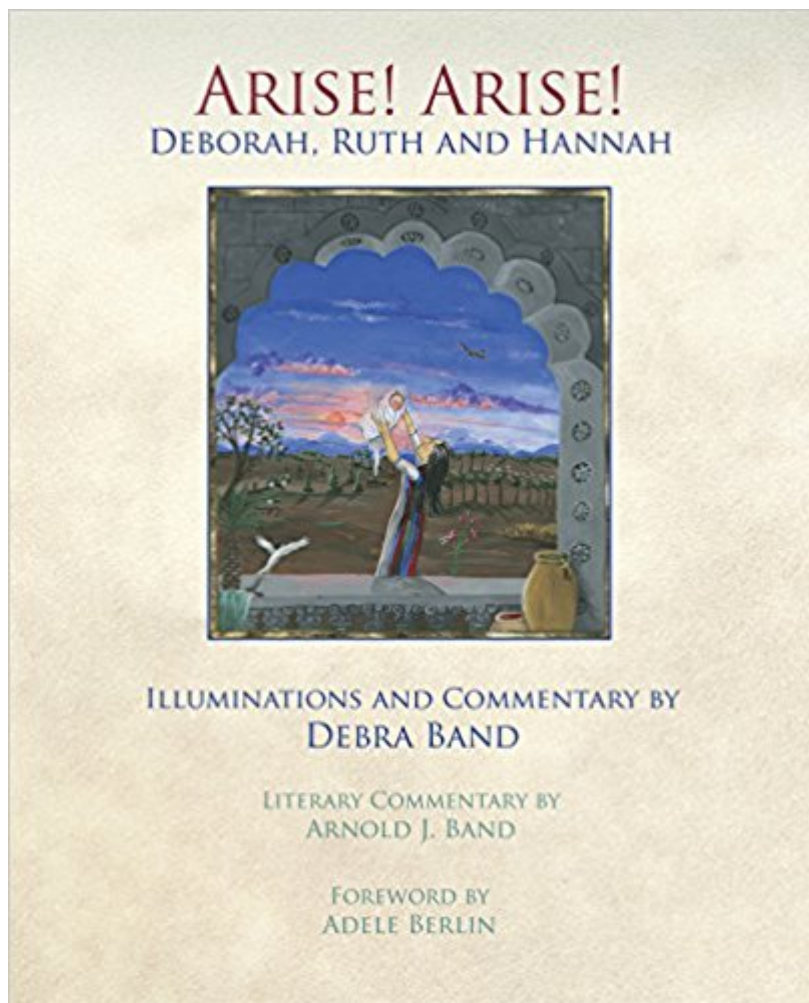




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Arise! Arise! Deborah, Ruth And Hannah



Synopsis

Beautifully illustrated tales of women from the Hebrew Bible with literary commentary by a renowned scholar — Shimmering with gold and rich color, Debra Band's illuminated paintings present three biblical stories of women who stood up at crucial moments to take actions that not only preserved the nascent nation of Israel but also shaped its character. Interpreting the tales through imagery drawn from Jewish lore, academic bible studies, archeology and science, the book offers an aesthetically luscious and intellectually vibrant visual midrash of these three women's tales of the Hebrew Bible and compelling explanations of the symbolism and meaning of each painting. Literary commentary by renowned scholar of Hebrew literature, Arnold J. Band, helps readers fully enjoy the skill of the biblical authors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Each time we open one of Band's books for the very first time, we embark on an amazing adventure! ----Lisa Kogen, Education Director, Women's League for Conservative Judaism>>We are fortunate to live in a time when not just the words but also the artwork of Jewish women can add to our understanding of traditional Jewish texts. Arise! Arise! Deborah, Ruth and Hannah, a new work of commentary and original illuminated paintings by Debra Band, explores the personalities of Deborah, Hannah, and Ruth, combining serious scholarship with artistic talent to create visual midrash. The word midrash comes from the Hebrew root meaning to explore, to question, to demand meaning from a text. Band's visual midrash seamlessly integrates fascinating elements as diverse as history, archaeology, the geography of the land of Israel, rabbinic commentaries,

Shakespeare, psychology, and women's prayers, all of which she brings to illuminate the Biblical text. Learned analysis of the texts as literature, written by well known professor of modern Hebrew literature Arnold Band, the author's father-in-law, accompany her own commentary, which is refracted through the prism of her personal spiritual experiences as a Jewish woman. A welcome addition to the Jewish bookshelf and syllabi for adult education (and not just for women!), this gorgeous volume is certain to delight the eyes, challenge the mind, and nourish the soul. ---- --Rabbi Avis Miller, Washington D.C.

Debra Band is an artist whose works include acclaimed illuminated books and commentaries of biblical and other Jewish texts, such as, *I Will Wake the Dawn: Illuminated Psalms* and *The Song of Songs: the Honeybee in the Garden*. She conducts individual lectures and artist-in-residence programs about her works across the world. She lives near Washington, DC. Arnold J. Band has been a professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at UCLA since 1959. He has authored books on S. Y. Agnon and Nahman of Bratslav, and many scholarly articles in both Hebrew and English. He contributed to *I Will Wake the Dawn: Illuminated Psalms* and has received many honors for his contributions to Jewish studies. He is the founder of the Department of Comparative Literature and the Center for Jewish Studies at UCLA. He lives in Los Angeles. Adele Berlin is emeritus professor at the University of Maryland "College Park, where she taught in the Jewish Studies Program, the Hebrew Program, and the English department. In 1994 she was named the Robert H. Smith Professor of Biblical Studies. She also served as director of the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies and is the author many scholarly books and articles. She lives near Washington, DC.

Arise! Arise! has given me a wonderful new way to approach and understand the text of the books of Deborah, Ruth and Hannah. I recommend it to both the interested casual reader and the Torah scholar. The book includes both an absolutely beautiful illustrated text, and a typeset copy of the text with commentary. Hebrew is included with both versions. The commentary is fascinating, and I particularly like the explanation of the illustrations which provide their own thoughtful explorations and interpretations of the text. As a teacher, I can't wait to teach using *Arise! Arise!* because it opens the Biblical texts and makes them easy and accessible. As a parent, I am excited to sit down and share it with my daughter. We are also planning to make this book our go-to gift for bat mitzvah girls.

This is truly a visual feast! I loved the artwork and having it available in both Hebrew and English was fascinating to me.

According to the dictionary, the word illuminate means "to enlighten someone intellectually or spiritually." This can be done in a variety of ways. For example, Debra Band uses illustrations (which she calls illuminations) to offer commentary and insights into the biblical text. In her third book, "Arise! Arise! Deborah, Ruth and Hannah" (Honeybee in the Garden), Band focuses on three biblical stories featuring women as main characters. Although additional literary commentary is offered by Arnold J. Band, her father-in-law, a professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at UCLA, the real stars of the book are Band's illuminations, which are beautiful enough to stand on their own. Band chose to illuminate these three selections because they tell "stories of women who stood up at crucial moments to take actions that not only preserved the nascent nation of Israel but also shaped its character." Although all take place during the same period of Israelite history, they are located in different biblical books. The story of Deborah is found in the book of Judges and the tale of Hannah in I Samuel, both of which are located in Nevi'im (Prophets). The story of Ruth is located in the Book of Ruth, which, in the Hebrew Bible, is placed in the final section, Ketuvim (Writings). "Arise! Arise!" really tells the stories of five women: Ruth, Naomi, Hannah, Deborah and Jael. The accounts of three women - Ruth, Naomi and Hannah - focus on their domestic lives, specifically marriage and children. The remaining two women offer a more heroic mode: Deborah leads the Israelites into battle, while Jael kills Sisera, the military leader of the Canaanites, after offering him refuge and hospitality. Band explores the different roles they played in her illuminations. Band refers to her illuminations as visual midrash, seeing them as a continuation of the verbal commentary offered in rabbinical sources. Not only are the works filled with imagery drawn from the time period in which the stories occur (the 11th or 12th centuries B.C.E.), they offer interpretations of the text based on a variety of archeological and textual sources. Band's commentary explains the symbols used in her illuminations, but it's possible to enjoy the artwork by itself. My favorite illuminations combine drawing and text (in Hebrew and English) together throughout the page. Some drawings appear without text while other sections focus on the story, but even these contain designs that highlight the meaning of the text. Readers may find themselves turning pages to enjoy the book visually before focusing on the stories. Band has once again done an excellent job using visual arts to illuminate the emotions and events found in the biblical text. Her book would make an excellent bat mitzvah or wedding present, although its appeal is not limited to women. Anyone interested in the emerging field of visual midrash will want to explore "Arise! Arise!"

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