



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Mosaic Depictions of Ancient Israelite Women

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Abstract

Israelite women in ancient mosaics offer valuable insights into the social, religious, and cultural roles of women in the biblical and post-biblical periods. Mosaics from archaeological sites in Israel, particularly from synagogues and private homes, frequently depict women in a variety of contexts, illustrating their presence in both public and private spheres. These depictions often showcase women engaged in domestic activities, religious practices, and celebrations, revealing their integral role in family and communal life. Through symbolic representations and narrative scenes, such as those found in the famous mosaic of the Sepphoris synagogue, women are sometimes portrayed in roles that suggest authority and spiritual significance. While these mosaics do not provide a comprehensive view of everyday life, they offer glimpses into the values and ideals associated with women in ancient Israel, balancing their traditional domestic roles with emerging depictions of piety and participation in broader societal events. Examining these images helps to deepen our understanding of gender dynamics and the cultural significance of women in the ancient Israelite world.

Keywords

Art, Religion, Women, Mosaic, Israelite

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

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