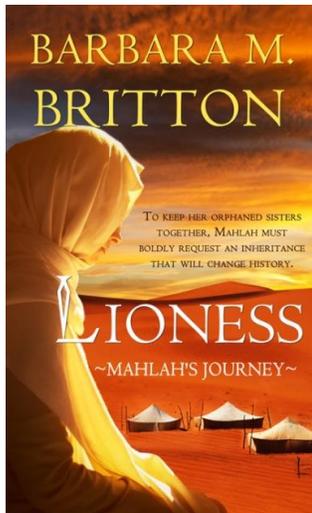


Discussion Questions



LIONESS: MAHLAH'S JOURNEY

Tribes Of Israel - The daughters of Zelophehad Book 1

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About the Book

While the Israelites struggle to occupy the Promised Land of God, Mahlah bat Zelophehad is orphaned and left to care for her four sisters. But daughters of the dead are unable to inherit land, and it will take a miracle for Mahlah to obtain the means to care for her sisters and uphold the vow she made to her dying mother.

Mahlah must seek Moses, the leader of her people, and request something extraordinary—the right for a daughter to inherit her deceased father’s land. A right that will upset the ox-cart of male inheritance and thrust her into the role of a rebel.

But, God is the protector of the orphan and the widow, and five orphaned daughters need His help. With God, anything is possible. Even changing man’s tradition.

TITLE: Lioness: Mahlah's Journey

Discussion:

Question 1: 1. Were you familiar with the story of Zelophehad's daughters before reading "Lioness: Mahlah's Journey?" Why do you think this story isn't widely known?

Answer 1: : I wasn't familiar with the story. Many people aren't familiar with Old Testament stories. The daughters first appear in a list of names which isn't exciting.

Question 2: 2. Do you have a favorite character in the book? Which daughter is most like you in personality?

Answer 2: Answers will vary. I am organized and try to coordinate events, so I relate to Mahlah.

Question 3: 3. The daughters of Zelophehad made a bold move going before powerful leaders to ask for their father's land. Have you done something lately that has taken courage? Possibly made you nervous?

Answer 3: Answers will vary. Every time I send a book out into the world I get nervous.

Question 4: 4. The Bible has several verses about taking care of the fatherless and the widow (Exodus 22:22-23, Deuteronomy 14:28-29, Psalm 68:5, Matthew 25:37-40, James 1:27). Why was this important to God? In what ways can we take care of the orphan and widow today?

Answer 4: Readers may or may not know of God's protection for the orphan and widow. We serve a loving God. Today, we can support homeless shelters, orphanages, and compassion ministries with our finances, prayers, and our time.

Question 5: 5. Why do you think Hoglah and Basemath journeyed to the pit in Peor? Was Eli to blame?

Answer 5: Ideas will vary. Sometimes we are blinded to truth when our peers are doing something that goes against God's ways. I imagine peer pressure existed in the days of the Exodus. Hoglah was the middle child. Do you think she felt neglected or unappreciated? Did alcohol play a role in her bad judgment?

Question 6: 6. How would you react to seeing a miracle such as the parting of the Jordan River? Do you think the people of God were accustomed to seeing miracles?

Answer 6: : I think I would be shocked, surprised and elated. The Hebrew people taught the story of the Exodus to their children. God had parted the Red Sea in the Hebrew people's escape from Egypt. Would the manna and quail be daily miracles? What about the cloud over the tent of Meeting and the pillar of fire at night?

Question 7: 7. Were you familiar with Balaam, son of Beor? He is a bad guy of the Bible. What made this sorcerer so wicked? (2 Peter 2:15, Jude 11, Revelation 2:14)

Answer 7: Balaam offered sacrifices to other gods. He schemed to have the Hebrew people worship Baal. The first commandment says the Israelites shall not worship other gods. There is only One True God.

Question 8: 8. Do you think Shuni and his relatives were rude for showing up at Mahlah's tent? What could they have done differently to not cause a scene?

Answer 8: Answers will vary. Shuni could have arranged a meeting through a relative of the daughters of Zelophehad. Certainly, his behavior caused problems for the daughters. Did he redeem himself?

Question 9: 9. What was your favorite scene from the book? Share what made it special.

Answer 9 I loved the ending in the tent. I also like the scene at the rock with the cloud.

Question 10: 10. Where do you see the daughters of Zelophehad going? What do you think they are doing now? Who has come to offer for their hands in marriage?

Answer 10: The story of these brave girls continues in the book of Joshua. Adventure waits for Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.

