

Lesser-Known Bible Women

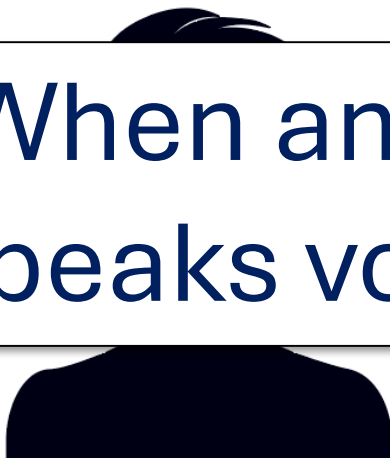




Unnamed but Significant Women



When anonymity
speaks volumes...



“peloni almoni”
(פְּלוֹנִי אֶלְמוֹנִי)

“Mr. So and So”

Why no name?



There are various reasons



To prevent
embarrassment



Ruth 4:1

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, **friend**; sit down here.”

And he turned aside and sat down.

Ruth 4:1

וּבָעַז עָלָה הַשָּׂעַר וַיֵּשֶׁב
שָׁם וְהִנֵּה הַגֵּאֵל עֹבֵר
אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-בָּעַז וַיֵּאמֶר
סוּרָה שְׁבָה-פֹּה **פְּלִנִי**
אֵלַי וַיֵּסֶר וַיֵּשֶׁב:

The person
is unknown



Genesis 6:9-10

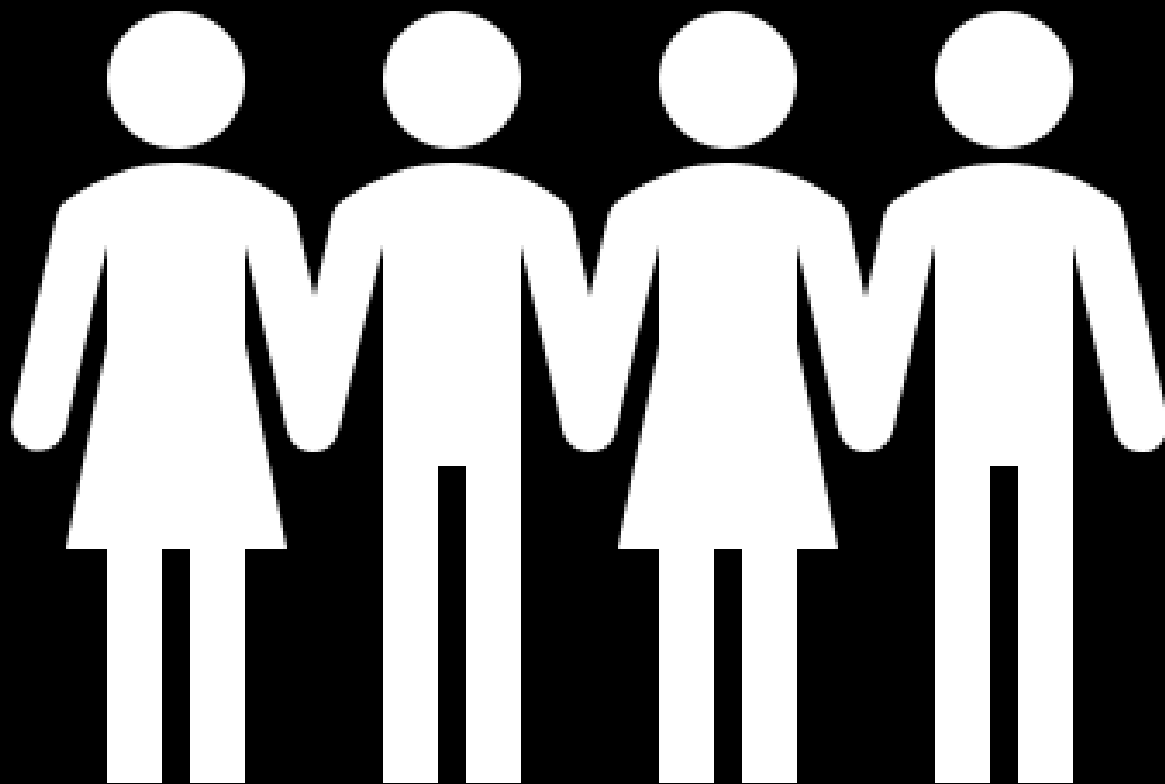
These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6:9-10

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ
אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה
בְּדֹרֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים
הִתְהַלֵּךְ־נֹחַ וְיִזְלַד נֹחַ
נְשָׁאָה בָנִים אֶת־נֹשֶׁם
אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת:

LITERARY DEVICE





It elevates
one's universal
significance

2 Kings 4:8

One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food.

2 Kings 4:8

וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וַיַּעֲבֹר
אֶלְיָשָׁע אֶל-נָשׁוֹנִים וְנָשׁ
אִשָּׁה גְדוֹלָה וַתַּחֲזֶק-בּוֹ
לֶאֱכֹל-לֶחֶם וַיְהִי מִדֵּי
עֲבָרוֹ יִסֹּר שַׁמָּה
לֶאֱכֹל-לֶחֶם:



The lesson of hospitality

A close-up, low-angle shot of an orange basketball with black lines, resting on a light blue-green court floor. The background is heavily blurred, showing several people in white and blue athletic wear, likely players and a coach, in a gymnasium setting with wooden walls.

Brings divine action
to the foreground

Mark 16:5-6

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.

Mark 16:5-6

Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρηνὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν

Delivering a
dose of irony

**KEEP OFF
GRASS**

A photograph of a desert landscape with a sign that reads "KEEP OFF GRASS". The sign is white with black text and is mounted on two white metal posts. It is placed on a mound of reddish-brown gravel. In the background, there are sand dunes, a small building, a large tree, and a yellow flag on a pole. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Exodus 5:1-2

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’”

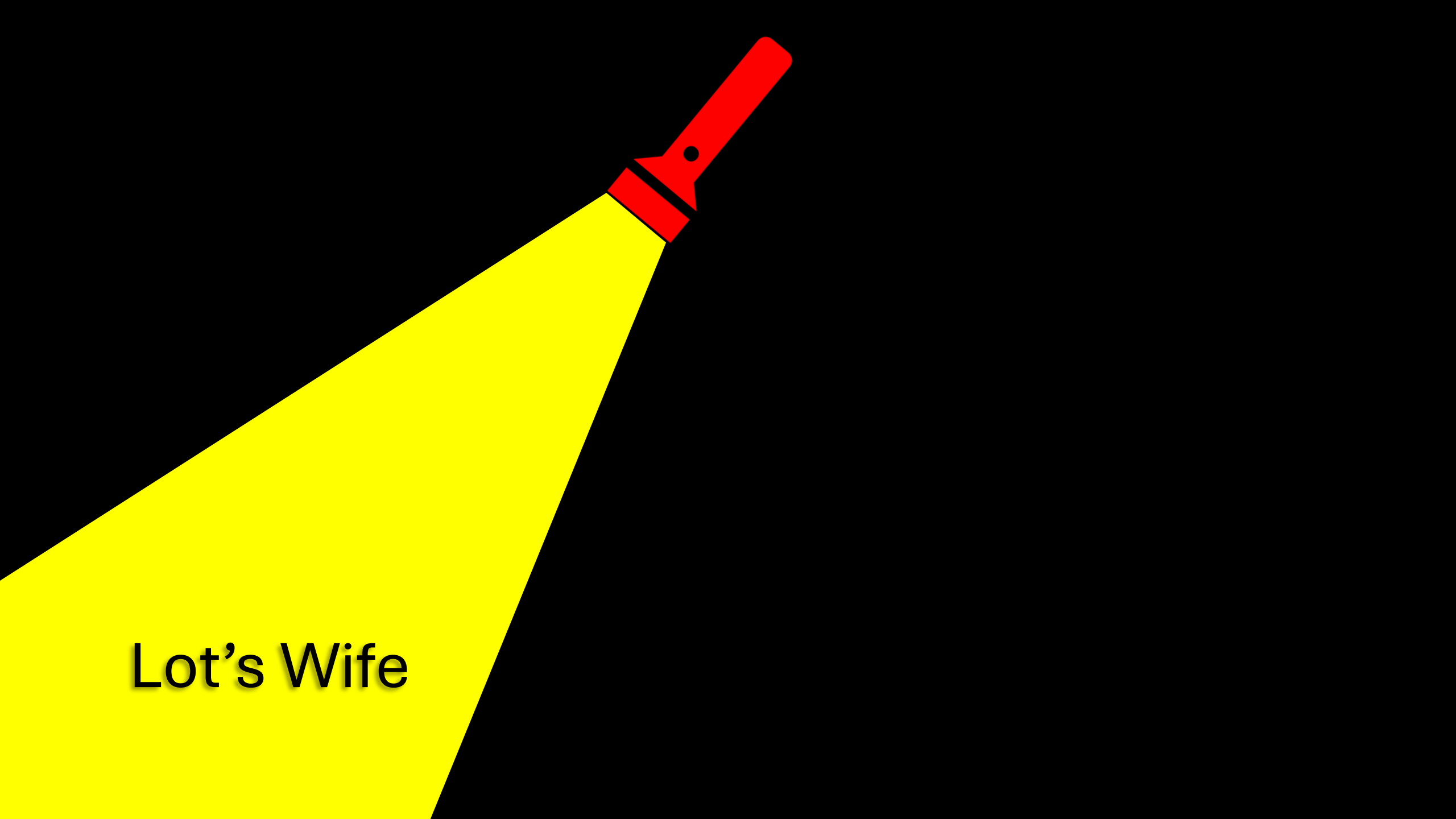
But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?”

Exodus 5:1-2

וְאַחֲרַיִם בָּאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה
כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלַח אֶת־עַמִּי
וַיַּחֲגּוּ לִי בַּמִּדְבָּר׃
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה מִי יְהוָה
אֲנִשׁ אֲשֶׁמַע בְּקוֹלוֹ



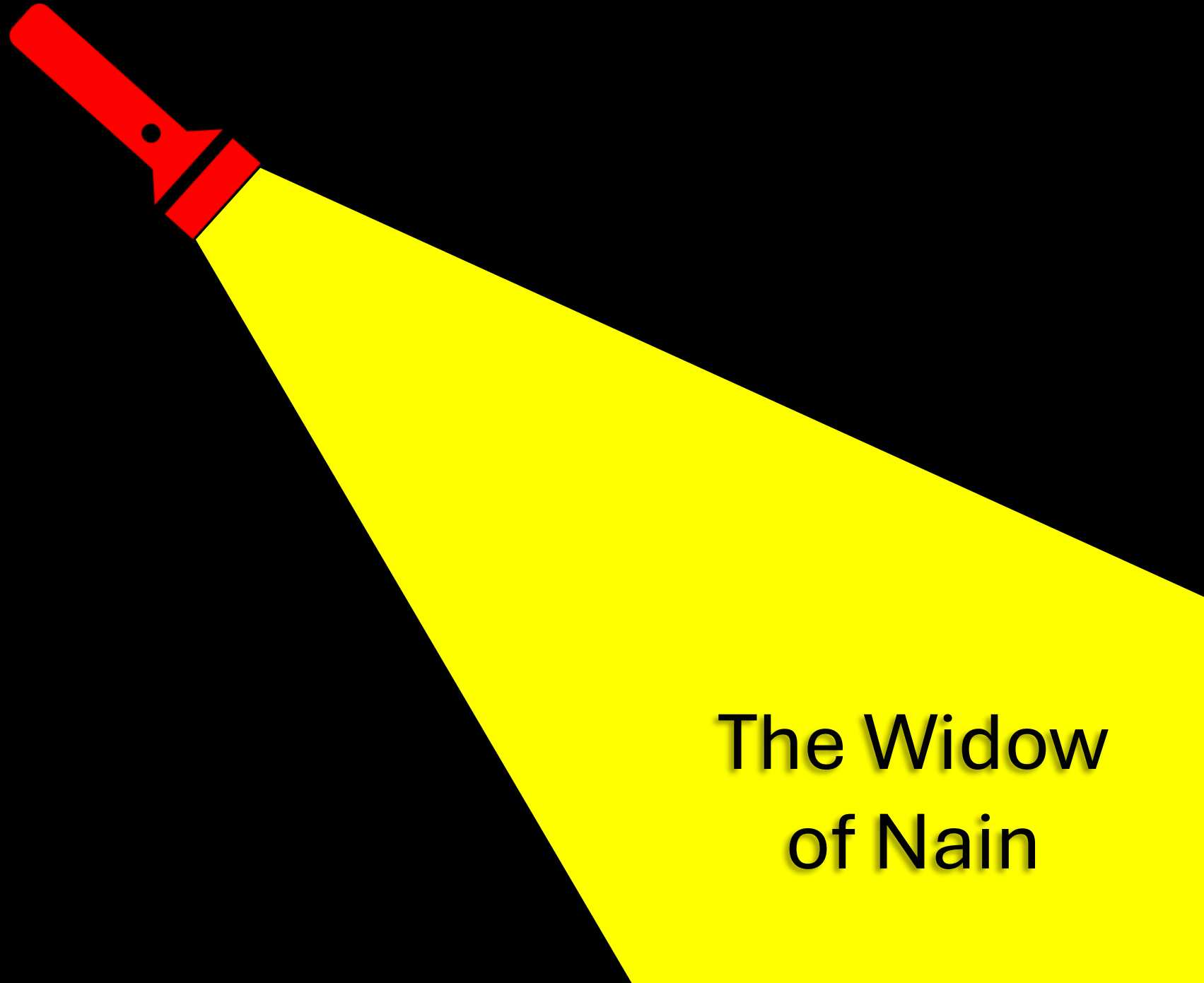
Unnamed but Significant Women



Lot's Wife

A red flashlight beam shines down from the top center of the image, illuminating the text 'Jephthah's Daughter' in a bright yellow cone against a black background.

Jephthah's
Daughter



The Widow
of Nain

A red flashlight is positioned in the upper right quadrant, pointing downwards and to the left. A bright yellow beam of light emanates from the flashlight's lens, illuminating a triangular area that expands as it moves towards the bottom left. The text 'Lot's Wife' is centered within this illuminated area.

Lot's Wife

Looking back on a
well-known story





Guess which
one's the salt?

THE DAILY TOON

BY MARK LYNCH



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Genesis 19:15

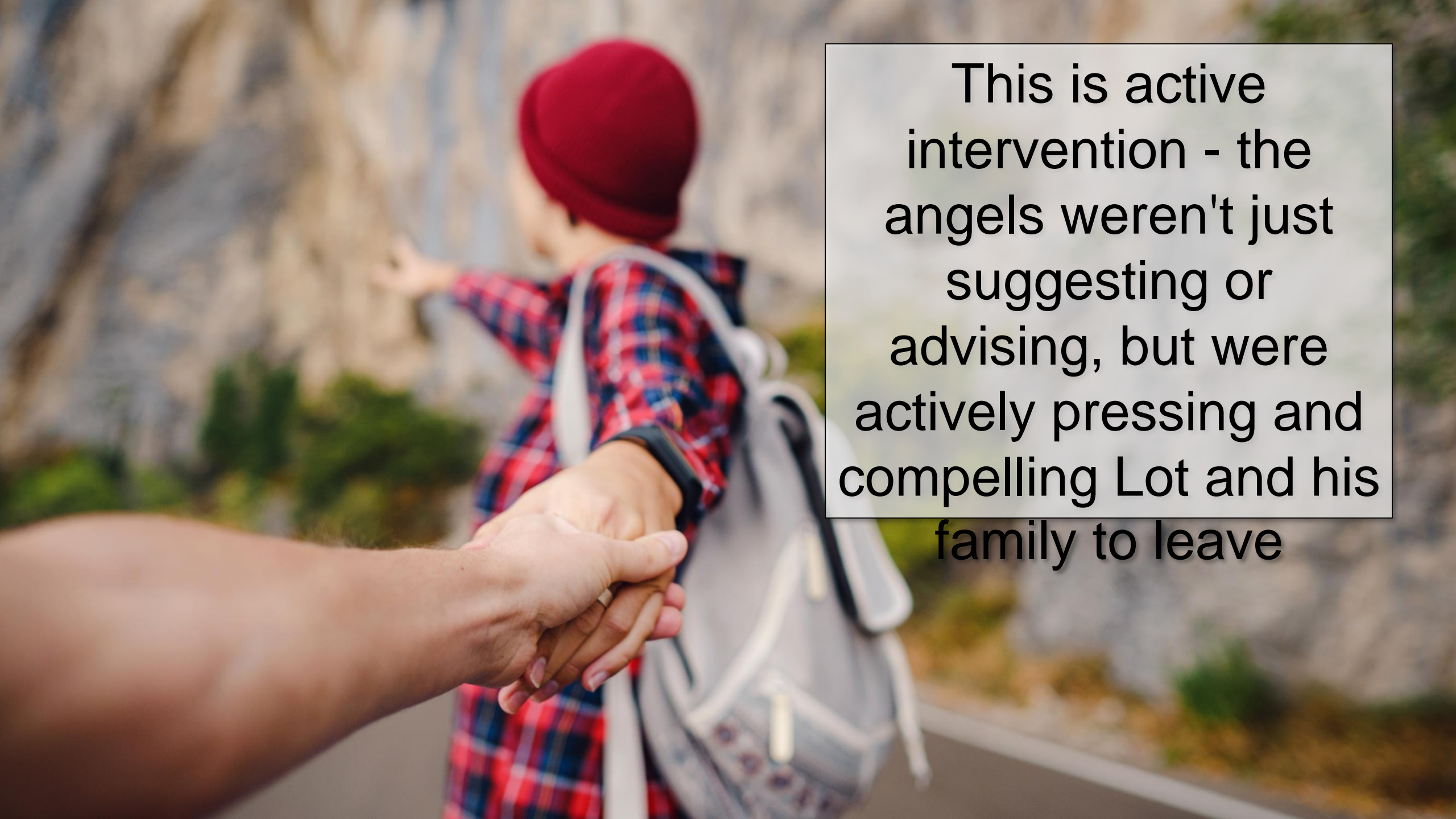
As morning dawned, the angels **urged** Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.”

יָאֵץ = *utz* : “press or hasten”

In the “hifal” as a cause

Genesis 19:15

וַיָּאֵץ הַמַּלְאָכִים בְּלוֹט
לֵאמֹר קוּמְ קַח
אֶת־אִשְׁתְּךָ וְאֶת־שְׁתֵּי
בָנֹתֶיךָ הַנִּמְצָאֹת
פֶּן־תִּסָּפֶה

A person wearing a red beret and a red and blue plaid shirt is seen from behind, holding hands with another person whose arm is visible in the foreground. The person in the plaid shirt is also carrying a grey backpack. They are standing on a paved path next to a rocky, hilly landscape. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

This is active intervention - the angels weren't just suggesting or advising, but were actively pressing and compelling Lot and his family to leave

Genesis 19:16

But he **lingered**. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being **merciful** to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Genesis 19:16

וַיִּתְמַהֲמָה וַיִּחְזְקוּ
הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ
וּבְיַד-אִשְׁתּוֹ וּבְיַד שְׁתֵּי
בָנֹתָיו בְּחֶמְלַת יְהוָה
עָלָיו וַיֹּצֵאֵהוּ וַיַּנְחֵהוּ
מִחוּץ לְעִיר:

Genesis 19:17

And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.”

Genesis 19:17

וַיְהִי כְהוֹצִיאָם אֹתָם
הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמַּלְאָכִים
עַל-נַפְשְׁךָ אַל-תִּבְּטִיט
אֲחֵרֶיךָ וְאַל-תַּעֲמֹד
בְּכָל-הַכְּנָר הַהִוא
הַמַּלְאָכִים פֶּן-תִּסּוּפָה:

Genesis 19:23-24

The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

Genesis 19:23-24

הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ
וְלוֹט בָּא צִעְרָה: וַיְהִי
הַמָּטֵר עַל־סֹדֹם
וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה גִפְרִית וָאֵשׁ
מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

Genesis 19:25

And he overthrew those
cities, and all the valley,
and all the inhabitants of
the cities, and what grew
on the ground.

Genesis 19:25

וַיִּהְיוּ אֵת-הָעָרִים
הָאֵל וְאֵת כָּל-הַכֶּכֶּר
וְאֵת כָּל-יֹשְׁבֵי הָעָרִים
וְצֶמַח הָאֲדָמָה:

Genesis 19:26

But Lot's **wife**, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:26

וַתִּבֶּט **אִשְׁתּוֹ** מֵאַחֲרָיו
וַתְּהִי נְצִיב מֶלַח:

נָבַט = *navat* : “look”

In the “hifal” – she just wouldn't go

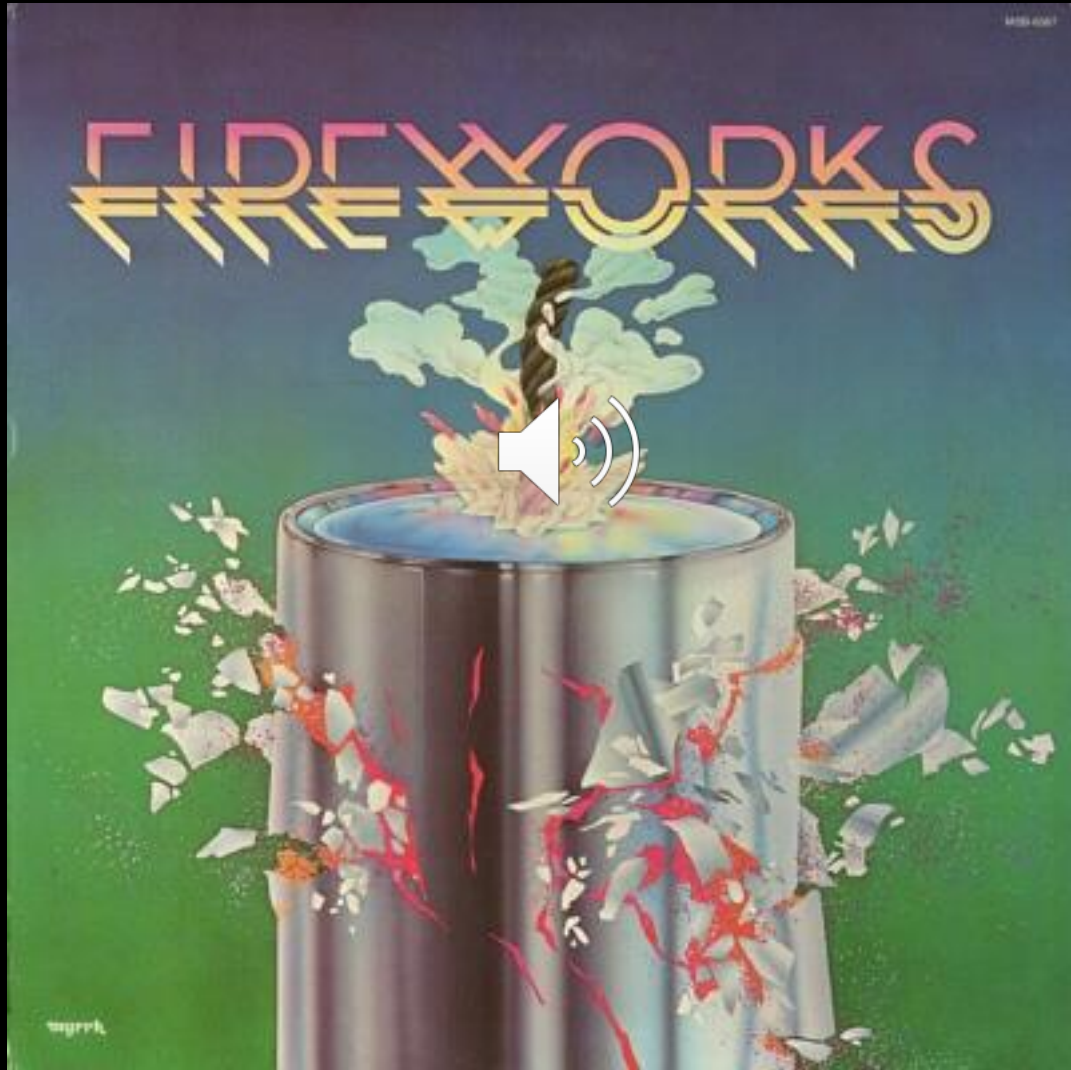
Luke 17:32-33

Remember Lot's wife.

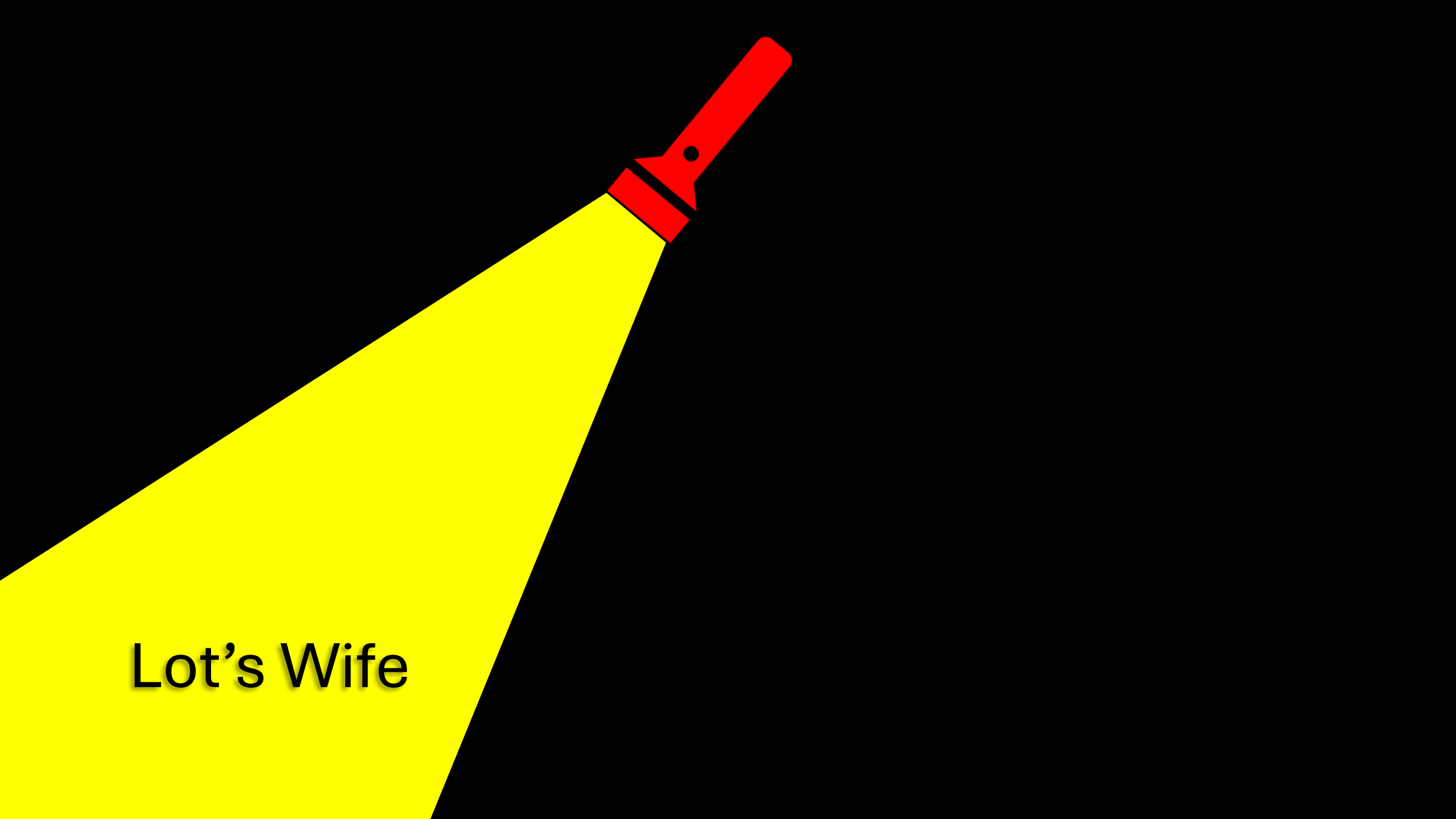
Whoever seeks to
preserve his life will lose
it, but whoever loses his
life will keep it.

Luke 17:32-33

μνημονεύετε τῆς γυναικὸς
Λώτ. ὃς ἐὰν ζητήσῃ τὴν ψυχὴν
αὐτοῦ περιποιήσασθαι
ἀπολέσει αὐτήν, ὃς δ' ἂν
ἀπολέσῃ ζωογονήσῃ αὐτήν.



And DWA always goes for the
anyone's hearing it to live"
I've been told the end of
turn of the world is right
Boy, don't look back,
it is ahead of you



Lot's Wife

A red flashlight beam shines down from the top center of the frame, illuminating the text 'Jephthah's Daughter' in a bright yellow cone against a black background.

Jephthah's
Daughter

A close-up, blurred image of a clock face. The numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are visible, though out of focus. The clock hands are dark, and a thin red second hand is prominent, pointing towards the top left. The overall color scheme is blue and white, with a sense of motion and urgency.

I hate this story so
let's do it fast...

The time of Judges



Meet Jephthah



Meet Jephthah



Judges 11:1

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

Judges 11:1

יִפְתָּח הַגִּלְעָדִי הָיָה
גִּבּוֹר חָיִל וְהוּא
בֶּן-אִשָּׁה זֹנֶה וַיֹּלֶד
גִּלְעָד אֶת-יִפְתָּח:

Judges 11:2

And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

Judges 11:2

וַתֵּלֶד אִשְׁת־גִּלְעָד לּוֹ
בָּנִים וַיַּגְדֵּלוּ
בְּנֵי־הָאִשָּׁה וַיַּגְרִשׁוּ
אֶת־יִפְתָּח וַיֹּאמְרוּ לּוֹ
לֹא־תִנְחַל בְּבֵית־אָבִינוּ
כִּי בֶן־אִשָּׁה אַחֲרַת
אַתָּה:

Judges 11:3

Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and worthless fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him.

Judges 11:3

וַיִּבְרַח יִפְתָּח מִפָּנָיו
אֶחָיו וַיָּשֶׁב בְּאֶרֶץ טוֹב
וַיִּתְּלָקֻטּוּ אֵלָיו יִפְתָּח
אֲנָשִׁים רִיקִים וַיֵּצְאוּ
עִמּוֹ:

Judges 11:29

Then the Spirit of the
LORD was upon
Jephthah, and he passed
through Gilead and
Manasseh and passed on
to Mizpah of Gilead, and
from Mizpah of Gilead he
passed on to the
Ammonites.

Judges 11:29

וַתְּהִי עַל־יְפֹתָח רֹחַ
יְהוָה וַיַּעֲבֹר
אֶת־הַגְּלָעָד
וְאֶת־מְנַשֶּׁה וַיַּעֲבֹר
אֶת־מִצְפֵּה גִלְעָד
וּמִמִּצְפֵּה גִלְעָד עָבַר
בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן

Judges 11:30

And Jephthah made a
vow to the LORD and
said, “If you will give the
Ammonites into my
hand,

Judges 11:30

וַיֵּדָר יִפְתָּח בְּנֶדֶר לַיהוָה
וַיֹּאמֶר אִם־נָתַן תִּתֶּנּוּ
אֶת־בְּנִי עֹמֹן בְּיָדִי:

Judges 11:31

then whatever comes out
from the doors of my
house to meet me when I
return in peace from the
Ammonites shall be the
LORD'S, and I will offer it
up for a burnt offering."

Judges 11:31

וְהָיָה הַיּוֹצֵא אֶנְשִׁי יִצָּא
מִדִּלְתֵּי בֵּיתִי לִקְרַאתִי
בְּשׁוּבִי בְּשָׁלוֹם מִבְּנֵי
עַמּוֹן וְהָיָה לַיהוָה
וְהִעֲלֵיתָהוּ עֹלָה:

Judges 11:32

So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.

Judges 11:32

וַיַּעְבֹּד יִפְתָּח אֶל-בְּנֵי
עַמּוֹן לְהַלְחִים בָּם
וַיִּתְּנֵם יְהוָה בְּיָדוֹ:

Judges 11:34

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

Judges 11:34

וַיָּבֹא יִפְתָּח הַמִּצְפָּה
אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וְהִנֵּה בָתּוֹ
יֵצֵאת לִקְרָאתוֹ בְּתִפּוּיִם
וּבְמַחֲלוֹת וְרֵק הִיא
יְחִידָה אֵין-לָהּ מִמֶּנּוּ בֵן
אוֹ-בַת:



Dr. John
Goldingay

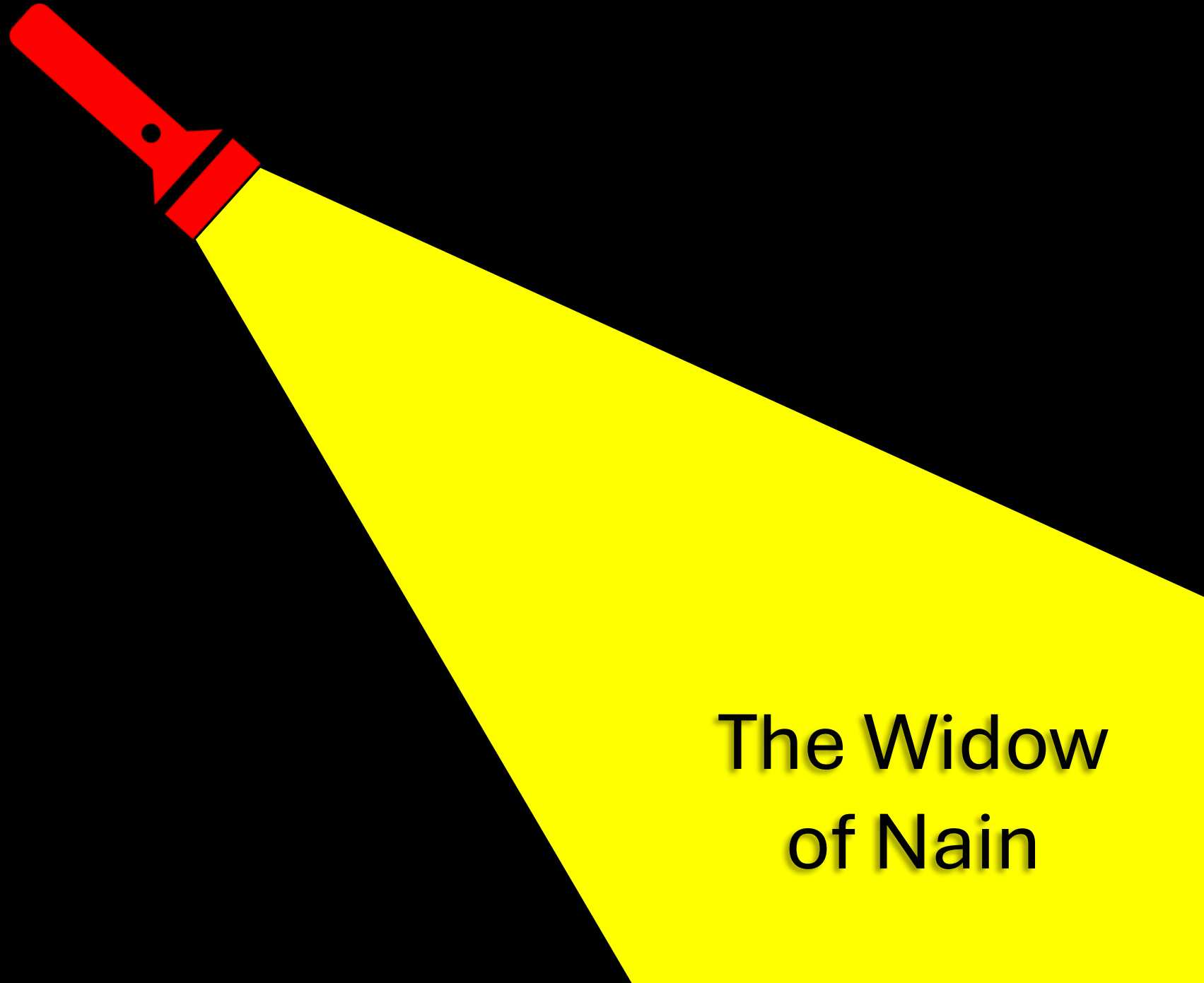
The Bible is not a book that provides us with a way of escaping the reality of how the world is but one that rubs our noses in the reality of how the world is. Its lack of explicit moral judgments ... focuses our attention on the story itself and the horror of its implications concerning the stupidity of Jephthah and the suffering of a girl.

The time of Judges



A red flashlight beam shines down from the top center of the image, illuminating the text 'Jephthah's Daughter' in a bright yellow cone against a black background.

Jephthah's
Daughter



The Widow
of Nain

Luke 7:11

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him.

Luke 7:11

Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ἑξῆς
ἐπορεύθη εἰς πόλιν
καλουμένην Ναὶν καὶ
συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ
μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ
ὄχλος πολὺς.

Luke 7:12

As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

Luke 7:12

ὥς δὲ ἤγγισεν τῇ πύλῃ
τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδού
ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκὼς
μονογενὴς υἱὸς τῇ μητρὶ
αὐτοῦ καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα,
καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως
ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ.

Luke 7:13

And when the Lord saw
her, he had compassion
on her and said to her,
“Do not weep.”

Luke 7:13

καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ κύριος
ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ’ αὐτῇ
καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ
κλαῖε.

Luke 7:14

Then he came up and **touched** the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

Luke 7:14

καὶ προσελθὼν ἥψατο
τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ
βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν,
καὶ εἶπεν· νεανίσκε, σοὶ
λέγω, ἐγέρθητι.

Luke 7:15

And the dead man sat up
and began to speak, and
Jesus gave him to his
mother.

Luke 7:15

καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς
καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ
ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ
αὐτοῦ.

Luke 7:16

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

Luke 7:16

ἔλαβεν δὲ φόβος πάντας
καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν θεὸν
λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης
μέγας ἠγέρθη ἐν ἡμῖν
καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ
θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

Luke 7:17

And this report about him
spread through the whole
of Judea and all the
surrounding country.

Luke 7:17

καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ὁ λόγος
οὗτος ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ
περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάσῃ τῇ
περιχώρῳ.

1 Cor. 15:54

When the perishable puts
on the imperishable, and
the mortal puts on
immortality, then shall
come to pass the saying
that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in
victory.”

1 Cor. 15:54

ὅταν δὲ τὸ φθαρτὸν τοῦτο
ἐνδύσῃται ἀφθαρσίαν καὶ
τὸ θνητὸν τοῦτο
ἐνδύσῃται ἀθανασίαν,
τότε γενήσεται ὁ λόγος ὁ
γεγραμμένος·
κατεπόθη ὁ θάνατος εἰς
νῖκος.

1 Cor. 15:55

“O death, where is your
victory? O death, where is
your sting?”

1 Cor. 15:55

ποῦ σου, θάνατε, τὸ
νῖκος; ποῦ σου, θάνατε,
τὸ κέντρον;



*take
home*

A brown paper take-home bag stands upright against a dark blue background. The bag has a simple, rectangular shape with a folded top and a flat bottom. The words "take home" are printed in a dark brown, cursive script on the front panel. The lighting is soft, casting a gentle glow on the bag and the surface it sits on.

“Remember Lot’s wife.” (Lk 17:32)

Pursue God!



Don't be
an idiot!

"It is a trap to dedicate
something rashly and
only later to consider
one's vows." (Pro. 20:25)



Never doubt the compassion of God

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every
morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:22-23)



Lesser-Known Bible Women

