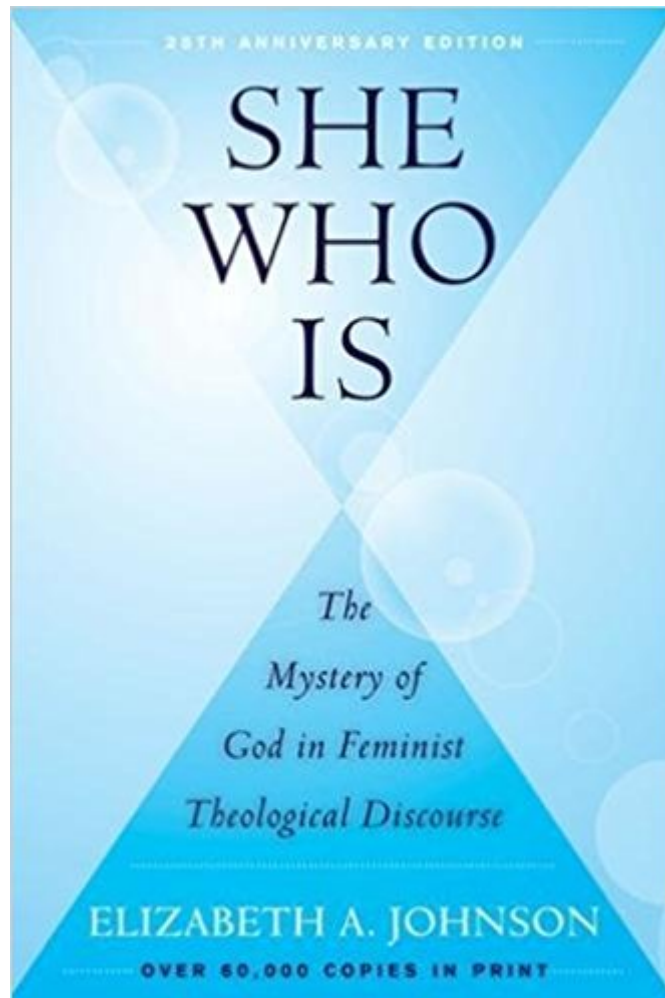




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She Who Is: The Mystery Of God In Feminist Theological Discourse



Synopsis

Winner of the Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion, this classic text explains what feminist theology is and how we can rediscover the feminine God within the Christian tradition, offering a profound vision of Christian theology, women's experience, and emancipation. First published in 1992, it immediately caused a groundswell reaction for and against the concept of women's participation and role in the Christian church. It is both controversial and thought provoking. It served as the seminal text in the analysis of woman and Christianity. This 25th anniversary edition, with new content, will keep it in the forefront of the feminist theology conversation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As perhaps the best book of feminist theology to date, *She Who Is* is at once thoroughly orthodox, grounded in classical Christian thought, liberatingly contemporary, and rooted in women's experience. Johnson reviews the history of Christian language about God and explains the need for feminist language about God, thereby providing background for nontheologians. She then develops an inclusive and creative Christian spiritual doctrine. Highly recommended for all collections serving educated lay readers, theologians, and clergy. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Elizabeth Johnson's study is simply superb. The clarity of her analyses and judicious yet imaginative use of language advance feminist theology to a new level of discussion. Every serious

student of theology must read this brilliant work of scholarship and creativity. • "Anne Carr, Professor of Theology, Divinity School, University of Chicago • In this lucid, troubling, deeply consoling book, Elizabeth Johnson seeks a liberating language for women and men to use together in addressing the mystery of God. I cannot imagine a serious reader who will not learn here to think and act and, yes, pray in a new way. • "Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., President, Georgetown University

This book is not just a great book on feminist theology; that would be a merit in itself. It is, however, also an important statement on the doctrine of God in Christian theology. For me, it will continue to be an important resource for my own theological work. The greatness of this work is that it blends feminist deconstruction with the wealth of the tradition. She accomplishes the impossible by bringing the two together, preserving both the insights of the past with the liberative elements in feminist discourse. Very powerful and important book!

Here's a snippet of my book review: As an African-American Christian woman, I understand the need for liberationist theologies. While I am not an avid supporter of the feminist theological movement, I understand the premise in which it has been established. Johnson was successful in her endeavor of presenting a balanced and graceful argument for the need to introduce and utilize female language for God within a Christian context. From my reading, I am drawn to the conclusion that SHE WHO IS will advance the discussion of God from a Christian feminist perspective. My main reservations about the book is Johnson's view that speech about God in exclusively male terminology undermines women's dignity and equality as being created in the image of God. As a woman I do not agree that traditional or patriarchal terminology about God undermines women being created in the imago Dei. Genesis 1:27 clearly states that, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them." This verse alone empowers rather than weakens the view of women as created in the imago Dei. While I disagree that current speech about God undermines female equality, I agree with Johnson's claims that new speech about God can be welcomed as long as it reveals the character of the GOD WHO IS mediated through the Scripture. Possessing no initial knowledge of the feminist theological movement, I enjoyed the vast amount of information presented by Johnson in SHE WHO IS. This complex, academic read is one that I would recommend to women as a resource to broaden perspectives on speech about God and to those interested in liberation theologies.

What a great book. The author uses scripture to paint another side of our loving God. This book will blow your mind and give you a new intimacy with "She Who Is".

It's a bit heavy to get through but well worth the time invested in studying it. I am one of the women who is convinced that there were more than 12 disciples and that there were women among them that were also disciples. This book is provocative as well as enlightening.

Definitely not an "easy" reading book, but I am still reading it!

I am sorry I did not read this earlier in my journey. It is well written and the back up research is very solid. When you find this kind of treasure, you wonder if you have been hoodwinked. Every Christian should read this as well as folks from all spiritual paths.

This should be taught in every theology course. It's not "bash the guys" feminism. It shows other dimensions of the "white bearded male and his long brown haired son" God. Not better or worse, but more.

I found this book difficult and challenging to negotiate through. That's not necessarily a bad thing. While I am a professional person with a Master's degree, I found the language/vocabulary made it very slow reading. I believe this would deter a less-educated person from reading this work, which is unfortunate because Elizabeth has so many insightful and inspiring things to say--if you can get to them through the language. "Scholarly" work doesn't have to be unreachable for the "common" person. When she allows herself to be poetic, the language is simple and the imagery is not only exquisite but crystal clear. An example of this is her description of the Spirit in a trinitarian framework: "If God as origin is pictured as the sun, and God incarnate as the beam of that same light streaming to the earth (Christ the sunbeam), then Spirit is the point of light that actually arrives and affects the earth with warmth and energy. And it is all the one shining light." Exquisite! Trinity is not an easy concept to grasp or feel "in relationship" with. But this image did it for me!

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