

Isn't the Bible Sexist?

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- >3000 named characters in Bible
- <150 named women
- <5% of named individuals in Bible
- Futile to try to argue that the Bible treats male and female equally



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Study finds there are 93 women in the Bible - but they speak just 1.1 per cent of the time

- **Painstaking search finds total of 14,056 words spoken by women**
- **Mary, the mother of Jesus, speaks just 191 words in total**
- **The Bible is estimated to contain approximately 1.1 million words**
- **Research carried out by Rev Lindsay Hardin Freeman and three volunteers**

By [LAURIE HANNA FOR MAILONLINE](#)

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A new study has revealed there are a total of just 93 women mentioned in the Bible - and they speak only 1.1 per cent of the time.

But what is equality?

Many terrorists treat all their victims equally



Communists like the idea of equality

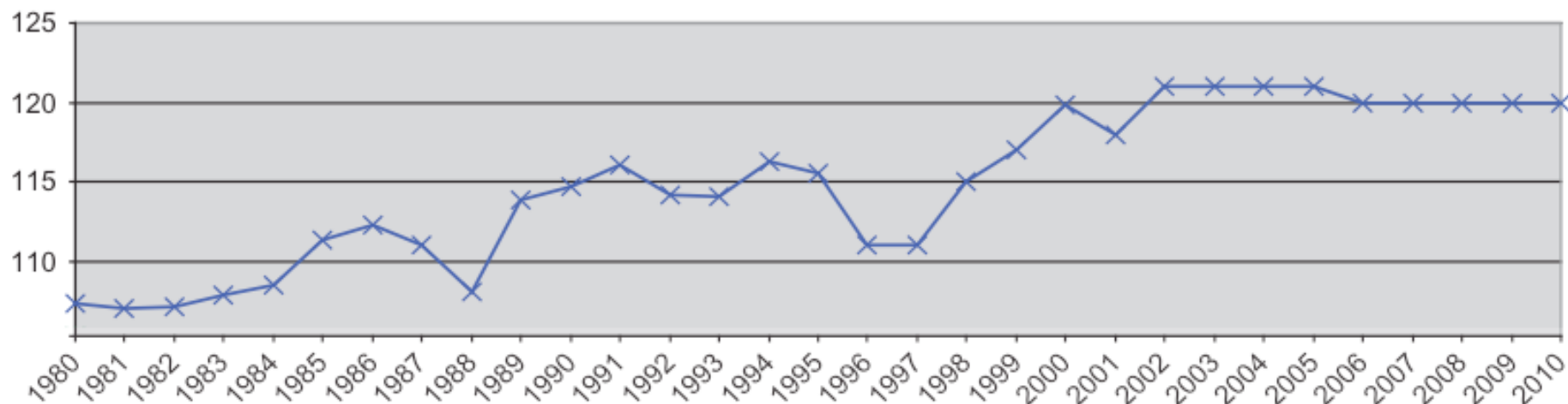


Secular Equality!

- The human race is just a chemical scum on a moderate-sized planet, orbiting around a very average star in the outer suburb of one among a hundred billion galaxies. We are so insignificant that I can't believe the whole universe exists for our benefit. That would be like saying that you would disappear if I closed my eyes. (Professor Stephen Hawking, Cambridge University)



Secularism: Male to female births in China



Secularism:

- Global trafficking: 70% female
- European trafficking: 80% female
- 22% of European women have experienced non-partner violence since age 15
- 5% of European women raped since age 15
- \$US porn > \$US sports + live music
- What is the value of old people within secularism?

Biblical Equality: Pictures of God



Christianity vs secularism

Christianity: Image of God

- Every individual is of infinite value
- Every individual must be treated with dignity and justice
- Worth is not connected to activity

Secular egalitarianism

- Vague notion of equality applied in select and mechanical socially constructed ways
- Worth is connected to work and societal contribution

The role women play in the Bible

- Tamar vs. Judah
- Hebrew midwives
- Rahab changes sides
- Bathsheba vs. David
- Jehosheba hides Joash
- Esther saves Jews
- Mary mother of Jesus
- Women at tomb vs. male disciples

Differential vocation everywhere!

- Abraham
- Firstborn
- Israel
- Priests
- Monarchs
- → The objection to 'sexism' is too narrow

Broad objections

- The Creator is not allowed to differentiate the roles, vocations or favours given to his creatures unless there is something about the creatures which requires it.
- The Creator is obliged to treat creatures of the same type equally.
- If the Creator differentiates without cause, he must be bad / nasty / unloving.

A differentiating God

- The claim that God is a being who treats his creatures differentially is a repeated core claim of the Bible.
- Therefore objecting to the Bible on the ground that God differentiates is simply a repetition of a value from another religion (e.g. secular atheism), not a forceful argument.
- It is also a central claim of the biblical text that God grants more favour than we deserve.
- God's people are depicted as a female for whom God's Son gives himself.

Questions?