Wisdom is Weaving the Fabric of Creation I.

The Lady’s Coloured Fabrics.

Margaret Barker 2015

A. The Lady was hidden in the Hebrew Scriptures by the scribes; the Lady was not included in the books that the Rabbis chose to become the Hebrew Scriptures after 70 CE

B. About 500CE, Bishop Jacob of Sarug, ‘On the Chariot that Ezekiel saw’ knew that the chariot throne represented the Lady.

C. Lady of Jerusalem was also called Wisdom, the Spirit, the Virgin, and the Queen.

D. Mishnah Aboda Zarah 3.9; unclean cloth woven with wood from the Lady’s tree.

E. The Lady’s creation story was weaving, not conquering an enemy as in Job 26.12; Isaiah 51.9-10.

F. The Lady’s view of creation is exactly the new world view that has developed since the whole earth was first seen from space in 1968. Quote from M B Rambler and L Margulis, Global Ecological Research and Public Response’ in Global Ecology, 1989, pp.143-7, pp143, 146.

G. Rabbi Nehunyah, about 100CE, said that he saw the secrets, the bonds and the wonders, the weaving of the fabric that perfects the creation. He saw the interweaving upon it and the beauty of heaven and earth. He saw all distant parts of the earth and the inhabited world... He saw the distant parts of the firmament on high, and the bindings and the stitches and the seams. Hekhaloth Rabbati #201

H. The Lady in creation is in Proverbs 8.22-31, beside the Creator, before he began to work. Hebrew nāsakhtî, means’ I was weaving’. Hebrew ’amon, using Greek harmozousa, means the Lady who joins all things together.

I. Genesis 1.1 in Aramaic [the Targum] became ‘In the beginning with Wisdom the Lord created...’; or ‘In the beginning with Wisdom, the Word of the Lord created...’ Genesis 1.2 ‘a Spirit of loving kindness’.

‘In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...’ in Hebrew sounds very like ‘By means of a net, God created the heavens and the earth...’

J. The Lady’s net was her creation covenant = the covenant of peace=the covenant of eternity.

K. ‘Her net will be for you a strong foundation, She will bind you with garments of gold’ (Ben Sira 6.29, Hebrew text, about 200BCE).
L. The Lady passed into holy people in every generation; making them friends of God and prophets; she was a unity, but penetrated all things as the radiance, *apaugasma*, of eternal light that was more beautiful than the sun; and so she maintained the order of creation (Wisdom 7.25-8.1).

M. Inspiration is the beginning of creativity.

N. Philo, *Migration of Abraham* 181-183, said the Lady’s children were the bonds by which she held the creation together. Dead Sea Scrolls *Community Rule* 1.6. ‘the covenant of loving kindness.’

Compare Ephesians 4.3. Orthodox Christians sing of the Holy Spirit sent by Christ, to catch the universe in a net.

O. The Curtain of the Temple made from white linen, and then red, blue and purple wool: Exodus 26.31. Mixing linen and wool was forbidden elsewhere: Deuteronomy 22.11; Leviticus 19.19.

White linen = earth, blue wool = air; red wool = fire; and purple wool = water

Philo and Josephus mentioned the colour symbolism.

P. Mishnah *Shekalim* 8.5. The curtain was 100m² woven by 82 young women, 72 long pieces, each had 24 linen warp threads about 14cm wide [one handbreadth], sewn together.

Q. The curtain separated of time and eternity. In Hebrew, ‘hidden’, ‘eternal’ and Virgin are all forms of the same word. ‘lm. Virgin implies eternal and hidden.

R. Curtain showed all history and all creation Isaiah 6.1-3; Isaiah 40.21-24

S. Made from *ḥōšēbh* cloth = knowledge or skill.

T. King Josiah removed her from the temple: 2 Kings 23.7 originally said he removed her holy ones from the temple, where the women wove linen for her. Compare Revelation 19.8.


Little by little we are rediscovering the Lady. I finish with some words from the Book of Wisdom:

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,

And she is easily discerned by those who love her,

And is found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her (Wisdom 6.12-13).