

What is Midrash?

Midrash (/ˈmɪdrɑːʃ/; ^[a] **Hebrew:** מִדְרָשׁ; pl. מִדְרָשִׁים *midrashim* or מִדְרָשׁוֹת *midrashot*) is expansive **Jewish Biblical exegesis**^[2] using a rabbinic mode of interpretation prominent in the **Talmud**. The word itself means "textual interpretation", "study", or "**exegesis**",^[3] derived from the root verb *darash* (דָּרַשׁ), which means "resort to, seek, seek with care, enquire, require".

Midrash and rabbinic readings "discern value in texts, words, and letters, as potential revelatory spaces", writes the Hebrew scholar **Wilda Gafney**. "They reimagine dominant narrational readings while crafting new ones to stand alongside—not replace—former readings. Midrash also asks questions of the text; ***sometimes it provides answers, sometimes it leaves the reader to answer the questions.***

Wilda C. Gafney



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Occupation(s)	Episcopal priest, professor

Academic background

Education	Earlham College (B.A.) Howard University (M.Div.) Duke University (Ph.D.)
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Academic work

Discipline	Hebrew Bible
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Notable works	Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel
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Exegesis – critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture.. a critical explanation or interpretation of a text. The term is traditionally applied to the interpretation of Biblical works.

Eisegesis - is the process of interpreting text in such a way as to introduce one's own presuppositions, agendas or biases. It is commonly referred to as reading into the text.[1] It is often done to "***prove***" ***a pre-held point of concern, and to provide confirmation bias*** corresponding with the pre-held interpretation and any agendas supported by it.