

FASHIONISTA: BIBLICAL CLOTHING THROUGH MODERN EYES

A new class in modern Biblical interpretation

Esther donned royal garb. **Jacob** gave **Joseph** an ornamented tunic—sometimes described as a coat of many colors. **The king of Nineveh** (in the Jonah story) took off his mantle and covered himself in sackcloth. **Aaron**, as high priest, wore a woven blue robe hemmed with pomegranates in indigo, purple, and crimson with golden bells among them.

Clothes provide clues about the person who wears them. Just as today a doctor might wear a white coat, a mechanic a coverall, a police officer a blue uniform, and a bride a white dress, so too can clothing described in the Bible reveal personality, actions, or intentions. Join this search through attire in the Hebrew Bible as we explore how what these ancient individuals wore illuminates their roles and helps us understand these ancient texts—and maybe something about our own lives.

Is this what Esther wore to meet the king?



From "Esther before Ahasuerus,"
Artemisia Gentileschi, 1620s,
MET NY, public domain

About the class

- * Visual images bring the words from a page to life
- * Explore traditional Hebrew texts using artistic tools
- * Probe iconic ancient Hebrew archetypes through the lens of modern clothing interpretation
- * Class taught in English, accessible to all levels of learning -- no prior knowledge of *Torah* or Hebrew language needed

About the instructor: **Michele Braun** earned the Master of Arts degree, summa cum laude, in Jewish Education in 2022 from The Hebrew University, building on lifelong involvement in Jewish life and texts. A frequent lay leader of synagogue Torah study, Michele also blogs on Jewish life and themes at [The Times of Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com) and [ReformJudaism.org](https://www.reformjudaism.org). As an instructor, Michele leads discussions that promote discovery and finding new ways to think about things.

What others say about learning with Michele: "Thank you for a great study session." "I wanted to tell you...I very much enjoyed your materials and thoughts for our discussions." "I thought your lesson was just fabulous today. As always, your teaching was deep and creative."

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For more information → <https://mb-lrn.com>

Or email **Michele Braun** at mbraun@mb-lrn.com

Tel. 914-500-5726