

***The Woman from Lydia* by Angela Hunt**

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NYT Bestselling Author Launches New Biblical Fiction Series Set in the Roman Empire

“The Woman from Lydia is a terrific story. The book is rich in detail, and the characters are fully rendered. I love the way Hunt weaves history throughout to bring readers into ancient times.”

**—Francine Rivers, *New York Times* bestselling author
of the MARK OF THE LION series**

Minneapolis, Minn.—With nearly 6 million copies sold worldwide, *New York Times* bestselling author and biblical studies scholar Angela Hunt sets the gold standard for writing breathtaking biblical fiction. Transporting readers of faith back to the fledgling days of Christianity, Hunt draws from in-depth historical research and brilliant storytelling skill in launching her new series, THE EMISSARIES. Following members of the New Testament church in the Gentile cities of Philippi, Corinth, and Rome, Hunt’s deep dive into the perilous days of the early Church amid a hostile pagan culture will thrill fans of Francine Rivers’s MARK OF THE LION series.

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In *The Woman from Lydia*, book one in THE EMISSARIES, widowed Euodia seeks to make a fresh start by moving to the foreign city of Philippi. She finds new purpose after meeting Paulos, apostle to the Gentiles, who opens her eyes to helping those in need, particularly women and those who have been enslaved.

Retired Roman soldier Hector has settled in Philippi with dreams of a future filled with wealth and status, pooling his army earnings with Lucius, his fellow comrade in arms turned business partner. His hopes are dashed, however, when Paulos robs their youngest slave of her lucrative ability to foretell the future, rendering her worthless to Hector’s ambition.

When Euodia becomes aware that Sabina is being mistreated, she buys Sabina from Lucius, intending to set the girl free. But when Hector claims the sale was not legitimate, he takes Sabina back and vows he’ll find someone to restore her valuable “gift,” even if he must travel to the ends of the earth to do so. Following close behind him, Euodia and her servants set out to rescue Sabina, not for gain but to free her forever.



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Angela Hunt

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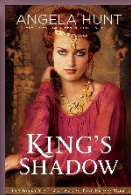
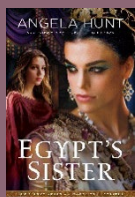


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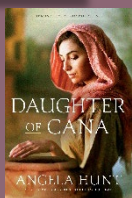


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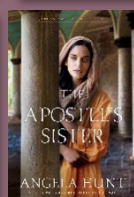
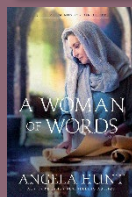
Other Series by Hunt:



The Silent Years



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About the Author

Angela Hunt is a *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 150 published books, with nearly 6 million copies of her books sold worldwide. Angela's novels have won or been nominated for the RWA RITA Award, the Christy Award, the ECPA Christian Book Award, and the Holt Medallion. Four of her novels have received *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Award, and Angela is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from both the *Romantic Times* Book Club and ACFW. Angela holds a doctorate in biblical studies and another in theology. She and her husband make their home in Florida. Learn more at AngelaHunt.com.

PRAISE for *The Woman from Lydia*

"I couldn't stop reading. A long-proven, gifted storyteller, Hunt's vast biblical knowledge shines through on every page. Pure pleasure!"

—**Tamera Alexander**, bestselling author of *Colors of Truth*

"I completely lost my heart to Euodia, Ariston, and Sabina. A beautiful beginning to a new series."

—**Robin Lee Hatcher**, bestselling author of *To Enchant a Lady's Heart*

PRAISE for Hunt's Previous Novels

"Any reader of biblical fiction knows the name Angela Hunt; she's one of the stars of the genre, and you don't have to be a Christian to enjoy her books."

—*Historical Novels Review* on *Daughter of Cana*

"Based on real women who met Jesus . . . Hunt's marvelous tale will appeal to any theologically minded fan of Christian historicals."

—*Publishers Weekly* on *The Shepherd's Wife*

"Hunt's mastery of the Bible is evident. Fans of biblical fiction will find much to enjoy."

—*Booklist* on *King's Shadow*

"Hunt demonstrates her stunning mastery of historical biblical literature. . . . Rich in history, atmosphere, emotion, and spirituality, Hunt's series debut is astounding."

★ —*Booklist* starred review of *Egypt's Sister*

"Hunt once again vividly brings the ancient world to life."

—*Library Journal* on *Egypt's Sister*



Author Interview with Angela Hunt

The Woman from Lydia

Can you tell us a little about your new novel *The Woman from Lydia*, book one in THE EMISSARIES series?

Angela Hunt: The first novel in this new series focuses on the women mentioned in Acts as Lydia, the first European convert to Christianity. I loved investigating her story and had several questions about what happened to the slave girl who had been freed from demon possession.

What inspired the idea behind a series focusing on major Gentile cities in the Roman Empire?

AH: After writing eight novels centered on the Jews, I was eager to explore how the advent of the Messiah affected the Gentiles of the first century. *The Woman from Lydia* gave me a wonderful opportunity to do that.

How is this series different from other biblically based novels you've written?

AH: Most biblical stories focus on the Jews—as is only natural—but Yeshua came to save the world, including Gentiles. This series allows me the opportunity to look at how Yeshua disrupted a pagan society, one that's not too far removed from the world we live in today.

The woman from Lydia is more of a background character in the events of the New Testament. Why did you think her story worth telling?

AH: First, she is a woman and yet she's the first recorded Christian in Europe, and that's remarkable. Second, she ran her own business, hosted the Corinthian church in her home, and was a pillar of the early Church—talk about being an example for us to emulate! She was amazing.

Holding two doctorates on the subject, you know quite a bit about the history of the Christian faith. What do you think readers should know about this period in history where your new series is set?

AH: I've always felt that Gentle Christians, including myself, have done ourselves a disservice by not learning all we can about the Jews of this period. So much of the Old Testament, the prophets, and even the Intertestamental Period are important when we consider Jesus the Messiah. Moreover, we must honor those brave Gentiles who brought the gospel message to the pagan world of Rome, long before Christianity was an established and "respectable" religion.

We Christians in the twenty-first century should be inspired by their examples of courage and dedication.

What lessons can the lives and experiences of early believers teach modern Christians today?

AH: The early believers spoke up when it was right to do so, despite threats to their lives, their wealth, and their reputations. They stood against the tide of public opinion and bravely obeyed a God they had not known in childhood or even in their culture. But the emissaries—the disciples and apostles Yeshua sent out—carried the light of the gospel into their dark world, and they willingly received it, sometimes at great cost to themselves.

What led you to pursue degrees in biblical studies and theology?

AH: Two things: First, I love learning, and theology really is the Queen of Sciences. Without knowing God, none of the other sciences make sense. Second, I feel a great responsibility to “get it right” in my novels. I don’t want to stand before Jesus and learn that I made a theological mistake that misled someone.

Do you think it’s important for believers to be well versed in the history of their faith?

AH: I think it’s important to know history, but more important than knowing dates and names and facts is being able to take the lessons of history and apply it to our lives. What happened to the fathers will happen to the sons, and we will face the same temptations, trials, and situations those people faced—even more so as the days grow short.

What are you working on next?

AH: I’m currently writing book two in THE EMISSARIES series, I’ve just written a passion play for a group of believers in Memphis, and I’m excited about an Advent devotional coming out in the fall of 2023. I’ve learned so much about the historical basis of Christmas, and I can’t wait to share the way things really were and the amazing miracle of the Messiah’s birth.

How can readers connect with you?

AH: My website (www.angelahuntbooks.com) has a contact page that sends emails straight to my inbox. I love hearing from readers and am grateful for each email.