



Hittite Warrior

Joanne Williamson

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Judea has always been the crossroads and battlefield of contending nations. It is no less so in this biblical time of Barak and Deborah. Uriah Tarhund's Hittite home is destroyed by invading Greeks. His dying father tells him to go south to seek a Canaanite named Sisera. He will help you. For my sake. . . . Uriah is plunged into the tumult of an uneasy Judea. When he saves a young boy from being sacrificed to Moloch, he is given succor for a time by the Hebrews. Later, he finds Sisera and joins him in war against these same people. When the Canaanites are defeated, the young Hittite has the opportunity to come to a peace with himself, the Hebrew people and their God. This meticulously researched novel is set in the time of Judges, and incorporates Biblical facts with a gripping story, set against the wide background of ancient civilizations. Includes an introduction by Laura Berquist, author of *Designing Your Own Classical Curriculum* Age 10-up"

Hittite Warrior Details

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From Reader Review Hittite Warrior for online ebook

Leila Bowers says

M. Loved it - wants to add it to her personal collection.

Megan Franks says

This book is great for understanding the various people groups of the ancient world--particularly in Palestine--and how they interacted. I thoroughly enjoyed the primary storyline (Uriah's quest to keep his father's deathbed plea, meeting a variety of people along the way including the Hebrew people and rescuing a child from becoming a sacrifice to the pagan god, Moloch), but the battle between the Hebrews and Sisera & the escape from Tyre were a little tedious.

Overall, I would give it 4 stars for being a great way to introduce kids to life in the ancient world, and 3 stars for the storyline.

Ryan says

It's good as an ancient history and lit. supplement for 11-12 yr olds. Great effort to intersect various civilizations and cultures during the time of Israel's judges, and the scenes in the camp of Deborah and Barak I thought were impressive overall. The development and character of the main guy was ok, but something about the last portion of the story— his part in the battle, the Egyptian friend who was suddenly portrayed to have all the answers, and the general spiritual resolution— just didn't seem to work.

Jacob Anderson says

4.5 stars

Sean says

This has got to be one of the worst books ever written. The entire way through, it seemed as if the author was TRYING to confuse the reader, and she did an excellent job at it. Nothing about it was well done...

Ty Zeiter says

I first read this book back in middle school. I was young, and annoyed that I had to read a historical fiction book instead of a fantasy, and on top of that I had to write a report on it! Nah, just kidding, I liked writing

reports. But that's not the point. This book is well written and really reaches out to that 9 - 13 years-old audience. It's history about a culture we don't know much about with a bible story thrown into the background. The story of Deborah. I had heard about this bible story but never knew much about it. "The Hittite Warrior" cleared that up for me. But the real story is about a young Hittite named Uriah who has been hiding and on the run ever since his father was murdered before his eyes. It's an entertaining book filled with the drama of the time period, giving you glimpses into the world of the Hittites, Egyptians, and Israelites. You will learn many things from this book, especially about what it was like to be an Israelite hiding in the hills and of course the epic journey of Uriah as a Hittite in ancient times. So I hope you join Uriah on his journey, your time will be well spent.

Stuart says

Hittite Warrior tells the story of a teenage Hittite boy named Uriah-Tarhund. He came from a people who ruled the "northern world" and the Egyptians ruled the "southern world." His father was a lord and kinsman of the chief province of Arzawa. One fateful day, in the 13th year of the reign of the king, his father and he embarked to Hattusas to pay tribute. Little did he know that trip would end so tragically. While on his journey, his mother and sister were killed. His entire province was decimated and many were killed. Three years later his father died, but not before making Uriah promise to travel to Canaan and live there. Travelling with a caravan, his decision to save the life of a young trader named Hannibaal took him to Tyre where he made a friend named Jotham, a Hebrew. This friendship set him on a path that would change his life forever.

The book is based during the time of the Judges, which was roughly 1200 B.C. If you have read through the Old Testament book of Judges with your children, they will recognize the two important names of Deborah and Barak. Deborah and Barak are the two judges who defeated the Canaanites in Judges 4. They will also recognize the song of Deborah from Judges 5. They will also learn a bit of geography. There is a tiny map in the front that serves as a basic guide for the region of the book, but they can further their knowledge by having an atlas or world map and track the journeys of Uriah. Your children will also be exposed to different societies, religious practices, and customs of these ancient people. For example, they will learn about an ancient Ammonite god named Moloch who required the sacrifice of a young child to appease him.

This is an A+ historical fiction novel for children 10 and up. I, a 30+ male, had a hard time putting this book down and read it in one weekend. While I would argue that this book is more geared towards a male audience, girls might enjoy it as well. What I really loved about this book is the era and region it was written about. So much historical fiction based in ancient times focuses on Egypt or Rome and that's it. Ms. Williamson chose a neglected but equally important region and delivered a masterpiece. I am very pleased with Bethlehem Books' Living History Library series and cannot wait to dive into another book. Be sure to check out other books from this author, particularly God King.

Shannon says

Back Cover:

A Fugitive from Moloch: Something caught me eye. It was a movement behind one of the bales in the darkest corner of all, and my skin began to crawl. There was too much activity among the soldiers for them to notice it and, drawn by curiosity in spite of fear, I moved toward what I had seen. A dark figure stood behind the bale. A flare of light crossed the corner and I saw who it was. It was Jotham and there was

something with him, something small that was clinging to him and trying to hide. Then I knew what it was that had been stolen, and the hair rose on the back of my neck at the enormity of the sacrilege.

Uriah the Hittite has found refuge from the Greeks in the Canaanite city of Tyre. Now the Hebrew Jotham's decision to save a child from being sacrificed to Moloch forces Uriah to choose life over reverence of Tyre's fearsome god. The three escape to the hill country of Judea, where Deborah and Barak are mustering the Hebrews to fight the Canaanites.

This meticulously researched novel is set in the time of the Judges, and incorporates Biblical facts with a gripping story, set against the wide background of ancient civilizations.

Ages 10 and up.

Me: As with "God King" I enjoyed this one. Williamson does an excellent job of inserting you into an historical period. However, I found both a tad disjointed. I'd still recommend them, but I would say it would be much easier to read this were one already at least somewhat familiar with the setting and some of the characters. Also, this one described in detail how a child was sacrificed to Molech. I would prefer my boys be much older than 10 before reading that.

The BookSeeker says

Wondering about content? see The BookSeeker

It's a beautiful story filled with hardship and the wanderings of a refugee Hittite, in search of a home. Immersed in the ancient times of the Bible, the book holds to the truth of Scripture and the facts of history, telling the story through the eyes of a Hittite boy. The violence is written in such a way as to clarify the horrors of it, without showing us what those horrors are; people die, but their deaths aren't discussed in great detail. The spiritual journey of this young man is a beautiful one; one with a satisfying ending and a captivating journey.

"I have devoted my life to my new God, whom I have come to believe is the one God and the God of all men."

David Schroeder says

Terrible. Just terrible.

Shauna says

3-4 stars . . . it is historical fiction, and pretty good historical fiction. But, I don't love historical fiction. My children really liked it. I like that we skim over our history textbook and have pretty much covered it all painlessly in a novel. (It does take longer to read the novel than a chapter from a textbook, but we look forward to the novel, rather than balking at a textbook.) Malachi really liked the book, and that is saying something. Maybe a little more appealing to boys. We read Judges 4 and the children were thrilled to know so much about that story.

This is our lunchtime history read aloud. Pretty good. Malachi finished reading it after we got about 1/3 into the book, but he still comes back at lunchtime to listen to me read aloud. There is a lot of war, so I don't think the girls are excited as Kai, but they are listening and remind my to read each day, so it can't be too bad.

Jlnpeacock says

I read this with my grandson when he was in the third grade. It was on the extra reading list and had been recommended for his class level. The story was difficult to read because of the style. The author did a splendid job in portraying the pagan cultures as she unfolded the Biblical story of Deborah and Barak in the defeat of Sisera. I was disappointed that more time and explanation were not given to the conversion of the Hittite warrior to the Jewish faith. In one chapter he is transformed from young pagan to an older, honored scribe in the temple. It is not a book I think younger readers can appreciate. It seems it would be a better book for those in the 6th or 7th grade.

Susan says

Not bad. It did a pretty good job of making the history come alive for the kids. We got it because it was on the syllabus for RC history.

Hannah says

Sixth grade me drooled over Hittite Warrior.

Stephanie says

Read aloud to a 2nd and 5th grader. Uriah-Tarhund is a young man of a rich Hittite family when the Philistines invade his land and strip his world of everything he's known. He promises his dying father to travel south to Canaan to visit a man named Sisera. So begins this rich book that brings to life a section of Judges. The story takes Uriah to many historically important places in the ancient world, and illustrates well how ancient cultures clashed again and again over history. Main characters are Canaanites, Egyptians, and Israelites and include Deborah, Barak, Jael, and Sisera. The story centers around the battle of Esdraelon. What I most appreciated about this novel is that even though its subject matter and time period is so foreign to my kids, it was very readable and beautiful. They were able to keep the characters straight and cross reference elements of the story from the Bible. The narrative really made the Old Testament time of the Judges come to life.

Katie Blendermann says

It was quite good, though it was sometimes hard to follow. Also, throughout the whole book, I did not notice

things like, "When I was nine" or "3 years later" or "That happened 5 months ago". Overall it was very good and I would recommend it to other readers.

Reuben H. says

In my years as a homeschooler, I had to read a lot of literature. I still do in high school, but it's very different. One book that I read in my middle school years was *Hittite Warrior* by Joanne Williamson. It's historical fiction from the time of the Bible's book of Judges. I loved it when I first read it, and I was excited to pick it up again when it was assigned in high school.

The story focuses on Uriah, a Hittite who has found himself homeless and without family due to his homeland, Great Hatti, being invaded by the "sea people." He must make his way to Canaan, and eventually, though his adventures, find himself in a war between Canaan and the tribes of the Hebrews. Having no real allegiance himself, his nation being gone forever, Uriah must ultimately decide which side he is to join, and in the name of which god, if any, he will fight.

Hittite Warrior is unique, both in story and in writing style. It focuses on a portion of history largely ignored by today's society, because it was so very long ago and hardly relevant to anything anymore; but that's part of what makes it a good story. Since the reader might not know very much about this entire era, it almost feels like it could be from another world's history, rather than our own. All in all, it's fascinating.

The writing style is unique because it often moves events along at a very quick pace, almost as if the narrator is summarizing the events, but at the same time it never leaves any details ambiguous. It doesn't spend paragraphs and paragraphs explaining something, but rather explains it quickly in a way that you fully understand. It doesn't make you feel any less for the characters or their emotions. It's quite unlike almost anything else I've read, and it's very well done.

My biggest complaint with the book is foreshadowing. A lot of details are bluntly foreshadowed, but it's actually somewhat appropriate due to the writing style. It does not make *Hittite Warrior* any less of a spectacular read.

Hittite Warrior is a decently short book, and it's very easy to read. It tells a brilliant story with characters that the reader will care about. Uriah Tarhund makes for a great main character and narrator, and his struggle is realistic and relatable. I would never want to be in his position at any point of the book.

Overall, you should read this book. It's worth the time.

Christi-Anne says

God King and the *Hittite Warrior* is some of my favourite historical/fiction books. Ever. I recommend completely! Oh man, I love these two books! They are *awesome!*

Check out the BookSeeker for content.

J. Else says

This book was originally published in 1960 -- so I went easy on the historical inaccuracy regarding ancient Egypt.

Overall, it was a good read. Very interesting perspective that I have not found before. This is about a man who find his homeland invaded and later fights on the losing side of a battle against the Hebrews. It was also a time of decline for Egypt where they were no longer considered a superpower. So I enjoyed this unique side of things.

The character development was a little stunted. His coming to God seemed a little too easily done. The rest of the development regarding the character's outlook on the gods was good, but the final choice seemed a bit simple.

I was not overly impressed. I like the time period and the exploration of that world. The main character was a little dull though, so I did not find myself eager to keep reading.

I think the author does a good job, especially for the time period it was written. I think the story lacked character depth is all. I wasn't drawn into the struggles of the characters. But all in all, an interesting read. I'm glad I came across it randomly on a library shelf, but I don't think I would read it again. I will check out the book of Judges though as this is the book's setting, and I'm not too up on that book of the Bible!

Angie Thompson says

This story definitely fulfilled the historical requirement of historical fiction. The descriptions, the dialogue, and the attitudes of the characters all wove together to give the impression of being right in the middle of biblical lands and times. I'm not sure how many of the details were real and how many were fabricated for the story, but the impression they gave was very authentic. I found myself lamenting at times that the author had been so apparently accurate with personal names--some of them were a real mouthful!

Not having much knowledge of the history of the times of the judges (beyond the biblical history), I felt a bit confused and overwhelmed at times trying to put the pieces together. I also found myself trying to connect pieces of history that were much too late for the setting or wondering if a character with a familiar name was supposed to be a biblical character of the same name. (As far as I could tell, none of them were beyond the obvious ones--Deborah, Barak, Sisera, Jael, Heber.)

I'm not sure how it could have been done better from this particular point of view, but the thing that bothered me most was how much mixed-up and unclear theology was included. By that, I don't just mean the false gods that the other nations worshiped; of course, I expected that. But, historically accurate as it might have been, it was jolting to have "Adoni" mentioned by a Canaanite as one in a string of the gods they worshipped. Some of the Israelites showed faulty theology at times, too--having calf images that were worshiped in the name of God and talking about human sacrifice as though God condoned it. Also, we were left with the impression that the one god worshiped by the Egyptian Ahmoses, and who he identified as the sun, was basically the same as the God of the Israelites. Because the viewpoint character was also a pagan

until the end of the book, these issues were never really addressed, which left it confusing and a bit disturbing to me. There's a lot of truth and falsehood to be sorted out in this book, and I would definitely be reluctant to let a young reader try to sift through it on his or her own.
