

Handout

The Woman in 4Q184

Chiastic Structure

A. Description of the Strange Woman

- a. Words
- b. Leading the Community Astray
- c. Snares and Traps (her heart and kidneys)
- d. Clothes (wings and veils)
- e. Her home (location)

B. The Consequences

- a. She has no inheritance among those who shine.
- b. Ruination, Sin, and Death
- c. Wickedness and Transgression
- d. Death and Sheol
- e. Unrelenting Descent into the Pit

A'. The Use of her Wiles

- e'. Presence in Public (location)
- d'. Underneath the Clothing
- c'. Tripping the Righteous
- b'. Leading the Righteous Astray
- a'. Smooth Words

The Chiastic Structure of 4Q184

A

- a. 1 She [...] utters futility and in [...]. She is always looking for depravities, [and] whets the word[s of her mouth...]
- b. 2 and implies insult and is [bu]sy leading the community astray
- c. with non[sense.] Her heart weaves traps, and her kidneys n[ets. Her eyes]
3 have been defiled with evil, her hands grasp the pit, her feet descend to act wickedly and to walk in crimes. [...]
- d. 4 (are) foundations of darkness, and there are plenty of sins in her wings. Her [...] (are) night gloom and her clothes [(are)...]
5 Her veils are shadows of the twilight and her adornments diseases of the pit.
- e. Her beds {her couches} are couches of the pit, [...]
6 (are) deep ditches. Her lodgings are couches of darkness and in the heart of the nigh[t] are her tents. In the foundations of gloom

7 she sets up her dwelling, and camps in the tents of silence, in the midst of eternal fire.

B

a. She has no inheritance among all

8 those who shine { . } brightly. She is the start of all the ways of wickedness.

b. Alas! She is the ruination of all who inherit her, and the calamity of a[ll]

9 who grasp her. For her paths are paths of death, and her roads are tracks to sin.

c. Her trails lead astray

10 towards wickedness, and her pathways to the guilt of transgression.

d. Her gates are the gates of death, in the entrance to her house Sheo[l] proceeds.

e. 11 A[l]l [those who go to her will not] come back, and all those who inherit her will descend to the pit.

A'

e'. S[h]e hides in ambush in secret places, [...]

12 al[l ...] In the city squares she veils herself, and in the gates of the village she stations herself, and there is no-one who can ke[ep her]

d'. 13 from (her) incessant [fornicat]ing. Her eyes scan hither and thither, and she raises her eyebrows impudently,

c'. to spot a

14 just ma[n] and overtake him, and a [no]ble man, to trip him up; the upright turn (from) the path, the righteous chosen ones

15 from keeping the precept, to make those with a steady [mind] ridiculous with recklessness, and those who walk uprightly to alter the ordi[na]nce.

b'. To make

16 the simple rebel against God, to turn their steps off the paths of justice, to bring presumt[uous]ness into their [hea]rt, so that they do not walk

17 in the paths of uprightness.

a'. To sidetrack man into the ways of the pit, and seduce the sons of men with smooth words.¹

¹ English translation from Florentino García Martínez, and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*. (Leiden: Brill, 1997), 377. The divisions and labels are my own.