

'MY WISH IS THAT WOMEN COULD ALSO VISIT THE
SYNAGOGUE': ON THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN
WORSHIP AT THE HAMBURG TEMPLE

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Abstract

The article reviews and examines the homiletical sermons of Gotthold Salomon (1784-1862) during the first half of the 19th century, concerning the status of women in the Jewish religion. This article suggests that during his tenure as the Preacher in the Hamburg Temple, he was responsible for the significant change in the religious status of Jewish women in the community. He led this change by advocating, from an early stage, for the integration of women into the community's life and public sphere. Salomon claimed that women should be included as participants in public worship, a change made easier by translating the Hebrew prayer to German and delivering sermons in German. He also argued that the responsibility for the religious education of children, especially synagogue attendance, was the responsibility of mothers. Thus Solomon's perspective oscillated between conservative and innovative approaches. On one hand, he maintained a patriarchal perception regarding women and their religious status, where women were responsible for nurturing domestic religiosity. On the other hand, he strongly advocated for the integration of women into the public sphere and community life. His modern Jewish sermon reflected his theology about the status of women in the Jewish religion and their integration into community life.