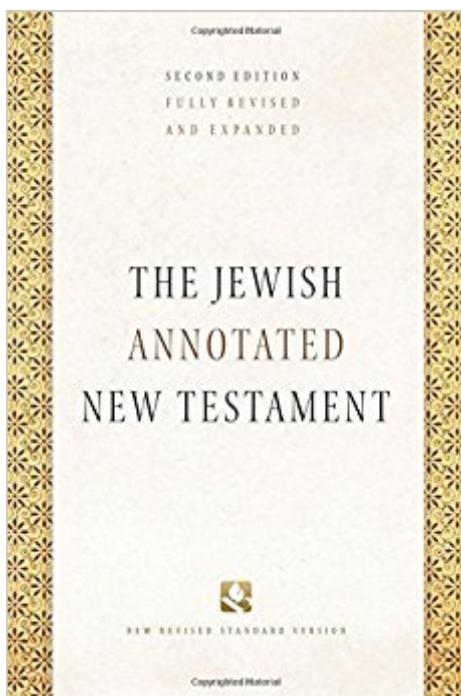


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The Jewish Annotated New Testament



Synopsis

First published in 2011, The Jewish Annotated New Testament was a groundbreaking work, bringing the New Testament's Jewish background to the attention of students, clergy, and general readers. In this new edition, eighty Jewish scholars bring together unparalleled scholarship to shed new light on the text. This thoroughly revised and greatly expanded second edition brings even more helpful information and new insights to the study of the New Testament. Introductions to each New Testament book, containing guidance for reading and specific information about how the book relates to the Judaism of the period, have been revised and augmented, and in some cases newly written. Annotations on the text--some revised, some new to this edition--provide verse-by-verse commentary. The thirty essays from the first edition are thoroughly updated, and there are twenty-four new essays, on topics such as "Mary in Jewish Tradition," "Christology," and "Messianic Judaism." For Christian readers The Jewish Annotated New Testament offers a window into the first-century world of Judaism from which the New Testament springs. There are explanations of Jewish concepts such as food laws and rabbinic argumentation. It also provides a much-needed corrective to many centuries of Christian misunderstandings of the Jewish religion. For Jewish readers, this volume provides the chance to encounter the New Testament--a text of vast importance in Western European and American culture--with no religious agenda and with guidance from Jewish experts in theology, history, and Jewish and Christian thought. It also explains Christian practices, such as the Eucharist. The Jewish Annotated New Testament, Second Edition is an essential volume that places the New Testament writings in a context that will enlighten readers of any faith or none.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the first edition: "A magnificent achievement... The Jewish Annotated New Testament is a marvelously bounteous compilation." --Commonweal "An admirable piece of scholarship... Much contemporary writing on Scripture is faddish or tendentious. This book is a disciplined work of clarification and illumination." --Marilynne Robinson, Wall Street Journal

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences Marc Zvi Brettler is Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor in Judaic Studies at Duke University.

The essays and annotations on the Jewish Annotated New Testament are landmark in Judeo-Christian scholarship. You can feel Marc Zvi Brettler's careful hand on this volume as well as Amy-Jill Levine's and her essay in this, "Bearing False Witness--Common Errors Made About Early Judaism", is a good summary of her understanding of early Judaism and its relationship to Christianity. Martin Goodman's entry "Jewish History, 331 BCE-135 CE" is also topnotch. However, while this is a great scholar's NRSV Bible, like the Jewish Study Bible (Tenakh), I'd imagine it will frustrate people who want to use it for religious purposes as many of the scholars are liberal Jewish believers or non-believers all together. However, this is also the case for many other scholarly NRSV Study Bibles such as Harper's Study Bible and Oxford Annotated.

If you want to realize that Jesus was a practicing Jew living among fellow Jews. You get a sense that Jesus had Jewish roots that allow you to realize that he was the most significant in a long line of Prophets and the most successful! Remember that Jeremiah urged the Jews of his day not to fight the Babylonians and co-operate with them. In the same way, Jesus was urging a meekness among the Jewish Leaders, in order that they could continue the Jewish tradition unhampered by over-arching Roman Authority. There were many zealots and religious conservatives (Saduccees...descended from the Hasmonean Dynasty) that opposed him, but there were many Jewish believers in Jesus, which often gets ignored.....this Bible gives a much better picture with "verbal chiaroscuro" on a panorama of 1st century Judaism which is just about as complex as early

Christianity was in the variety of belief. This book has been needed for a long time....grateful to have this in my library!!!

This is a very moving accomplishment. The two main editors with their impressive list of contributors have given those of us with faiths from complex vantage points so many reasons to rejoice. Jesus' own venerably iconic words "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" would be my most modest summary encomium for what these scholars have accomplished. The commentary of this New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament is lovingly handled, succinctly and logically reported, scholarly and fairly balanced. It convinces one that the acumen demonstrated does not bear biased agendas, but more happily seems to be formed by people who are absolutely and impossibly in love with the subject matter from all perspectives at once. Highly recommended.

So: In content, I find this book reasonably interesting. I appreciate the perspective of a New Testament with annotations from modern and contemporary Jewish points of view. Other reviewers have raised some very interesting points about the book's approach and scholarship; I'm just a layperson so won't get into that. What disappointed me about the Kindle addition was how it was formatted. All of the notes require you to click / tap on each tiny verse number. (I'll try adding a screenshot to the product images...) It's very, very hard and tedious to get to the annotations in the first place, which is the entire point of why I bought this book: the annotations! The publishing house needs to create a [Kindle] format that uses footnotes or other in-page notes rather than endnotes. It's far too tedious to read this text in the Kindle version.

So far so good in my reading. You don't read this in a week, but more as a reference book. What is of great interest are 100 short essays on various topics re Judaeo-Christian aspects as to how Jewish scholars understand Judaism and how they hope that Christian scholars will be more knowledgeable or sympathetic to their journey. Christian theologates, seminaries etc., need this perspective to have a more nuanced understanding of Judaism and its effects on the Biblical NT writers. Great annotations!

I thought this was the complement to the Jewish Study Bible OT, whose text was done by the JPS, published by Oxford. Or at least text done by Greek and Hebrew speaking Messianic Jews. But it is the NRSV. That is a good translation, just not the one I expected. I am always trying to understand

the Bible better, and the notes and annotations are very good. I have the Complete Jewish Study Bible, translated by one Messianic Jew, and get bogged down looking up the Jewish words I am unfamiliar with. So I thought this would be a translation of the Bible through Jewish eyes, so we could better understand the NT.

I enjoyed the footnotes and essays. As a Christian, it is interesting for me to read the Jewish perspective. I didn't anticipate that the font would be so small--my vision is a bit faulty for small type. I have enjoyed hearing Amy-Jill Levine speak and I can almost hear her tone and humor in parts of the commentary. I'm glad I purchased this book and will devote extended time to study it.

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