

BIBLICAL STUDIES

In the last few years, a flood of new translations and commentary, not only of the Torah, but the Prophets and Writings as well, has enriched study of the texts. The Soncino books of the Bible are no longer the only set available. One can study Torah from the translations by Everett Fox, the Plaut volumes, the Jewish Publication Society editions, or the Stone Chumash. Several new studies of individual books are also listed. The Bible is also available on CD-ROM in a variety of collections from JPS, Davka and Torah Educational Software (TES).

Aharoni, Yohanan et. al. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. 3rd. ed. NY: Macmillan, 1993. \$35

Completely revised edition incorporating findings from the most recent archaeological excavations. Over 250 maps.

Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*. NY: W.W. Norton, 1999. \$30.

A noted scholar's retelling of King David's life, with an excellent commentary.

+ *The Chumash: Stone Edition of the Artscroll Chumash*. By Nosson Scherman. Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, 1993. \$43.99 Available on CD-ROM.

Fox, Everett. *The Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy: A New Translation*. NY: Schocken Books, 1995, 1997. \$60 (Deluxe Edition with Illustrations.) \$35; \$25 pbk.

_____. *Give Us a King: Samuel, Saul, and David*. NY: Schocken Books, 1999. \$26

Fox's translations follow the literal meaning and the rhythm of the original Hebrew.

Friedman, Richard E. *Who Wrote the Bible?* NY: HarperCollins, 1987, 1997. \$14. pbk.

An excellent and readable introduction to the question of the authorship of the Bible, the documentary hypothesis and other important issues of Bible scholarship.

Ginzberg, Louis. *Legends of the Bible*. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 1956, 1992. \$21.95

Abridged selections from the seven-volume edition listed below.

_____. *Legends of the Jews*. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 1956. 7 vols. \$250; \$119.95 pbk.; \$129.95 CD-ROM
Classic anthology of the Midrash with notes and index.

+ *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. Paul J. Achtemeier, ed. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985, \$39

Scholarly articles by members of the Society of Biblical Literature plus photographs, maps, charts, pronunciation guide.

The JPS Torah Commentary. Edited by Nahum M. Sarna. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 1989-1996. \$50/ vol.

The volumes on Genesis and Exodus include commentary by Nahum Sarna; Leviticus is by Baruch A. Levine; Numbers by Jacob Milgrom; and Deuteronomy by Jeffrey Tigay. Hebrew and English with excellent modern commentary, including short essays on particularly issues.

Leibowitz, Nehama. *Studies in Bereshit (Genesis)*. Rev. ed. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1985.

_____. *Studies in Shemot (Exodus)*. Rev. ed. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1985.

_____. *Studies in Vayikra (Leviticus)*. Rev. ed. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1985.

_____. *Studies in Bamidbar (Numbers)*. Rev. ed. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1985.

_____. *Studies in Devarim (Deuteronomy)*. Rev. ed. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1985.

Translated from the Hebrew by Aryeh Newman and keyed to the weekly parshah, this set provides a solid introduction to the classical commentaries. The 1985 edition eliminated the typographical errors and cheap paper and binding of the previous editions.

+ *The Pentateuch and Haftorahs: Hebrew Text, English Translation and Commentary Digests*. By Joseph H. Hertz. Brooklyn: Soncino Press, 1960. \$30

Widely used for study. Commentary from a variety of sources and the 1917 JPS translation. Somewhat dated.

Plaut, W. Gunther and Bamberger, Bernard, eds. *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*. NY: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1981. \$40

Hebrew text, the new JPS translation and line by line commentary. Divided into the weekly parshah, with longer explanations and quotations between sections. Includes the traditional haftarat. Excellent modern commentary.

+ Plaut, W. Gunther, ed. *The Haftarah Commentary*. NY: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1996. \$40
A supplement to the above volume, with a new translation by Chaim Stern.

Schiffman, Lawrence H. *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls: The History of Judaism, the Background of Christianity, the Lost Library of Qumran*. Reissued as part of the Anchor Bible Reference Library, 1995. NY: Doubleday, \$24.95

A comprehensive description and evaluation of the scrolls, the archaeology of Qumran and the history and nature of the community that lived there. Schiffman's long-held theories have gained widespread recognition among scholars.

Simon, Uriel. *Commentary on Jonah*. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 2000. \$34.95

The first volume after the Torah in the Society's forthcoming Bible commentary series. Hebrew and English.

+ The Soncino Books of the Bible. Abraham Cohen, ed. NY: Bloch, 1945-1952. 14 vols. \$199

The standard text (in Hebrew and English) and traditional commentary for reading and studying the Bible.

+ Steinsaltz, Adin. *Biblical Images: Men and Women of the Book*. Reprint, Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1994. \$30; \$6.95 pbk.

Translated from the Hebrew by Yehuda Hanegbi and Yehudit Keshet, this is a fascinating examination of the character and experiences of 25 individuals in the Bible.

Tanakh. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 1999. Published in a variety of bindings and prices. \$69.95, \$39.95

The Hebrew text and an excellent new translation (produced 1962-1982). This translation is used in the JPS Torah Commentary series and Plaut's Torah commentary.

+ Wiesel, Elie. *Five Biblical Portraits*. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 1983. \$9.50 pbk.

Fascinating psychological examinations of Joshua, Elijah, Saul, Jeremiah and Jonah.

Wigoder, Geoffrey, ed. *Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible*. NY: Macmillan, 1992. \$65

Definitions of 3,500 biblical terms, including their historical and scriptural significance.

+ Wilson, Edmund. *Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. NY: Farrar, Straus Giroux, 1978. \$22.50

Revised from the 1969 book, *The Dead Sea Scrolls, 1947-1969*. Old, but still an excellent readable introduction to the mystery, history and content of the scrolls.

Zornberg, Aviva Gottlieb. *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society, 1995. \$34.95; \$16.95 pbk.

Insightful meditations on the stories of Genesis.

ABOUT THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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