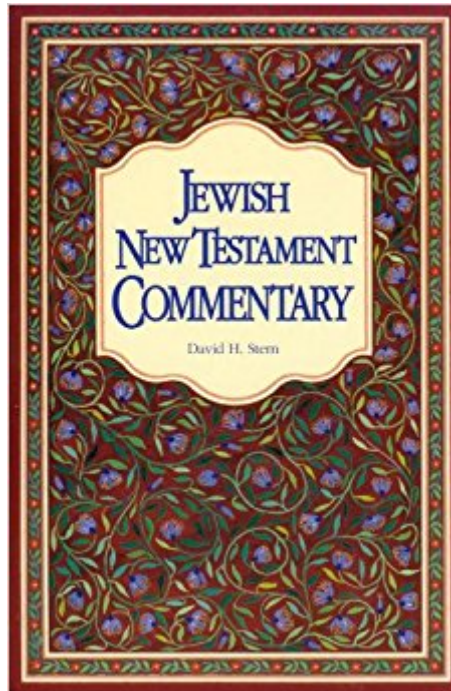


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Jewish New Testament Commentary



Synopsis

Drawing on years of research, Dr. Stern relates the New Testament text to the Tanakh (Old Testament), to the historical setting, to rabbinic materials and Christian theology. He answers questions Jewish people have about Yeshua, the New Testament, and Christianity; questions Christians have about Judaism and the Jewish roots of their faith; and questions Messianic Jews have about being both Jewish and Messianic.

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Customer Reviews

In the past, wars have been fought over land and religion. The religious wars often were over who had the correct interpretation of what the Bible really said. Over the centuries, two essential strains have developed: a "Protestant" oriented, or based, Bible, and "Catholic" oriented, or based, Bible. For openers, these two orientations have differing numbers of Old Testament books. More importantly, they flow from two basically different older languages: Greek or Latin. Over the centuries, as these two strains converged, interpretations and perspectives hardened into doctrinal

positions. Religions (read, Catholics and Protestants) argued over what English interpretations really meant. I'm not competent to address the subtleties of the various meanings associated with words used in English translations of the Bible. However, I can appreciate when someone comes along and can, with authority, put the English words into perspective. Dr. David Stern, the author of both an English New Testament, and of an entire English version of both the Old and the New Testament, seems to be able to take these perspectives. Apparently Dr. Stern is fluent in old Greek, old Latin, and Aramaic. Here is a quote from the first page of the Introduction: "... my original idea, in 1977, was to write a commentary on the New Testament dealing with Jewish issues. But after drafting notes to a few chapters of the book of Acts I realized that much of what I was writing consisted of objections to the English version I was using: 'The (English translation) says X, but the original Greek really means Y.' Rather than waste the reader's time castigating third parties (translators), I decided to try translating the Greek text myself and discovered I liked the result." Now, when I prepare for weekly Sunday service, I read the text for the week, and then check out Dr. Stern's Commentary to see if there may be an alternative meaning to the lessons. So far, I've found insights for every weekly gospel reading. I look forward to deeper understanding for all four gospels, and the Epistles.

This is an outstanding companion to reading the New Testament and getting the Jewish background and understanding of this very Jewish document. Christianity has read the New Testament as a Greek document, the language of its transmission and much of its authorship, without considering the Jewishness that permeates its history, background, intent, and meaning. Stern's commentary is an essential companion in mining the truest treasures of the New Testament.

Highly recommended by some teachers of theology to help better understand the Bible from a Jewish background and take. Well worth the money and a quality, helpful addition to my library.

At last a commentary that explains the Jewish understanding and background of the New Testament. I've been waiting over 20 years for this. Last year the Lord revealed to me that He wanted me to connect to the Jewish people. This is certainly happening now with the various books I have discovered over the past few months and a couple of networking sites. I'm in "heaven".

This is a wonderful commentary for beginners who want a little deeper understanding. The beauty of this commentary is that David H Stern helps a person have a respect for oral Torah without loading

them down. This is definitely recommended for someone who is young in pursuing Torah as opposed to more heavily Talmudic work as the Rabbinic Gospels commentary that will be out in December of this year.

It is readable, not so scholarly that it will overwhelm a high-school level reader. But, do be alert for author errors in doctrine when commentary is explaining, and remember that the book is a COMMENT-ary, not an infallible holy writing. For example: the ethnic prejudice that sees "Jews" as the whole makeup of "Israel" the nation, when the Bible clearly, historically explains at length the history of all TWELVE tribes that made Israel, and lineage back to Abram before he was Abraham the patriarch. Only one tribe was named Judah, and only those people are Jews in the genetic sense. The 10 lost tribes, scattered before the Jews were scattered in a separate diaspora. Judah/Benjamin/Levi (these two tribes + the hereditary Levitical Priesthood, went with the Southern Kingdom split of Israel) Everyone else went away in the northern kingdom split. That is where we get the knowledge that God will regather all of Israel before the return of Messiah. Just one example there. But there is plenty of good, non contentious scholarship here. That is the value of commentaries --paying for someone else's opinions/research to help you find your own way. The cross referencing and documentation is excellent. The text is a little small, but good and crisp. Layout is a bit crowded, but nothing like the headache to read that a full size Strong's Concordance is. Makes studying with the JPS Bible a lot easier, and helps appreciate the ethnic slant that the scriptures used to have for the Hebrew audience they were composed for. Further, this is one translation that is done by a scholar who is a devout follower of G-d, and not a secular or liberal theologian, or worse, literary critic reinterpreting verses to fit what they want to hear - or what is politically correct. (one questions the need for 300 english renditions of a book, each copyrighted as unique works - lacking such honorable and reverent handling.) Great addition to anyone's library of scripture study and Judaic culture/faith.

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