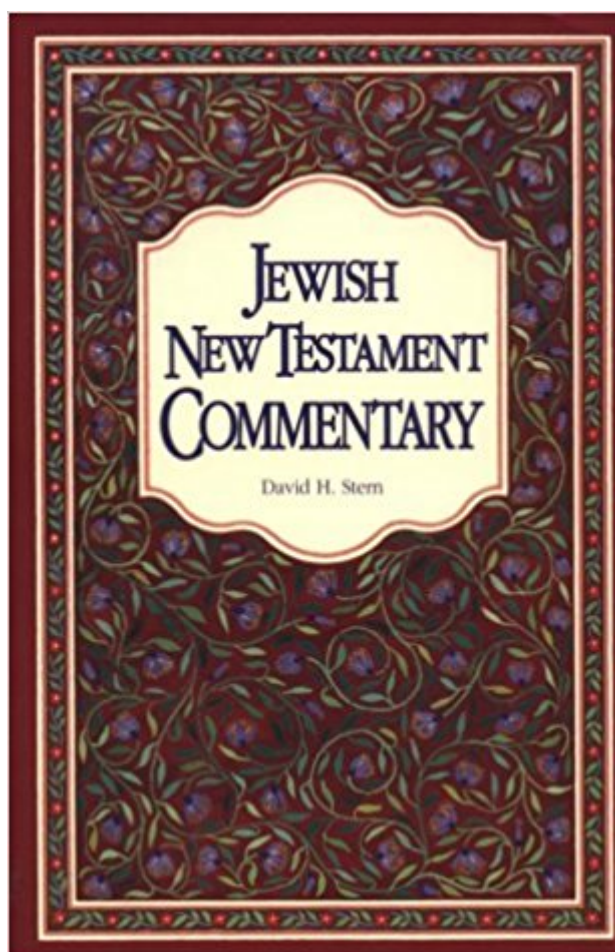


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Jewish New Testament Commentary: A Companion Volume To The Jewish New Testament



Synopsis

- The Torah (Law of Moses)--is it in full force today? Yeshua (Jesus) said, "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah... I have come not to abolish, but to complete." What did he mean? - Sha'ul (Paul) wrote, "All Israel will be saved." Was he speaking of all Jews? Messianic Jews (Jews who believe Yeshua is the Messiah)? The Church? Who is Israel? - Why did Yeshua juxtapose the saying, "Do not store up for yourselves wealth here on earth" and "The eye is the light of the body"? Dr. David Stern, a Messianic Jew living in Jerusalem, speaks to these and other issues in the Jewish New Testament Commentary. In this companion volume to his widely read and highly acclaimed "Jewish New Testament," he offers an exciting and original way of understanding the New Testament from a Jewish point of view.

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Customer Reviews

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 to 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. He demonstrates that the New Testament upholds Jewish values and verities, such as the oneness of God, the chosenness of Israel, the sanctity of the Torah, and the importance of works along with faith. He also shows how the New Testament speaks to modern issues like assimilation, intermarriage, missionizing and antisemitism. Finally, int

terms of the Greek and Hebrew languages, Judaism and first-century culture, he explains controversial "Jewish New Testament" renderings. The "Jewish New Testament" and "Jewish New Testament Commentary" challenge Christians to rediscover their Jewish connection, and Jews to discover their Jewish Messiah. These two books belong on the shelf of everyone who wants to understand the Bible better. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

David H. Stern, born in Los Angeles in 1935, is the great-grandson of two of the city's first twenty Jews. He earned a Ph.D. in economics at Princeton University and was a professor at UCLA. In 1972 he came to faith in Yeshua the Messiah. He then received a Master of Divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary, did graduate work at the University of Judaism, and was active in the Messianic Jewish movement. In 1979 the Stern family made aliyah (immigrated to Israel); they now live in Jerusalem, and are active in Israel's Messianic Jewish community. This commentary is a companion to Dr. Stern's "Jewish New Testament," which is his translation of the New Testament from the original first-century Greek into enjoyable modern English. This translation brings out the essential Jewishness of the New Testament by its use of Hebrew names and Jewish terminology and by its correction of antisemitic renderings found in other translations. The "Jewish New Testament Commentary" discusses, verse by verse, Jewish issues raised in the New Testament--questions Jews 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 their own identity and role. Dr. Stern is also the author of "Messianic Jewish Manifesto," which outlines the destiny, identity, history, theology, and program of today's Messianic Jewish movement, and of "Restoring the Jewishness of the Gospel," an abridgement of the "Manifesto" meant for those unaccustomed to thinking about the Gospel as Jewish. In 1998, Dr. Stern published the "Complete Jewish Bible," his stylistically modified adaptation of an existing Jewish translation of the "Tanakh" ("Old Testament") bound together with the "Jewish New Testament."

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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