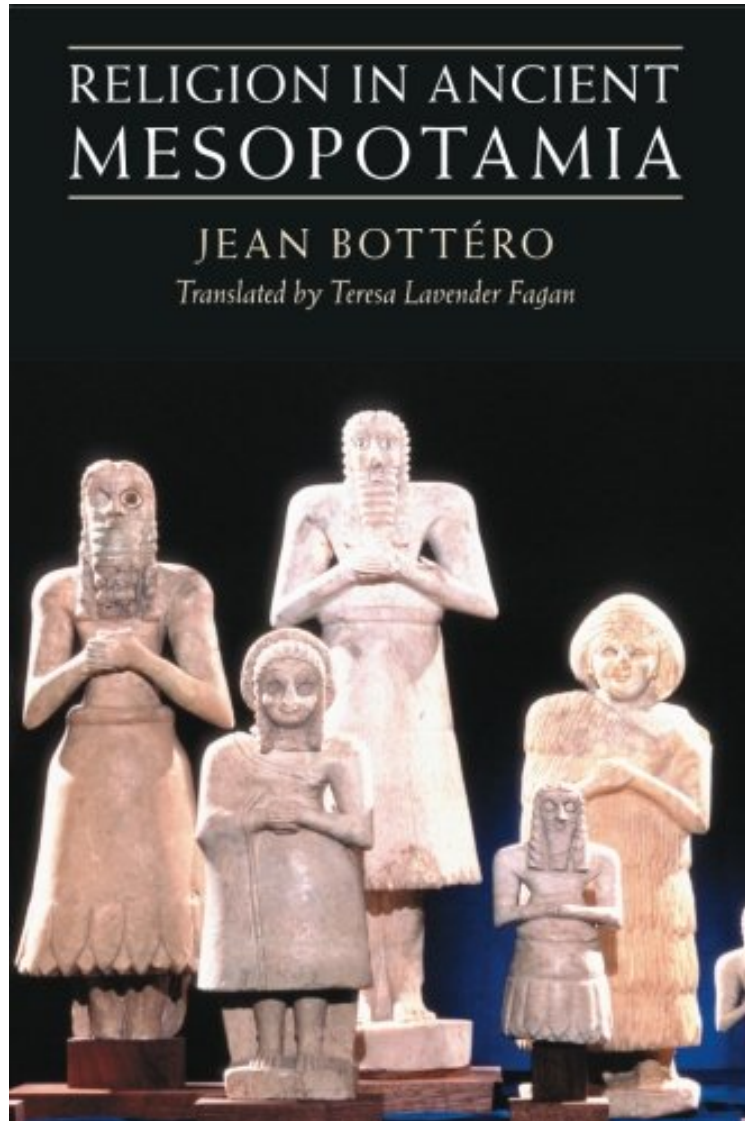


(Mobile book) Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia

Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia

Jean Bottro

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Jean Bottro : Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Empathetic, experiential, but factual By Artemesia There are several excellent reviews of this book (although one review posted here appears to be of Black and Green's "Illustrated Dictionary: Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia" - another excellent but very different book). Nevertheless, I thought I'd add my two cents worth. This book is very verbally descriptive and packed with facts by an expert. The facts are embedded in the text mostly, there isn't much "at-a-glance" information. However, when you get

into the text, it is extremely worthwhile - clear, beautifully written, informative, packed with information, but factual. The author clearly has a deep empathy and understanding of the worldview of this most ancient of cultures (even though he obviously is himself from and assumes his reader is from a Judeo-Christian worldview), and through his elegant writing he is able to transport the reader into that world. In the final analysis, there aren't many academics who can do this. Many books either venture into the fantastic or too far into speculation on the one hand, or on the other hand refuse to enter into the experience the facts present leaving the reader with a dry summary. This book manages to remain with the factual while transporting the reader into the experience. For those who know either of the extremely ancient languages of Mesopotamia, throughout, both Sumerian and Akkadian names are given for various deities, priesthoods, religious elements etc. The book is not a compendium of myths or texts although the most important myths are explained and used to situate cosmology with relation to the religion. Also, quite a number of samplings of texts (in English) are given which enable the reader to experience firsthand through example the principle being illustrated by the author. Chapter 6 p152 gives the standardized Mesopotamian calendar from which the ancient but later Hebrew calendar is partially derived. A few of the most important festivals are described with explication of what is known, what can be guessed at, what is unknown. If you like reading text, then this is a very good book and you will come to a good feeling for Mesopotamian religion backed up by facts. There is a respectable bibliography at the end and notes. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Overviews!! By S. Johnson After wading through a number of books on this topic that were rather rough and fragmented, this book was a delight. It begins with a nice thumbnail sketch of the history of the region. Unlike many books on the topic which seem to highlight the various myths and fragments of writings, this author creates an understandable framework within which the myths are hung. Having an overarching framework is key to understanding the myths, and hymns presented. It cleared up much confusion I had in reading other texts that presented the material in a fragmentary manner. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It seems a bit outdated now as today's scholars are ... By Satisfied It seems a bit outdated now as today's scholars are reticent about religion in ancient Mesopotamia. There is not enough evidence, but plenty of conjecture.

One of the world's foremost experts on Assyriology, Jean Bottro has studied the religion of ancient Mesopotamia for more than fifty years. Building on these many years of research, Bottro here presents the definitive account of one of the world's oldest known religions. He shows how ancient Mesopotamian religion was practiced both in the public and private spheres, how it developed over the three millennia of its active existence, and how it profoundly influenced Western civilization, including the Hebrew Bible.

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