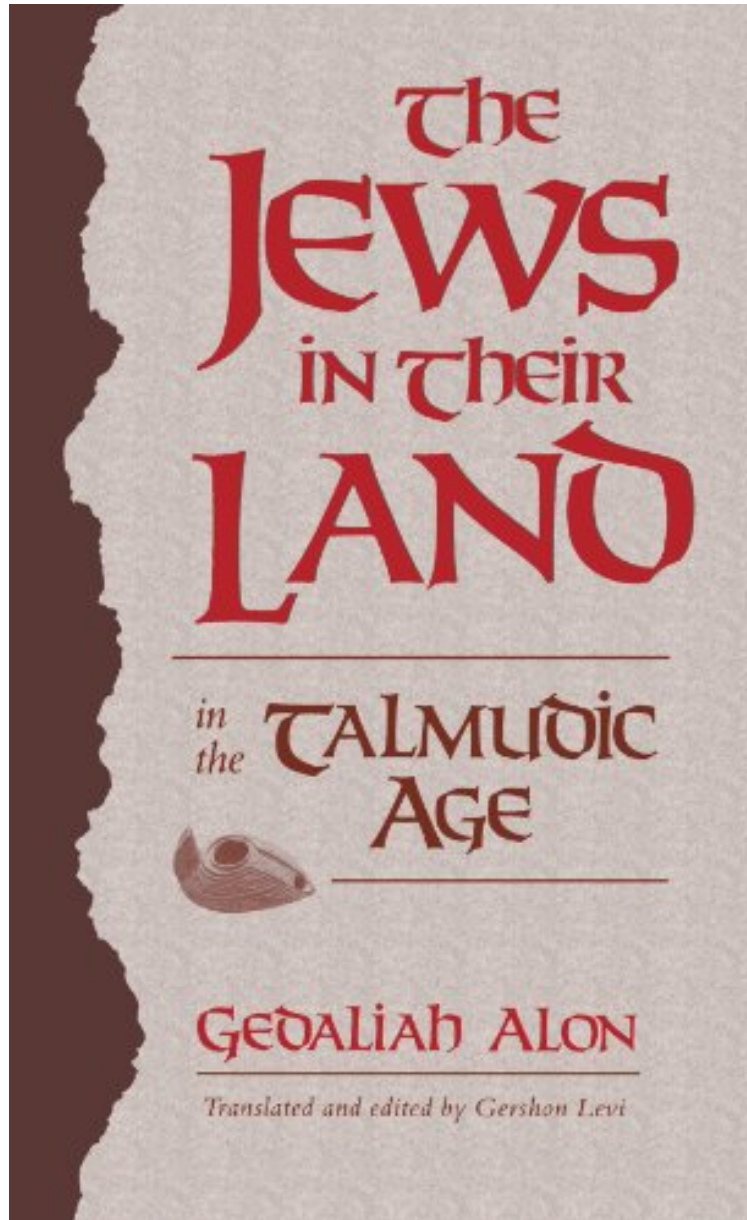


[Download] The Jews in Their Land in the Talmudic Age: 70-640 C.E

The Jews in Their Land in the Talmudic Age: 70-640 C.E

Gedaliah Alon

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Gedaliah Alon : The Jews in Their Land in the Talmudic Age: 70-640 C.E before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews in Their Land in the Talmudic Age: 70-640 C.E:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Gedaliah Alon's Magnum opus By C. R. Fischer Gedaliah Alon was only 49 when he died in 1950. Originally from Poland, he immigrated to Palestine in 1926 and studied for several

years at Hebrew University before eventually teaching there as well. He had published a number of important articles, but had not finished his book at the time of his passing. Instead, the multitude of notes he made were collected and edited by his student Shmuel Safrai and published posthumously in this book. The book, translated into English as "The Jews in their land in the Talmudic Age," made a number of radical suggestions that provide a fresh look at incidents in Classical Jewish History. The initial chapters give a brief overview of the periods he wishes to cover and decides to divide them into three periods. These are: The age of the Tannaim, the age of the Amoraim, and post Amoraic Byzantine Palestine, each of which span 200 years. Beyond this point, he starts presenting his analysis of what went on in the earliest of the periods. He begins with the lasting effects of the Jewish wars, including how it affected religious institutions, the relationship of the Jews to the Romans, the question of the move to Yavneh and Ben Zakai's leadership, as well as focusing on a number of socio-economic issues. His most interesting analysis is his close reading of the traditions explaining how the Sanhedrin moved to Yavneh with his stunning conclusion that Ben Zakai did not make the request for Yavneh at all, as traditionally believed, but instead that Ben Zakai was imprisoned and sent to Yavneh which had become a de facto DP camp for Jews whom were made to leave their lands. Only then did the Sanhedrin begin to assemble itself there and slowly build up to the power greater than even what they had held before. In due time, the patriarch exceeded the priesthood in power and authority to the point that they could even push away and isolate the growing Christian sect in a way that they could not have dealt with the Sadducees and other previous groups. As interesting as all of the details are, Alon's writing is never particularly impassioned. He clearly has worked to mentally remove himself from the material to create a sufficiently objective, if dry, history of these areas. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a thorough understanding of the Jews who lived in these times.

This is a masterly narrative of the land of Israel from 70 to 640 C.E. by an eminent Israeli historian. It is a comprehensive record of Jewish life under Roman rule: economic conditions and social welfare; Jewish law and courts; political repression and resistance; religious controversies; the Diaspora and relations between the national center in Palestine and the communities abroad. Alon describes the rebuilding of national life after the defeat in 70; the emergence of the Sages as community leaders; the extent of autonomy under the Roman Empire; the towns and cities of Jewish Palestine; armed uprisings and the Bar Kokhba Revolt; the decades of decline and large-scale emigration; the traditions of learning that produced the Mishnah and Talmud. It is a rich, vividly told story. This paperback reproduces in one volume the two-volume translation of Alon's classic work published in Jerusalem in 1980 and 1984.

Gedaliah Alon's study is the magnum opus of one of the very few scholars whose command of both rabbinic and classical literature provided him with the tools to approach an unusually challenging, almost forbidding field of historical inquiry...Alon's stimulating history...will take its place among the standard studies of an obscure but pivotal age. (David Berger New York Times Book)Gedaliah Alon was a most original, distinguished historian. His erudition in rabbinic sources as well as classical literature, supported by absolute clarity of thought, intuition, and imaginativeness, enabled him to produce historical writing of the highest order. (Isadore Twersky)No one before Alon--and only a handful after him--possessed the erudition to handle the rabbinic and Greek sources with subtlety...[and] Alon's views reflect a mind that was secular but could fully appreciate the religious component of Jewish history...The book deserves an honorable place on the shelves of every serious student of Judaica. (Ben Zion Wacholder Hadassah Magazine)Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: Hebrew