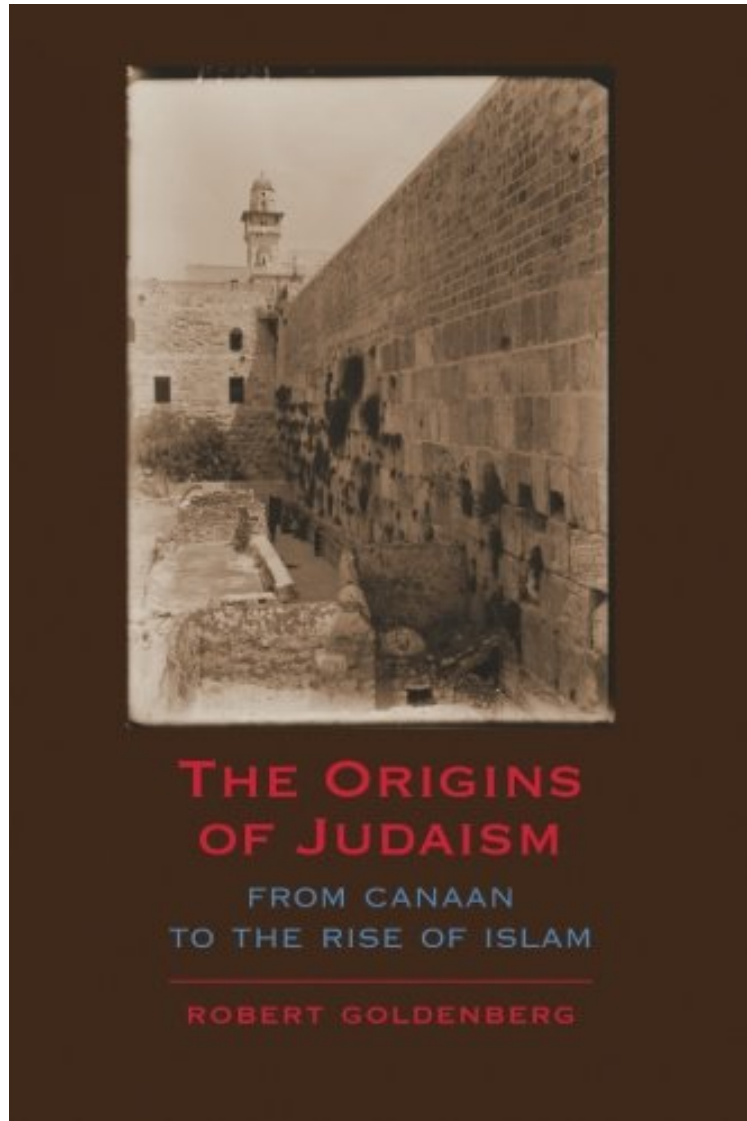


[PDF] The Origins of Judaism: From Canaan to the Rise of Islam

The Origins of Judaism: From Canaan to the Rise of Islam

Robert Goldenberg

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Robert Goldenberg : The Origins of Judaism: From Canaan to the Rise of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Origins of Judaism: From Canaan to the Rise of Islam:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy DaveGood Deal!10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Lightning-quick, but evocativeBy Dee FishPicked this up in a bookstore recently, and was compelled. I've enjoyed Boyarin's work around early Judaism, but had way little context to really make sense of it. This book

rapidly moves through early Judaism, doing a good job of straightforwardly showing what we historically CAN know, what the texts tell us, and what the texts about and from that era seem to suggest about the people who wrote them. This is a breath of fresh air to those of us for whom that history has been a closed book, or taught literally. This is a great overview, although--just going by page count--it is really a lead-up to trying to introduce the Rabbinic period, which gets two chapters, a couple of appendices, and a lot of footnotes. Here, in fact, are my major concerns, and the things that keep it from getting all five stars: 1) The sidebars and auxiliary text really break up the reading pattern. Perhaps tucking them at the end of chapters might have made it easier? As it is, I'm used to checking hyperlinks in blogs, but not in books. 2) The book is borderline unreadable without actively checking the endnotes. In several places--most clearly Appendix 1, but in many others--the endnotes are in conversation with the main text, and the main text responds: you can't understand the second paragraph without having read the first paragraph, and it's endnote. (Of course, half the endnotes are merely "ibid, p. 73", which is always a disappointing experience.) 3) Perhaps of necessity, the book is choppy: in telling so much so fast, it jumps around, going back to fill in missing bits and then jumping forward. The Second Exile is mentioned mainly in retrospect, and the book has the inevitable sense of trying to build up to the Rabbinical period. As such, some truly fascinating moments are, I think, brushed past more quickly than they might be. Worth reading, and a useful book. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A niche book By glarry71 This book is written by an ordained Conservative rabbi and university professor. As such, it reflects the confluence of those two worlds--a fairly liberal view of the Jewish religion and a party-line academic approach to the same. It has been written in a popular format so that this ideology can be understood by the lay reader. In parts, as is to be expected, it differs significantly from traditional Jewish thought, and it would be difficult for the reader to discern which components are traditional in nature and which are the product of a liberal academic mindset.

The Origins of Judaism provides a clear, straightforward account of the development of ancient Judaism in both the Judean homeland and the Diaspora. Beginning with the Bible and ending with the rise of Islam, the text depicts the emergence of a religion that would be recognized today as Judaism out of customs and conceptions that were quite different from any that now exist. Special attention is given to the early rabbis' contribution to this historical process. Together with the main narrative, the book provides substantial quotations from primary texts (biblical, rabbinic and other) along with extended side treatments of important themes, a glossary, short biographies of leading early rabbis, a chronology of important dates and suggestions for further reading.

'This engaging and carefully written undergraduate textbook provides a brief history of the development of Judaism.' Journal for the Study of the Old Testament About the Author Robert Goldenberg is Professor of History and Judaic Studies at Stony Brook University (SUNY). He has published in numerous journals, including the Journal of Jewish Studies, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Judaism, Harvard Theological , the Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods, and Jewish Studies Quarterly. His most recent book is The Nations that Know Thee Not: Ancient Jewish Attitudes toward Other Religions (1998).