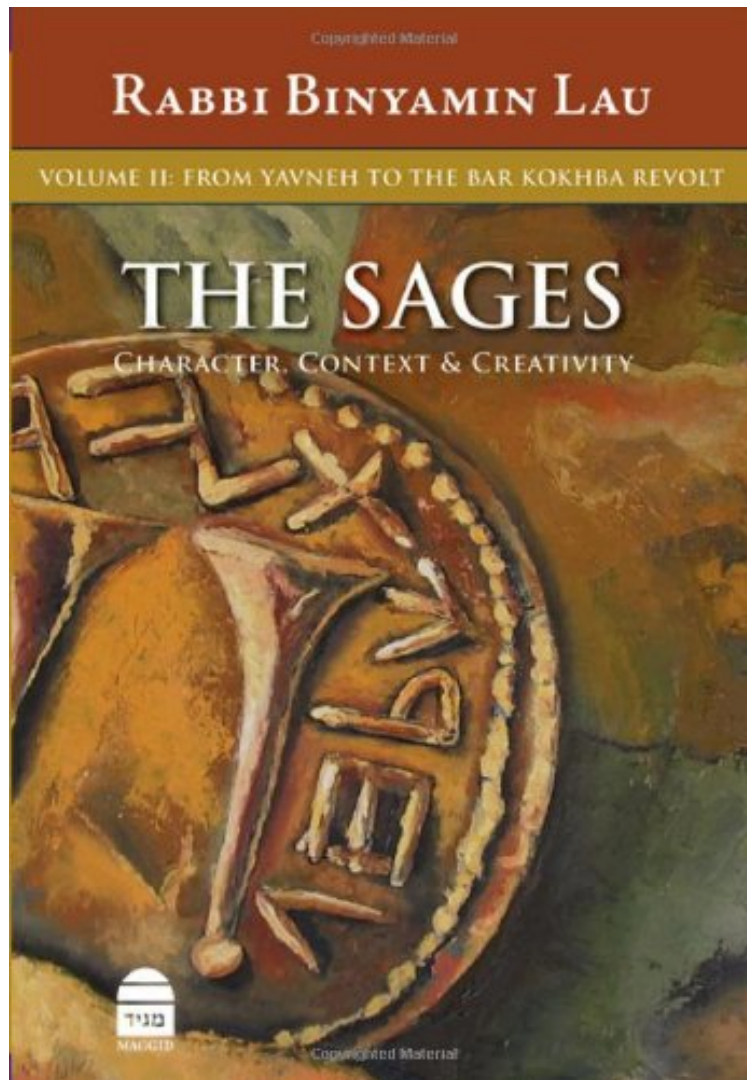


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The Sages, Vol.II: From Yavne to the Bar Kokhba Revolt

Binyamin Lau

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Binyamin Lau : The Sages, Vol.II: From Yavne to the Bar Kokhba Revolt before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sages, Vol.II: From Yavne to the Bar Kokhba Revolt:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Informative but missing something By Les Bn This is a wonderful introduction to the early Talmudic sages between the two Jewish revolts against Rome (about 70 to 135 CE), mostly in Yavneh. Gleaned from various classical sources -- who were they, what can be learned about their life stories and personalities, and their views and teachings. Who were allies and friends, and who disputed ideas that impacted the following 2,000 years of Judaism. All that was well presented and highly informative for those not immersed in the world of Talmud, but somewhat familiar with the names of key individuals. The huge negative is a lack of index, or

actually two or three indices. It is almost impossible to come back to this book and its sister volumes as references. It needed a names index, a normal index of key words or phrases, and an index of referenced classical sources with a few words of description. The table of contents is not sufficiently detailed to make up for that shortfall.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must reasBy Donald J GoldsteinProfessor Lau has written a history of the early Rabbis that rivals E.E.Urbach's classic history. Lau arranges his presentation chronologically, instead of topically, as did Urbach. A key contribution of Dr. Lau is his extensive use of t Palestinian Talmud, whereas most scholars ave relied on the Babylonian Talmud exclusively. Lau's three volume study is translated from its original Hebrew and the English reader thus gains access to his extensive list of Hebrew citations, many of which are not available in English. Perhaps his key contribution is his explanation of how contemporary economic and political forces, especially Roman ruling practices, had an impact on early Rabbinic thinking. He also does a splendid job log contrasting Rabbinic theology in the land of Israel as opposed to Diaspora developments especially in Persia (Babylon). He also delineates how the early Rabbis reacted to the challenges of Christianity.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcellentlly written - see comment for Volume IV

This multi-volume series offers fresh perspectives on the individual characters of the sages (Hazal), the historical contexts in which they lived, and the creativity they brought to the pursuit of Jewish wisdom. Volume II covers the period from Yavne to the Bar Kokhba Revolt. Published in cooperation with Beit Morasha.

About the AuthorRabbi Binyamin Lau is an Israeli community leader, educator and social activist. He directs the Center for Judaism and Society at Beit Morasha of Jerusalem, and founded Beit Morasha's Moshe Green Beit Midrash for Women. Rabbi Lau lectures on halakha and social justice at Beit Morasha's Beren College, and serves as Rabbi of the Ramban Synagogue in Jerusalem. He studied at the Har Etzion and Kibbutz HaDati Yeshivas, and received a PhD in Talmud from Bar-Ilan University.