



Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament

J. Julius Scott Jr.

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This survey of intertestamental Judaism illuminates the customs and controversies that provide essential background for understanding the New Testament. Scott opens a door into the Jewish world and literature leading up to the development of Christianity. He also offers an accessible overview of the data through helpful charts, maps, and diagrams incorporated throughout the text to engage his readers.

Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament Details

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From Reader Review Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament for online ebook

Brian Chilton says

This was one of my textbooks for New Testament Orientation I at Liberty University. This is an excellent textbook and will open up your eyes to the culture and times of the Intertestamental period and the New Testament times. Understanding this information opens up your eyes to the New Testament. It is going from an analog black and white view of the New Testament to a color, high definition view of the New Testament. If you are a New Testament student or scholar, you will enjoy this book. One warning, though. The text is a graduate level book and is written accordingly.

J. says

Very helpful intro to various Jewish groups and messianic expectations in the intertestamental period. Rigorous but not too academic.

Jonathan Slaughter says

Not an easy read, but didn't expect it to be. This book is full of useful information and very informative since the Bible moves from the Old to New Testament without any background for what happened in the many years in between.

Joshua says

Really enjoyed this book. I thought it would be more dry than it was but it was actually very fascinating. Anyone who is a student of the New Testament will enjoy getting a "behind-the-scenes-look" at the time period of Jesus, the 12 and the apostle Paul. Great Book!

J. Eric says

This book is an excellent resource for better understanding the cultural context into which the New Testament was birthed. The Intertestamental Period is often overlooked by the community of faith as a valuable arena of study.

Debbie Blane says

Another teacher at the college where I will be teaching loaned me this book to help me prepare for teaching

New Testament Background in January. Learning a lot so far! Continued on December 7th: The book is good, interesting, and an excellent springboard into looking further at the issues which are introduced. As I found myself being overwhelmed by detail I moved on to other books on the subject.

R.K. Goff says

It is a whooping scholarly book, so come with a dictionary to make sure you know what those words mean, but it's got all the pluses of a great scholarly work; good research, interesting points, well identified sources.

And on a more personal note--the book felt like dry but interesting information, but I noticed that now as I read the Bible I feel like so much more of a part of it because I understand the nuances of some of their culture and thinking. It's so much more involving now. I'm so glad I read it. I will read it again.

Stacey says

I found the book to be more difficult to read and comprehend. One of the reasons for this was probably, because I couldn't just glide through the information piece by piece. (8 week grad course) What I love about this book is there is TONS of useful info given. It is laying down the foundations needed to understand the New Testament. It gives background information on Judaism and what is referred to as Intertestamental Judaism (after Old Testament and before New Testament). It talks about the crises that the Jews were facing, and how they were responding to it. The Jews' crises affected their perception of the Messiah--which affected whether or not they would accept Jesus as the Christ.

The book allows you, the reader, to enter into the minds of the Jews and gather where they were coming from during this time. It really equips the reader to be able to study the New Testament with a much greater understanding. It allows you to come to read the New Testament with a fuller understand, so you are able to get much more from the scriptures. You can understand more..

Vance says

Lots of valuable information here, coupled with some poor analysis. My biggest concern is that Scott mischaracterizes the role of Torah in Second Temple Judaism to retain an essentially Lutheran understanding of Paul.

Bob says

This book is a valuable resource in helping one to understand the context of the life of Jesus. It moves quickly without getting bogged down yet gives the reader a good idea about the subject matter at hand. It is basic and does not get into a lot of in depth detail but again does provide a good base so one will have a good handle on the Jewish background of both the NT and the intertestamental period; which I found very interesting and helpful.

Zach Waldis says

I almost gave this three stars because NT Wright is such a superior writer, but this is a valuable book, especially if you are like me and do not have time to read all of Josephus and Philo and the Mishnah and the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Testament Apocrypha/Pseudepigrapha.....

Worth reading, I would say, especially for pastors and students, but if you're just getting started, NTPG is far superior.

Daniel says

Solid and thorough. Interesting and unexpected comments on NPP.

Timothy Decker says

I could do without part 1 of this book. Parts 2 and 3 were of immeasurable value!

Matt Crawford says

The book itself often repeats itself. Rather than focus on the current audience it deals with the audience before the New Testament. The apocrypha including its Jewish books is what this book is really about.

Brent McCulley says

A fantastic piece of scholarly work, J. Julius Scott Jr presents the standard text of Jewish backgrounds in light of the New Testament with his *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament*. The book is as engaging as is it comprehensive, with deep historical and theological insights capturing the eclectic and nuanced culture that helped shape the writers of our NT canon.

This material is so rich in detail and insight, careful examination of this text needs to be done insofar as one can fully absorb the profound historical scholarly work presented in this tome. In short, if one has the gusto and inclination to patiently study such a text, this one will open your eyes in ways hitherto unimagined, making your reading and studying of the Gospels all the more existential and real. A wonderful scholarly work, and certainly one for the shelves.

Brent McCulley
