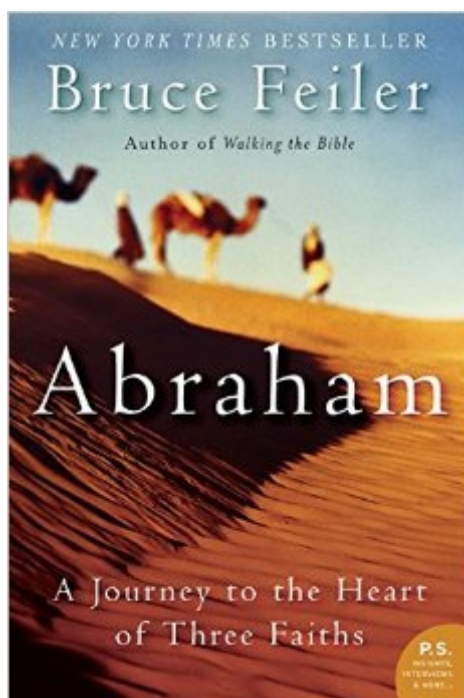


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Abraham: A Journey To The Heart Of Three Faiths



Synopsis

Both immediate and timeless, Abraham tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders, Bruce Feiler uncovers the defining yet divisive role that Abraham plays for half the world's believers. Provocative and uplifting, Abraham offers a thoughtful and inspiring vision of unity that redefines what we think about our neighbors, our future, and ourselves. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At a time when conflicts among three of the world's major religions--Islam, Judaism, and Christianity--are in the global spotlight, Bruce Feiler offers a stunning biography of the one man who unites all three religions: Abraham. "The most mesmerizing story of Abraham's life--his offering a son to God--plays a pivotal role in the holiest week of the Christian year, at Easter," writes Feiler. "The story is recited at the start of the holiest fortnight in Judaism, on Rosh Hashanah. The episode inspires the holiest day in Islam, 'Id al-Adha,' the Feast of the Sacrifice, at the climax of the Pilgrimage. And yet the religions can't even agree on which son he tried to kill." Herein lies the irony and perfection of Feiler's timing. As we struggle to find a path to peace among these three religions, all warring in Jerusalem, near the stone where Abraham brought his son for sacrifice, this captivating biography speaks to Abraham as the metaphor he is: the historically elusive man who

embodies three religions, a character who has shape-shifted over the millennia to serve the clashing goals and dogma of each religion. Anyone seeking to understand the roots of tension in the Middle East need look no further than the final half of this book, where Feiler interprets the meaning of Abraham as seen through the prism of each religion. Surprisingly, the book is as entertaining as it is thoughtful: Feiler is a masterful writer with a warm, humorous voice, a dazzling way with metaphors, and an underlying intelligence that comes through in every passage. Abraham deserves the highest of recommendations. --Gail Hudson --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Feiler, who penned last year's bestseller *Walking the Bible*, once again offers a winning combination of history, travel and spiritual memoir. Arguing that Abraham, the purported "father" of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, "holds the breadth of the past and perhaps the dimensions of the future in his life story," Feiler sets out to recover Abraham as he is portrayed in all three religions. The book's first half addresses what the Bible and Koran say about Abraham, his call to monotheism, and his sons Isaac and Ishmael. Particularly fascinating are Feiler's discussions of how the three religious traditions invented stories about Abraham to supplement the rather skeletal canonical version and even borrowed these stories from one another, as when Muslim traditions about Abraham and Ishmael began appearing in eighth-century Jewish commentaries. The second half very poignantly delves into each faith tradition and discusses how the Abraham narratives relate to contemporary religious and political conflicts. No one writes description quite like Feiler. His claim, for example, that "the Holy Sepulcher is to a church what Picasso is to a portrait a cubist vision of fractured beauty" is an arresting and perfectly imagined analogy, and he mellifluously depicts the Arabic language as "flowing, evolved, [and] sculpted, like a dune." More important than Feiler's masterful wordsmithing is his passionate engagement of the subject matter. Italics are everywhere, yet they don't feel overused; Feiler has a keen sense of what is at stake when these three religions claim Abraham as their father. This is a joy to read. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

This chronicle of Bruce Feiler's search for the true story of Abraham is well-researched and engaging. The author's discussions with Abrahamic scholars and clergy of the three faiths are enlightening. Each of the three religions claim Abraham as their patriarch. However, their relationships with Abraham are very different. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the study of Abraham, and his relationship to each of these major religions.

Good book

The audio CD reader spoke so fast I had to concentrate to understand what was being said. I wasn't willing to work to hear what seemed to be elaborate background information with little basic facts about the man Abraham or his life.

We love the author having read his story of "Walking the Bible

I enjoyed this book as a brief overview of Abraham, the first man who could hear God speaking to him. While we know little about this icon, it was interesting to note how people claim the broad promises of God and co-opt them for their own purposes. Sadly, most of the claims on this father of monotheism separates and causes conflict. What a great goal to use the same texts to unify and create peace.

This book is a well rounded presentation about Abraham, the father of many nations. he examines that idea from the individual perspective. then he expands that to the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives. This book is a great compliment to his book, "Walking through the Bible."

This book gives "superficial" a bad reputation. If you want to feel good about Jews and Christians and Muslims, this is okay. If you want some real insight, this isn't your book. It's nice happy-talk, like something on the History or Discovery Channel, with lots of violins and a British baritone sounding like writing on a scroll. There's nothing wrong with making history accessible, but some substance would really improve the book considerably.

Purely academic, lacking the spirit that would give it life. It was totally uninspiring to me. I anticipated so much more.

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