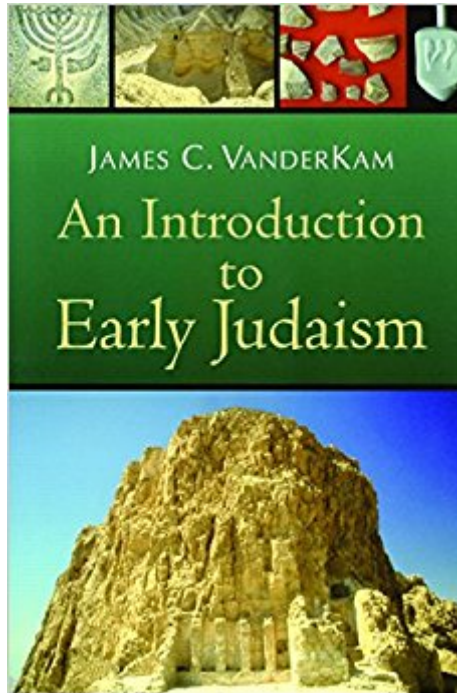




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An Introduction To Early Judaism



Synopsis

One of today's most respected scholars of biblical history and the Dead Sea Scrolls, James C. VanderKam here offers a superb new introduction to early Judaism. Based on the best, most recent archaeological research, this illustrated volume explores the history of Judaism during the Second Temple period (516 B.C.E. - 70 C.E.), describing the body of Jewish literature written during these centuries and the most important groups, institutions, and practices of the time. Particularly interesting are VanderKam's depiction of events associated with Masada and the Kokhba revolt, and his commentary on texts unearthed in places like Elephantine, Egypt, and Qumran. Written in the same accessible style as VanderKam's widely praised Dead Sea Scrolls Today, this volume provides the finest classroom introduction to early Judaism available.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"For anyone with an interest in early Judaism, this is a book to be picked up and read."

James C. VanderKam is John A. O'Brien Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at the University of Notre Dame and a member of the international team responsible for preserving and translating the Dead Sea Scrolls. His previous books include *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* and *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (both Eerdmans).

Initially, I was worried that the book would be too broad. Fortunately, as I allowed Vanderkam to

speak to my mind, I began to hear wisdom. Unlike some introductions, Vanderkam presents a broad spectrum of summaries and thoughts from the Second Temple Period. He does it in such a way that does not demand extreme smarts of the reader. At the same time, he doesn't assume his reader is stupid. He writes fluidly and to the point. Based on his writing, I would assume that he is a fantastic professor. So, that said, I may just have to apply to a Masters program at Notre Dame in Ancient Judaism. If you are looking for a basic book and introduction to early Judaism, this is perfect. It deals with the primary sources and is not tainted with theological goals, as that is not the purpose of the book. I hope this helps you out!

There is excellence and scholarship to this text. The historical is treated with specifics, succinctly. This was a required textbook, I felt a friend who may not have known of its existence and wished an overview might want. It covered the subject very well. My professor is referred to in the Introduction because he suggested VanderKam would be perfect for the task and authoritative. I recommend it to any beginning student unknowing of the breadth of this topic. It's a springboard to comprehensive study with the original text translations as a companion. It stands as an outline to the subject for a beginner. Great source!

Fantastic, wonderful

I bought the kindle version of this book as a textbook for a school course. It does provide a good overview on the topic, however, due to a lack of page numbers, I found it difficult to find readings for the course.

This book gives an excellent background for the New Testament. It will put you in the sandals of the NT writers. The book is a must read for anyone seeking to develop a deeper understanding of the culture of the Bible. I have suggested this book to several people and I plan to read it again in the future.

The book was very informative and helpful while not being too technical. If you're interested in early Judaism, you should check it out.

Beautiful read!

I have about 300 books on Near East and Jewish history and Professor VanderKam's book is among my most favorites. Professor VanderKam is a highly respected historian and authority on Jewish history and he has a wonderful way of writing in an enjoyable and understandable way. Others like to impress themselves with unnecessarily complicated prose, but, Professor VanderKam clearly places a priority on conveying his vast knowledge in a sophisticated yet accessible manner. I cannot recommend this book too highly.

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