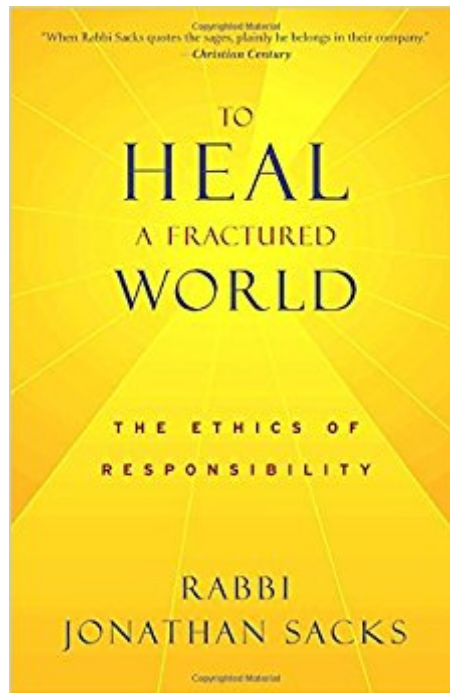




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To Heal A Fractured World: The Ethics Of Responsibility



Synopsis

One of the most respected religious thinkers of our time makes an impassioned plea for the return of religion to its true purpose—•as a partnership with God in the work of ethical and moral living. What are our duties to others, to society, and to humanity? How do we live a meaningful life in an age of global uncertainty and instability? In *To Heal a Fractured World*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks offers answers to these questions by looking at the ethics of responsibility. In his signature plainspoken, accessible style, Rabbi Sacks shares with us traditional interpretations of the Bible, Jewish law, and theology, as well as the works of philosophers and ethicists from other cultures, to examine what constitutes morality and moral behavior. “We are here to make a difference,” he writes, “a day at a time, an act at a time, for as long as it takes to make the world a place of justice and compassion.” He argues that in today’s religious and political climate, it is more important than ever to return to the essential understanding that “it is by our deeds that we express our faith and make it real in the lives of others and the world.” *To Heal a Fractured World* is inspirational and instructive, timely and timeless—will resonate with people of all faiths. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Schocken; Reprint edition (February 6, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805211969

ISBN-13: 978-0805211962

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #66,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Theology #21 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life #45 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Ethics

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Although written by a rabbi, this powerful, biblically based plea for ethical behavior will appeal to non-Jews as well as to Jews. The erudite author, the chief rabbi of Great Britain, contends that all people have to be both ethically and socially responsible, and supports this through examples of people he’s met or read about as well as through biblical and Hasidic tales. His

analysis of these stories and their lessons is beautifully informed by philosophy, psychology, theology, poetry and literature. Sacks's wide-ranging scholarship is evident in the authorities he cites, including Plato, Karl Marx, Victor Frankl, Joseph B. Soloveitchik, William Wordsworth, Rashi, Maimonides, Jean-Paul Sartre, John Donne, Erich Fromm, Sigmund Freud and many others including Talmudic and rabbinical sources. Sacks claims that he "tried to make the book as simple and readable" as possible, but it is at times somewhat heavy-footed. Patient readers will be rewarded by exposure to a great intellect who demonstrates how his knowledge and experiences have led him to the conclusion that each individual has responsibility "to heal where others harm, mend where others destroy, [and] to redeem evil by turning its negative energies to good." (Oct. 11) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sacks, the author of 12 previous books, is chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The ethics of responsibility, so he posits, is the idea that God invites us to become "his partners in the work of creation." The theme of his book is that life is God's call to responsibility. Citing the twenty-first-century's challenges of a scale and scope that seem to defy solutions--environmental and political problems and the growing inequality between rich and poor--Sacks insists that it is up to us to make a difference, "to mend the world one life at a time, one act at a time, one day at a time." Drawing on traditional interpretations of the Bible, Jewish law, and theology, he analyzes the essence of morality and moral behavior. He is one of the most eminent religious scholars of our time, and his book should interest Jews and non-Jews alike. George CohenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fabulous! A tremendous insight into the essence of the Jewish faith and how it has come to be what it has through the centuries. Early on he shares that the book was originally written as a wedding gift for his son and daughter-in-law. What an amazing man that would show his love in this manner - and then share it with the world. What a gift for sharing the faith! It is engaging at an incredible level. At times, it was like reading a really good novel, I couldn't wait to read what came next. I will share that I am a Christian by faith and this book gave me an even deeper appreciation for what we call the Old Testament otherwise known as the Hebrew Bible. I finished the book with an overwhelming sense of gratitude - for both our ancient fathers in the faith and for Rabbi Sacks. I imagine Jewish readers will feel the same.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks is a leading Jewish theologian. Now retired, he is still writing copiously, and all that he writes is very well worth studying. Christians and Jews alike will benefit from the breadth and depth of his knowledge, his humanity, and his excellent writing skills.

Very thoughtfully and well-written book by a highly respected UK Rabbi. He is mainly writing to assist Jewish people who seek clarification of their views on what Biblical (Old Testament) books should mean to those alive today. His main emphasis is that the stories of the Bible teach all humans, not just Jews, what our creator expects of us in living our daily lives to be partners with God to bring about fairness, justice, caring, love, support to our families, our neighbors, all humans and the flora and fauna of our world. While our perception of reality and truth must come individually, we are all in this life together and need to spend our lives learning how best to do it. We must do the work since we are empowered to do so by our very nature. We cannot sit back and leave everything to God (or, for Christians, to Jesus) to handle our problems. We take our inspiration from our creator, but our actions are up to us. Dr. Donald Clark

I'm a world, full of hatred and divisions, it is uplifting to see a message of understanding, love, tolerance and respect for human beings- irrespective of their faith. One of the most important messages is: "With freedom, comes responsibility". All of us, as individuals and communities, are responsible for ourselves, and also for our neighbors and community. The world is broken and only love, not hatred and violence can heal it. I would also recommend to go on YOUTUBE and listen to Sir Jonathan Sacks' interviews. Deep thinking not only on religion, but the outlook on the world, our role and purpose in it. The style is easy to read and understand- not heavy philosophy. One wish- and should- go back and re-read.

I read this book because it was among 5 books recommended by Rabbi Wolpe as the recent best books on religion. I was not disappointed. In fact although this was a library book for me, I found that I was wanting to copy so many paragraphs or pages that it didn't make sense to do this. So I ended up ordering my own copy. I felt there was much relevant material in terms of not only religious information but political thought as well.

Rabbi Sacks' book goes straight to the core of Judaism. This book spoke directly to my heart. Heart-warming and enveloping. I'd recommend it to anyone who is looking for directionality in their

life.

This book is a must read for anyone concerned about the state of the world. Responsibility is anathema to most people these days. Everyone seems to be about instant gratification through stuff, or "feeling good", but without the important factor of DOING. I strongly recommend this book for everyone in our Fractured World.

A wonderfully scholarly and compelling exposition of a moral compass that should guide us all individually but as friend and relative and member of a community and a citizen of our beloved Nation. Social policy generated in the spirit of Sacks perspectives on what is essential for each us would indeed 'heal' our Nation and the world.

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