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Rabbi Jesus An Intimate Biography *Image* A biblical scholar offers a close-up look at the religious and cultural forces that shaped the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, drawing on recent archaeological discoveries to furnish a vivid account of the political forces, social customs, and religious beliefs and practices of the period and analyzing ancient texts to examine Jesus's early life. Reprint. **Rabbi Jesus An Intimate Biography** *Image* Beginning with the Gospels, interpretations of the life of Jesus have flourished for nearly two millennia, yet a clear and coherent picture of Jesus as a man has remained elusive. In **Rabbi Jesus**, the noted biblical scholar Bruce Chilton places Jesus within the context of his times to present a fresh, historically accurate, and revolutionary examination of the man who founded Christianity. Drawing on recent archaeological findings and new translations and interpretations of ancient texts, Chilton discusses in enlightening detail the philosophical and psychological foundations of Jesus' ideas and beliefs. His in-depth investigation also provides evidence that contradicts long-held beliefs about Jesus and the movement he led. Chilton shows, for example, that the High Priest Caiaphas, as well as Pontius Pilate, played a central role in Jesus' execution. It is, however, Chilton's description of Jesus' role as a rabbi, or "master," of Jewish oral traditions, as a teacher of the Cabala, and as a practitioner of a Galilean form of Judaism that emphasized direct communication with God that casts an entirely new light on the origins of Christianity. Seamlessly merging history and biography, this penetrating, highly readable book uncovers truths lost to the passage of time and reveals a new Jesus for the new millennium. **Rabbi Jesus An Intimate Biography** *Doubleday Books* An exploration of the religious and cultural forces that shaped the life of Jesus Christ examines the political forces, social customs, and religious beliefs and practices of the period and analyzes ancient texts to uncover Jesus' early life. **Mary Magdalene A Biography** *Image* After 2,000 years of flawed history, here at last is a magnificent new biography of Mary Magdalene that draws her out of the shadows of history and restores her to her rightful place of importance in Christianity. Throughout history, Mary Magdalene has been both revered and reviled, a woman who has taken on many forms—witch, whore, the incarnation of the eternal feminine, the devoted companion (and perhaps even the wife) of Jesus. In this brilliant new biography, Bruce Chilton, a renowned biblical scholar, offers the first complete and authoritative portrait of this fascinating woman. Through groundbreaking interpretations of ancient texts, Chilton shows that Mary played a central role in Jesus' ministry and was a seminal figure in the creation of Christianity. Chilton traces the evolving images of Mary Magdalene and the legends surrounding her. He explains why, despite her prominence, the Gospels actually say so little about her and why the Catholic Church for thousands of years has sought to marginalize her importance. In a probing look at the Church's attitudes toward women, he investigates Christian misogyny in the ancient world, including the suppression of women priests who patterned their activities on Mary's; explores the impact of Gnostic ambivalence toward women on its depictions of Mary; and shows that these traditions still influence modern portrayals of her. Chilton's descriptions of who Mary Magdalene was and what she did challenge the male-dominated history of Christianity familiar to most readers. Placing Mary within the traditions of Jewish female savants, Chilton presents a visionary figure who was fully immersed in the mystical teachings that shaped Jesus' own teachings and a woman who was a religious master in her own right. **Altruism in World Religions** *Georgetown University Press* In 1830 philosopher Auguste Comte coined the term altruism to provide a general definition for the act of selflessly caring for others. But does this modern conception of sacrificing one's own interests for the well-being of others apply to the charitable behaviors encouraged by all world religions? In **Altruism in World Religions** prominent scholars from an array of religious perspectives probe the definition of altruism to determine whether it is a category that serves to advance the study of religion. Exploring a range of philosophical and religious thought from Greco-Roman philia to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, from Hinduism in India to Buddhism and the religions of China and Japan, the authors find that altruism becomes problematic when applied to religious studies because it is, in fact, a concept absent from religion. Chapters on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam reveal that followers of these religions cannot genuinely perform self-sacrificing acts because God has promised to reward every good deed. Moreover, the separation between the self and the other that self-sacrifice necessarily implies, runs counter to Buddhist thought, which makes no such distinction. By challenging our assumptions about the act of self-sacrifice as it relates to religious teachings, the authors have shown altruism to be more of a secular than religious notion. At the same time, their findings highlight how charitable acts operate with the values and structures of the religions studied. **A Comparative Handbook to the Gospel of Mark Comparisons with Pseudepigrapha, the Qumran Scrolls [i.e. Scrolls], and Rabbinic Literature** *BRILL* This comparative handbook is intended to provide scholars of the New Testament with detailed, systematic and accurate resources concerning the Judaic context of the gospel of Mark. It aims to serve as a powerful tool to assist the reader - and commentator - in understanding and commenting on the gospel of Mark. Introductions are provided to help with issues of dating and the development of the literatures concerned. Possible interpretations are also presented, where suitable. **The Herods Murder, Politics, and the Art of Succession** *Augsburg Fortress Publishers* The Herods explores the Herodian rule from Herod the Great's father, Antipater, until the dynastic sunset with Bereniké, Herod's great-granddaughter, describing the theocratic aims that motivated Herod and his progeny, and the groups and factions within Judaism and Christianity that often defined themselves in opposition to the Herodian project. **Studying the New Testament A Fortress Introduction** *Fortress Press* This book offers an introduction to the literature of the New Testament, demonstrating how these writings can be approached and critically studied in an academic setting. Bruce Chilton and Deidre J. Good, two respected New Testament scholars, provide a narrative of the historical context and social world of the books of the New Testament, a chronological survey of the Gospels and letters, and the remaining writings (Apocrypha, Apocalyptic) with their special focus on the emerging church. Together with textboxes, exercises, questions, further readings, maps, timeline, and glossary, this brief introduction surveys and employs leading methods of study and equips students with the general literacy needed for successful and serious study of New Testament writings. **Redeeming Time The Wisdom of Ancient Jewish and Christian Festal Calendars** *Hendrickson Pub* "Redeeming Time" addresses the temporal imbalance and disorientation that is widely reported in the post-industrial West. The essay evolves by analyzing the philosophical and aesthetic contexts, first of our own experience of time, then of the Judaic context within which the Gospels developed, and finally of the Gospels themselves. In this way, Chilton interprets the visions of eternity in Israel's Scriptures and in the New Testament that healed the breaches of time in their own epochs and still have the power to do so in ours. **The Parables of Jesus** *Westminster John Knox Press* William Barclay brings to these "best-known stories in the world" new force and significance for the modern reader. Each chapter analyzes an individual parable--identifies its theme, explains it in the light of the language and customs of the ancient world, and clearly interprets its meaning for us today. **The William Barclay Library** is a collection of books addressing the great issues of the Christian faith. As one of the world's most widely read interpreters of the Bible and its meaning, William Barclay devoted his life to helping people become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Jerusalem One City, Three Faiths** *Ballantine Books* Venerated for millennia by three faiths, torn by irreconcilable conflict, conquered, rebuilt, and mourned for again and again, Jerusalem is a sacred city whose very sacredness has engendered terrible tragedy. In this fascinating volume, Karen Armstrong, author of the highly praised **A History of God**, traces the history of how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have all laid claim to Jerusalem as their holy place, and how three radically different concepts of holiness have shaped and scarred the city for thousands of years. Armstrong unfolds a complex story of spiritual upheaval and political transformation--from King David's capital to an administrative outpost of the Roman Empire, from the cosmopolitan city sanctified by Christ to the spiritual center conquered and glorified by Muslims, from the gleaming prize of European Crusaders to the bullet-ridden symbol of the present-day Arab-Israeli conflict. Written with grace and clarity, the product of years of meticulous research, Jerusalem combines the pageant of history with the profundity of searching spiritual analysis. Like Karen Armstrong's **A History of God**, Jerusalem is a book for the ages. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life**. **The Red Tent A Novel** *Macmillan* In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspective on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives. 45,000 first printing. **The Golden Rule Analytical Perspectives** *Jacob Neusner Series: Religion/Social Order* The role of the Golden Rule in various systems of thought, both religious and philosophical, invites study. How the logic of a given system interprets the Golden Rule demands analysis. Objective data deriving from empirical study of nature and society deserve close examination. **Jesus An Unconventional Biography** *Liguori Publications* Synthesizes modern archaeological and textual discoveries and studies to highlight the events of Jesus' life, distinguishing what is certain, probable, improbable, and symbolic in the gospels **The Misunderstood God The Lies Religion Tells About God** *Windblown Media* **THE MISUNDERSTOOD GOD** tells the truth about who the Creator is. This book analyzes what religion says about God's heart and personality and measures it up to what God calls Himself: Love. It simplifies a generation's tangled perceptions of God by taking a journey through the sixteen aspects of love described in one of the most well-known Bible passages in the world: 1 Corinthians 13, also known as "the love chapter." So many Christians have been bombarded with confusing teachings and doctrines that their understanding of God resembles a tightly tangled ball of Christmas tree lights. This book takes that twisted mess and replaces it with one soft, warm light of truth that anyone can embrace: God is love. **Christ's Ventriloquists The Event That Created Christianity** **CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS** is a work of investigative history. It documents and describes Christianity's creation-event, in the year 49 or 50, in Antioch (present-day Antakya, Turkey), 20 years after Jesus had been crucified in Jerusalem for sedition against Roman rule. On this occasion, Paul broke away from the Jewish sect that Jesus had begun, and he took with him the majority of this sect's members; he convinced these people that Jesus had been a god, and that the way to win eternal salvation in heaven is to worship him as such. Paul here explicitly introduced, for the first time anywhere, the duality of the previously unitary Jewish God, a duality consisting of the Father and the Son; and he implicitly introduced also the third element of the Trinity, the Holy Ghost. This work also explains and documents the tortuous 14-year-long conflict Paul had had with this sect's leader, Jesus's brother James, a conflict which caused Paul, in about the year 50, to perpetrate his coup d'état against James, and to start his own new religion: Christianity. Then, this historical probe documents that the four canonical Gospel accounts of the words and actions of "Jesus" were written decades after Jesus, by followers of Paul, not by followers of Jesus; and that these writings placed into the mouth of "Jesus" the agenda of Paul. Paul thus effectively became, via his followers, Christ's ventriloquist. A work such as this can be documented and produced only now, after the development (during the past 70 years) of modern legal/forensic methodology. Previously, the only available methods, which scholars have used, simply assumed the honesty-of-intent of all classical documents, especially of canonical religious ones, such as Paul's epistles, and the Four Gospels. Only now is it finally possible to penetrate deeper than that, to reach the writer's intent, and not merely his assertions, and to identify when this intent is to deceive instead of to inform. Whereas scholars have been able to discuss only the truth or falsity of particular canonical statements, it is now possible to discuss also the honesty or deceptiveness of individual statements. This opens up an unprecedented new research tool for historians, and **CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS** is the first work to use these new methods to reconstruct, on this legal/forensic basis, not just how crimes took place, but how and why major historical events (criminal or not), such as the start of Christianity, actually occurred. The author explains: "What I am doing in this work is to reconstruct from the New Testament the crucial events that produced it, without assuming

whether what the NT says in any given passage is necessarily true or even honest. Instead of treating the NT as a work that 'reports history,' the NT is treated as a work whose history is itself being investigated and reported. Its origin goes back to this coup d'état that Paul perpetrated in Antioch in the year 49 or 50 against Jesus's brother James in Jerusalem, whom Jesus in Jerusalem had appointed in the year 30 as his successor to lead the Jewish sect that Jesus had started. The Gospel accounts of 'Jesus' reflected Paul's coup d'état - not actually Jesus, who would be appalled at the Christian concept of 'Christ.' That concept was radically different from the Jewish concept of the messiah, and Paul knew this when he created it." *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible Cambridge University Press* The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition focuses on the ever-changing social and cultural contexts in which the biblical authors and their original readers lived. The authors of the first edition were chosen for their internationally recognized expertise in their respective fields: the history and literature of Israel; postbiblical Judaism; biblical archaeology; and the origins and early literature of Christianity. In this second edition, all of their chapters have been updated and thoroughly revised, with a view towards better investigating the social histories embedded in the biblical texts and incorporating the most recent archaeological discoveries from the Ancient Near East and Hellenistic worlds. *Paul Among the People The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time Image* It is a common—and fundamental—misconception that Paul told people how to live. Apart from forbidding certain abusive practices, he never gives any precise instructions for living. It would have violated his two main social principles: human freedom and dignity, and the need for people to love one another. Paul was a Hellenistic Jew, originally named Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, who made a living from tent making or leatherworking. He called himself the "Apostle to the Gentiles" and was the most important of the early Christian evangelists. Paul is not easy to understand. The Greeks and Romans themselves probably misunderstood him or skimmed the surface of his arguments when he used terms such as "law" (referring to the complex system of Jewish religious law in which he himself was trained). But they did share a language—Greek—and a cosmopolitan urban culture, that of the Roman Empire. Paul considered evangelizing the Greeks and Romans to be his special mission. "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The idea of love as the only rule was current among Jewish thinkers of his time, but the idea of freedom being available to anyone was revolutionary. Paul, regarded by Christians as the greatest interpreter of Jesus' mission, was the first person to explain how Christ's life and death fit into the larger scheme of salvation, from the creation of Adam to the end of time. Preaching spiritual equality and God's infinite love, he crusaded for the Jewish Messiah to be accepted as the friend and deliverer of all humankind. In *Paul Among the People*, Sarah Ruden explores the meanings of his words and shows how they might have affected readers in his own time and culture. She describes as well how his writings represented the new church as an alternative to old ways of thinking, feeling, and living. Ruden translates passages from ancient Greek and Roman literature, from Aristophanes to Seneca, setting them beside famous and controversial passages of Paul and their key modern interpretations. She writes about Augustine; about George Bernard Shaw's misguided notion of Paul as "the eternal enemy of Women"; and about the misuse of Paul in the English Puritan Richard Baxter's strictures against "flesh-pleasing." Ruden makes clear that Paul's ethics, in contrast to later distortions, were humane, open, and responsible. *Paul Among the People* is a remarkable work of scholarship, synthesis, and understanding; a revelation of the founder of Christianity. *The Crucifixion of Jesus, Completely Revised and Expanded A Forensic Inquiry M. Evans* In a language that is both precise and easy to understand, Dr. Zugibe presents his discoveries culled from years of exhaustive research. Documented with 95 illustrations that explore the impact of crucifixion on the body, he demonstrates the realities behind the crucifixion on the body, providing a virtual autopsy on Christ from across the centuries. *Resurrection Logic How Jesus First Followers Believed God Raised Him from the Dead Baylor University Press* XXX Porn for Women Hotter, Hunkier, and More Helpful Around the House! *Chronicle Books* Dare to dream! Here are your wildest fantasies in photos: men reading Jane Austen, spurning supermodels, and reading all of the instructions. Porn for Women (over 100,000 copies sold in its first six months!) and Porn for New Moms left women begging for more. To satisfy, the Cambridge Women's Pornography Collective has upped the ante with this "unrated" edition, showcasing men who are hotter, hunkier, and even more helpful around the house. In these forty ultra-steamy photos and fantasies, women will find their deepest desires fulfilled: "Honey, I paid off our mortgage!" and "I just booked you two weeks at Canyon Ranch spa!" This collection makes another sizzling addition to our hugely successful line of Porn for Women. Bring on the eye candy and bring on the clean laundry! Praise for Porn for New Moms "Genius gift idea . . . (I'll be getting one for each of the 10 baby showers I have in the next three months!)" —Glamour Magazine "It's a book we wouldn't mind sharing with every mother we know." —Parenting.com "This new book from Chronicle has got to be my favorite baby shower gift idea this year." —RookieMom.com *The Mythmaker Paul and the Invention of Christianity Barnes & Noble Publishing* The author presents new arguments which support the view that Paul, not Jesus, was the founder of Christianity. He argues that Jesus and also his immediate disciples James and Peter were life-long adherents of Pharisaic Judaism. Paul, however, was not, as he claimed, a native-born Jew of Pharisee upbringing, but came in fact from a Gentile background. He maintains that it was Paul alone who created a new religion by his vision of Jesus as a Divine Saviour who died to save humanity. This concept, which went far beyond the messianic claims of Jesus, was an amalgamation of ideas derived from Hellenistic religion, especially from Gnosticism and the mystery cults. Paul played a devious and adventurous political game with Jesus' followers of the so-called Jerusalem Church, who eventually disowned him. The conclusions of this historical and psychological study will come as a shock to many readers, but it is nevertheless a book which cannot be ignored by anyone concerned with the foundations of our culture and society. -- Book jacket. *You Can Understand the Bible A Practical and Illuminating Guide to Each Book in the Bible Ignatius Press* Many people are often understandably intimidated or overwhelmed by the sheer size and complexity of the Bible. But now popular author and Boston University professor Peter Kreeft has written a clear road map of the Bible, focusing his keen insight and engaging wit on the core message of each book. It won't take long for you to understand why his guide to scripture has become a best-seller! Sparkling with intelligence and Kreeft's trademark humor, *You Can Understand the Bible* will transform dry study into spiritually satisfying adventures in God's Word. Regardless of how you approached - or didn't approach - the Bible before, you'll come away with a new appreciation of its depth and meaning. Kreeft also provides practical guidance for praying the scriptures every day, allowing the reader to delve into the messages of scripture in a manner that will surprise, delight, and reward. *Zealot The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth Random House #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "A lucid, intelligent page-turner" (Los Angeles Times)* that challenges long-held assumptions about Jesus, from the host of *Believer* Two thousand years ago, an itinerant Jewish preacher walked across the Galilee, gathering followers to establish what he called the "Kingdom of God." The revolutionary movement he launched was so threatening to the established order that he was executed as a state criminal. Within decades after his death, his followers would call him God. Sifting through centuries of mythmaking, Reza Aslan sheds new light on one of history's most enigmatic figures by examining Jesus through the lens of the tumultuous era in which he lived. Balancing the Jesus of the Gospels against the historical sources, Aslan describes a man full of conviction and passion, yet rife with contradiction. He explores the reasons the early Christian church preferred to promulgate an image of Jesus as a peaceful spiritual teacher rather than a politically conscious revolutionary. And he grapples with the riddle of how Jesus understood himself, the mystery that is at the heart of all subsequent claims about his divinity. *Zealot* yields a fresh perspective on one of the greatest stories ever told even as it affirms the radical and transformative nature of Jesus' life and mission. Praise for *Zealot* "Riveting . . . Aslan synthesizes Scripture and scholarship to create an original account."—*The New Yorker* "Fascinatingly and convincingly drawn . . . Aslan may come as close as one can to respecting those who revere Jesus as the peace-loving, turn-the-other-cheek, true son of God depicted in modern Christianity, even as he knocks down that image."—*The Seattle Times* "[Aslan's] literary talent is as essential to the effect of *Zealot* as are his scholarly and journalistic chops. . . . A vivid, persuasive portrait."—*Salon* "This tough-minded, deeply political book does full justice to the real Jesus, and honors him in the process."—*San Francisco Chronicle* "A special and revealing work, one that believer and skeptic alike will find surprising, engaging, and original."—*Jon Meacham*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* "Compulsively readable . . . This superb work is highly recommended."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) *A New Reformation Creation Spirituality and the Transformation of Christianity Simon and Schuster* A modern-day theologian's call for the radical transformation of Christianity • Echoes the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther in 1517 • Addresses the corruption and authoritarian tendencies that distinguish today's Christian institutions from the spiritual message upon which they are founded • Offers a new vision of Christianity that values the Earth, honors the feminine, and emphasizes spiritual tolerance In 1517, Martin Luther, disgusted at the corruption then reigning in the Catholic Church, nailed on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, 95 theses calling for a Reformation. During Pentecost week 2005, former Dominican priest Matthew Fox nailed at that same church door a new set of 95 theses calling for a reawakening of the Christian spirit and a repudiation of the authoritarian, punitive tendencies that prevail in modern churches today. Fox's theses not only condemn the deep corruption in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, made evident by the pedophile scandal and the recent canonization of a fascist admirer of Hitler, but also speak to the loss of inspiration and resulting apathy that have emptied churches of all denominations. Fox says, "At this critical time in human and planetary history, when the earth is being ravaged by the violence of war, poverty, sexism, homophobia, and eco-destruction, we need to gather those who offer a future that is one of compassion, creativity, and justice to speak their conscience as never before. Religion ought to be part of the solution, not the problem." His 95 theses call for a New Reformation, a radical transformation that will allow us to move once again from the hollow trappings of organized religion to genuine spirituality. *What the Qur'an Meant And Why It Matters Penguin* America's leading religious scholar and public intellectual introduces lay readers to the Qur'an with a measured, powerful reading of the ancient text Garry Wills has spent a lifetime thinking and writing about Christianity. In *What the Qur'an Meant*, Wills invites readers to join him as he embarks on a timely and necessary reconsideration of the Qur'an, leading us through perplexing passages with insight and erudition. What does the Qur'an actually say about veiling women? Does it justify religious war? There was a time when ordinary Americans did not have to know much about Islam. That is no longer the case. We blundered into the longest war in our history without knowing basic facts about the Islamic civilization with which we were dealing. We are constantly fed false information about Islam—claims that it is essentially a religion of violence, that its sacred book is a handbook for terrorists. There is no way to assess these claims unless we have at least some knowledge of the Qur'an. In this book Wills, as a non-Muslim with an open mind, reads the Qur'an with sympathy but with rigor, trying to discover why other non-Muslims—such as Pope Francis—find it an inspiring book, worthy to guide people down through the centuries. There are many traditions that add to and distort and blunt the actual words of the text. What Wills does resembles the work of art restorers who clean away accumulated layers of dust to find the original meaning. He compares the Qur'an with other sacred books, the Old Testament and the New Testament, to show many parallels between them. There are also parallel difficulties of interpretation, which call for patient exploration—and which offer some thrills of discovery. *What the Qur'an Meant* is the opening of a conversation on one of the world's most practiced religions. *The Temple of Jesus His Sacrificial Program Within a Cultural History of Sacrifice Penn State University Press* The first study to develop a theory of sacrifice and then apply it to the sources of early Judaism as well as Jesus's activity. Ritual sacrifice was one of the greatest concerns and most widely shared activities among Jews prior to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There is therefore a pressing need for systematic understanding of sacrifice, both as an element of Judaic religion and a context for Jesus's activity. The Temple of Jesus provides a theoretical model of sacrifice and develops that model to analyze classic texts from the Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish War of Josephus, and it argues that Jesus can only be appreciated as driven by a program to enact his own conception of Israel's purity in sacrifice in order to occasion the disclosure of God's kingdom. Chilton contends that sacrifice is construed as a fundamentally social, "pre-civilized" activity involving pragmata as defined as pure, an emotional affect for participants, and an ideology according to which sacrifice occasions a change of life in the community, thus rejecting current anthropological studies that attempt to explain sacrifice genetically. He shows that texts from Ezekiel, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy share a conviction that the covenant with Israel ensures the validity of sacrifice, even as they define purity in various ways and emphasize differing affects of sacrifice. Finally, Chilton provides a new approach to Jesus, comparing and contrasting his occupation of the Temple with the cultic activities of prominent Pharisees of his period. *The Transmigrant Jesus in India Conspicuum Press* What if Jesus was just an ordinary boy searching for enlightenment? In 8 AD, at the Temple of Jerusalem, the charismatic young Yeshua thrills his audience when God seems to communicate through him. While his listeners gush, not everyone is impressed. The priests scoff and say that no carpenter, however wise, can ever enter their holy ranks. Humiliated and robbed of his only dream, Yeshua resigns to a drab life as a

laborer and even agrees to marry the wealthy maiden his father has chosen for him. One day, a Buddhist pilgrim tells Yeshua about a magical country called Sindh in the Far East, where anyone can become a monk, and an irresistible portal of hope opens. Torn between duty and following his bliss, Yeshua must now choose between honoring his parents or selfishly chasing his dream and bringing everlasting shame upon his family. Beautifully written, inspiring, and reminiscent of *The Prophet*, *Siddhartha*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ*. If you love thought-provoking fiction and are curious about the similarities between Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism, you will love this spiritually uplifting novel. *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* *Harper Collins* In *The Misunderstood Jew*, scholar Amy-Jill Levine helps Christians and Jews understand the "Jewishness" of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue can take place. Levine's humor and informed truth-telling provokes honest conversation and debate about how Christians and Jews should understand Jesus, the New Testament, and each other. *Jacob & Esau: Jewish European History Between Nation and Empire* *Cambridge University Press* *Jacob and Esau* is a profound new account of two millennia of Jewish European history that, for the first time, integrates the cosmopolitan narrative of the Jewish diaspora with that of traditional Jews and Jewish culture. Malachi Haim Hachohen uses the biblical story of the rival twins, Jacob and Esau, and its subsequent retelling by Christians and Jews throughout the ages as a lens through which to illuminate changing Jewish-Christian relations and the opening and closing of opportunities for Jewish life in Europe. *Jacob and Esau* tells a new history of a people accustomed for over two-and-a-half millennia to forming relationships, real and imagined, with successive empires but eagerly adapting, in modernity, to the nation-state, and experimenting with both assimilation and Jewish nationalism. In rewriting this history via *Jacob and Esau*, the book charts two divergent but intersecting Jewish histories that together represent the plurality of Jewish European cultures. *Pure Kingdom: Jesus' Vision of God* *Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing* Analyzes the teachings of Christ to determine his views on the kingdom of heaven. *In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible* *Hodder & Stoughton* *The King James Bible* was a landmark in the history of the English language, and an inspiration to poets, dramatists, artists and politicians. Without the King James Bible there would have been no *Paradise Lost*, no *Pilgrim's Progress*, no Handel's *Messiah*. Yet more than a literary, even more than a religious influence, it was seen as a social, economic and political text. Those seeking to overthrow the English monarchy and those wanting to retain it, both sought support from the same Bible. So how did this remarkable translation come to be written? To answer this question is to throw open the doors of a world which was being transformed by the new technology of printing. In reading about the greatest English text ever produced we must close our eyes to our own world in which books are plentiful and readily available and enter another, very different universe... *Testament A: A Story of the Life of a Very Human Jesus* is told by four separate narrators; Yihuda of Qiryat (Judas Iscariot), Miryam of Migdal (Mary Magdalene), Miryam (Mary, Mother of Jesus), and a shepherd, Simon of Gergesa. *Life in Year One: What the World Was Like in First-Century Palestine* *Penguin* What was it like to live in the time of Jesus? What did people eat? Whom did they marry? How did they keep themselves clean? What did their cities and towns look like? What did they believe? The answers, it turns out, are surprising. This simple question is not so simple after all. With a historian's insight and a reporter's curiosity, Scott Korb gives us a backstage pass to the unexpected and sometimes down-and-dirty truth about what everyday life was like in first-century Palestine, that tumultuous era when the Roman Empire was at its zenith and a new religion—Christianity—was born. *The Bible in Politics: How to Read the Bible Politically* *Westminster John Knox Press* This enlightening book on how to read the Bible politically serves as a prerequisite to Christian political action. Richard Bauckham offers his interpretations of several Bible passages that are politically relevant, and discusses how reading the Bible in a political context can lead to fresh insights. *The Rise and Fall of the Bible: The Unexpected History of an Accidental Book* *HMH* A professor of religion offers an "engrossing and excellent" look at how the Good Book has changed—and changed the world—through the ages (Publishers Weekly, starred review). In a lively journey from early Christianity to the present, this book explores how a box of handwritten scrolls became the Bible, and how the multibillion-dollar business that has brought us Biblezines and Manga Bibles is selling down the Book's sacred capital. Showing us how a single official text was created from the proliferation of different scripts, Timothy Beal traces its path as it became embraced as the word of God and the Book of books. Christianity thrived for centuries without any Bible—there was no official canon of scriptures, much less a book big enough to hold them all. Congregations used various collections of scrolls and codices. As the author reveals, there is no "original" Bible, no single source text behind the thousands of different editions on the market today. The farther we go back in the holy text's history, the more versions we find. In calling for a fresh understanding of the ways scriptures were used in the past, the author of *Biblical Literacy* offers the chance to rediscover a Bible, and a faith, that is truer to its own history—not a book of answers, but a library of questions. *Jesus and His Death: Historiography, the Historical Jesus, and Atonement Theory* *Baylor University Press* Recent scholarship on the historical Jesus has rightly focused upon how Jesus understood his own mission. But no scholarly effort to understand the mission of Jesus can rest content without exploring the historical possibility that Jesus envisioned his own death. In this careful and far-reaching study, Scot McKnight contends that Jesus did in fact anticipate his own death, that Jesus understood his death as an atoning sacrifice, and that his death as an atoning sacrifice stood at the heart of Jesus' own mission to protect his own followers from the judgment of God. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction* *Paullist Press* *Daily life in Ancient Israel - Great prophets including, Hosea, Amos, Isaiah - People and lands of the Old Testament.* *Jesus the Jew: A Historian's Reading of the Gospels* *Fortress Press* This now classic book is a significant corrective to several recent developments in the study of the historical Jesus. In contrast to depictions of Jesus as a wandering Cynic teacher, Geza Vermes offers a portrait based on evidence of charismatic activity in first-century Galilee. Vermes shows how the major New Testament titles of Jesus—prophet, Lord, Messiah, son of man, Son of God—can be understood in this historical context. The result is a description of Jesus that retains its power and its credibility. *Good News for All Creation: Vegetarianism As Christian Stewardship* *Lantern Books* *Good News for All Creation* notes that plant-based diets reflect the love, compassion, and peace of Christ, and they constitute good, responsible stewardship of God's Creation. Using traditional Christian teachings, the authors make a compelling case that, if Jesus were among us today, he would choose to be vegetarian.