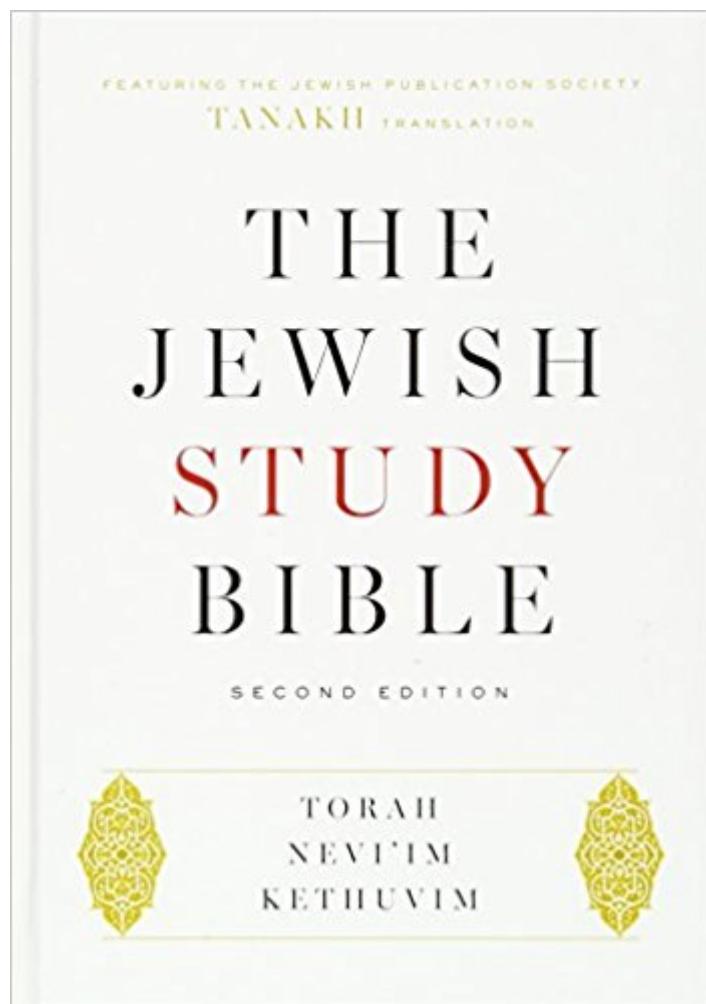


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# The Jewish Study Bible: Second Edition



## **Synopsis**

First published in 2004, The Jewish Study Bible is a landmark, one-volume resource tailored especially for the needs of students of the Hebrew Bible. It has won acclaim from readers in all religious traditions. The Jewish Study Bible, which comes in a protective slipcase, combines the entire Hebrew Bible--in the celebrated Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation--with explanatory notes, introductory materials, and essays by leading biblical scholars on virtually every aspect of the text, the world in which it was written, its interpretation, and its role in Jewish life. The quality of scholarship, easy-to-navigate format, and vibrant supplementary features bring the ancient text to life. This second edition includes revised annotations for nearly the entire Bible, as well as forty new and updated essays on many of the issues in Jewish interpretation, Jewish worship in the biblical and post-biblical periods, and the influence of the Hebrew Bible in the ancient world. The Jewish Study Bible, Second Edition, is an essential resource for anyone interested in the Hebrew Bible.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 2400 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2 edition (October 17, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199978468

ISBN-13: 978-0199978465

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 1.8 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 366 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,876 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Judaism #2 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament #3 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)

## **Customer Reviews**

Q&A with the Editors Q: What led to the decision to revise the Jewish Study Bible? A: It has been ten years since the first edition of JSB was published. During that time our knowledge of the Bible and of ancient Israel has advanced tremendously. At the same time, a new generation of scholars has entered the field, with fresh approaches to the study of the Bible. We wanted to build on our very successful first edition by introducing our readers to new knowledge and new approaches. Q:

How extensive are the revisions? A: They are very extensive. Many books of the Bible have entirely new annotations / commentaries, by new authors, and all have been revised to reflect new scholarship. The essays have been revised, some by new authors. In addition, many new essays on a wide variety of topics have been added, ranging from topics such as the calendar to the place of the Bible in American Jewish culture. Q: What has changed in research in Biblical Studies since the publication of the first edition? A: We now have a much broader and sophisticated appreciation of how the Bible came to be the Bible, and how its various parts were re-shaped and interpreted in ancient times. Much current emphasis is on the Persian and Hellenistic periods, when the biblical canon and its earliest interpretation were developing. The history and archaeology of these periods have given us a firmer grasp on how Jewish identity was being formed. This, in turn, helps us to better understand the development of the biblical text and its message for the audiences of those times. We recognize that there were multiple Jewish communities with differing views on certain matters, and we are sensitive to the many voices reflected (or suppressed) within the biblical books. Finally, even when scholars recognize that biblical books are composite and have a complex editorial history, it is valuable to examine the final form that an editor imposed upon them, and what this final form may mean. Q: Where do you see Biblical Studies heading in the next 10 years? A: We are neither prophets nor children of prophets (Amos 7:14). It is likely that further archaeological discoveries will help us better understand certain passages and institutions. Perhaps the debate raging about dating biblical literature will be resolved, and we will be able to better understand biblical books in their historical contexts. Finally, it is important to remember that Jewish participation in mainstream biblical scholarship began only half a century ago, and it is likely that in the coming decade Jewish scholars will find new ways of integrating classical Jewish sources with critical approaches.

Serious students of Judaism will want to have a copy of this outstanding and surprisingly affordable study Bible, which stands in the tradition of Oxford's great study Bibles. Using the Jewish Publication Society translation, the books of the Jewish canon are presented in their traditional order: Torah (the five books of Moses); Nevi'im (the major and minor prophets); and Kethuvim (the other writings). Leading Jewish scholars introduce each book and offer extensive sidebar commentary, discussing the views of ancient and modern rabbinic scholars. In addition, the volume provides two dozen scholarly essays on different aspects of interpretation: the Bible's use in various periods in Jewish history, in the liturgy, in the Dead Sea Scrolls. There are essays on biblical languages, canonization, textual criticism, philosophical and mystical traditions, and biblical poetry.

This landmark volume is at once serious and accessible, and spans the spectrum of Jewish thought. 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.

From the previous edition: "The Jewish Study Bible encompasses a monumental assembly of critical learning and acumen, representing the achievement of an entire generation of Jewish scholars. The commentaries are not only erudite but purposeful and theologically alert. A heroic undertaking, brilliantly conceived and executed with panache." --Jacob Neusner "Serious students of Judaism will want to have a copy of this outstanding and surprisingly affordable study Bible, which stands in the tradition of Oxford's great study Bibles. " --Publishers Weekly, Religion Bookline "Another superb holiday gift, especially appropriate for non-Orthodox Jews, is The Jewish Study Bible from Oxford University Press, which finally stands alongside the many verse-by-verse commentaries for Christians. This work also is recommended for serious-minded Christian readers." --Associated Press "This is an essential acquisition for every library and an indispensable addition for every Jewish home. It has been needed for a long time." --Nahum M. Sarna, Judaica, Florida Atlantic University "The Jewish Study Bible is a major accomplishment. It provides accessible essays from the full gamut of Jewish scholarship, and a running commentary that draws liberally from both traditional and scientific perspectives." --Lawrence A. Hoffman, Liturgy, Worship and Ritual, Hebrew Union College "First published in 2004, The Jewish Study Bible is a landmark, one-volume resource tailored especially for the needs of students of the Hebrew Bible. It has won acclaim from readers in all religious traditions... The quality of scholarship, easy-to-navigate format, and vibrant supplementary features bring the ancient text to life... The Jewish Study Bible, Second Edition, is an essential resource for anyone interested in the Hebrew Bible." --Jewish Media Review "Each essay is informed, informative, and written by an authority on the subject being analyzed. Taken altogether, the essays provide a nearly exhaustive picture of all the topics basic to understanding the Bible and its background. An extremely useful resource... Highly recommended." --CHOICE

The best critical exegesis of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakah) available. The NJPS is the most exacting English translation of the Hebrew bible made so far. Topography is well thought out and the Execusis at the end of the production is an compilation of key subjects commented on in depth from some of the most renouned Hebrew Biblical authors alive today!.

Ordered for use in a Torah study. We started in Joshua (after completing Genesis-Deuteronomy). The commentary is excellent. I highly recommend. This does not have Hebrew (there is not enough space for Hebrew and commentary) so we keep a English/Hebrew Tanakh open next to it for when questions arise about what Hebrew words were used and translated into what we are reading.

I LOVE this study Bible. I had the paperback Tanakh of the same translation, but the fact that this is hardbound, larger print, has maps/graphics, and commentary makes it incredibly valuable. Honestly, the commentary is exceptional and I find myself poring over this familiar text the way I would a gripping novel. Plus, this is the best price for this item you'll find.

The first edition of this resource book was recommended for study in Hebrew Bible open source courses from Harvard and Yale. The new edition of it is a well-bound hard cover book. This 2309 page second edition, includes 9 full page color maps. The preface to the second edition explains that 30 background essays include six additions to those of the first edition. Original essays have also been revised. Some of the essays bring the status of modern biblical scholarship up to date. Perhaps they would be of interest to biblical scholars more than the average undergraduate college student taking an introductory course in the Hebrew Bible. Nevertheless, they seem to cover areas pertinent to the purpose of the book. The Tanakh translations are standard and annotations are copious. I am not qualified to judge it against other such books, having no certification in the area of resource texts in Judaism. I have had this book for 2 weeks and have read a handful of the essays and 3 parshas in Numbers. Students will not be disappointed in its completeness in helping them in their studies.

This review is for the Kindle version. First off. I made the mistake in getting this for it's price, which was a HUGE mistake. In itself it's a good Bible study but this Kindle version, STINKS! There is no search feature. Once you choose your book, you have to go page by page to get to where you want. This might not seem bad if you're reading it as a Bible, but for Bible study, it's a pain in the butt, to use. I'm a Messianic Jewish worshiper, between my various Bible studies, Torah classes, and Shabat services, it was not becoming enjoyable reading Yeshua's word, as it should. I also found that I preferred printed over digital. In the end, I found out what best met my needs was, in printed version. The Complete Hebrew Bible by David Stern along with The Stone Edition Chumash. Do not get the Kindle version. It will seem nice at first, but will get old real fast.

I have had an opportunity to compare this (JSB) to The New American Bible (With the Revised Book of Psalms and the Revised New Testament) (NABRE), another recent translation. Both are well-done bricks of a book. If the NABRE is easy to read, the JSB is easier: larger type and better page layout. If the NABRE is robust and handsome, the JSB is more so. But where the NABRE falls down compared to the JSB is the commentary. The JSB's critical apparatus is massive, and informed by the latest scholarship. The scholarly apparatus of the JSB is simply superb. Consider the two works' treatment of Deuteronomy 5, which contains the second version of the Ten Commandments. The NABRE's critical apparatus for this chapter consists almost entirely of cross-references to other Biblical passages. No brains involved. The JSB's sidenotes (just the sidenotes!), on the other hand, contain several thousand words of critical commentary discussing everything from Ugaritic predecessors, to comparisons to the version in Exodus, to discussions of the text's punctuation, all presented in an eminently readable style. I would say that the JSB's commentary on chapter 5 alone is much longer and more scholarly than the NABRE's commentary on the entire book of Deuteronomy. Whether you are a Jew, Christian, atheist or whatever, I heartily recommend this edition for the Old Testament as not only as easy to read, but for its formidable scholarship. You don't get better than this.

This is a great translation. There are a lot of notes to explain everything and gives other possible definitions for some of the words when the translation is not very exact. Some words have more than one meaning. I am giving it only four stars because the paper is very thin, almost like 1-2 sheets of tissue paper. When I make notes you can seem then on the other side of the page, Overall I like it better than some of the other translations I have (about 6 different ones). and the study notes are great, oh but the thin pages!

I judge a Bible, of which have many, by the way the translators deal with Exodus 6:2-3, Deuteronomy 32:8-9, and Joel 2:23. If I find that the translators have acknowledged the possible translations and have let you know that you have the right to be informed, then I say the Bible is worth having. This one, toes the Jewish line, has excellent side notes, and acknowledges that the translation could have been different. This bible will inform, will teach, and will satisfy. Purchase it and add it to KJV, the New American Bible, first edition, and the Dead Sea Scrolls Bible as your biblical source in all things.

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