

The JPS Commentary on the Haggadah - Historical Introduction, Translation, and
Commentary by Joseph Tabory.
The Jewish Publication Society 2008.

In the style of its Bible commentaries, the Jewish Publication Society has now produced this volume focussing on the haggadah, written by the pre-eminent Haggadah scholar, Professor Joseph Tabory.

The first 69 pages are given over to a detailed explanation of and commentary on every aspect of the Seder ritual, its symbols and actions, and the liturgy and content of the Haggadah itself. As well as being highly readable and informative, the author includes the latest scholarly opinions on some of the rites of the Seder, transmitting knowledge that is fascinating and intriguing that would enhance any Seder at which such detail was repeated.

The second half of the book contains the haggadah liturgy itself, with occasional pertinent footnotes and a new translation by the author with biblical texts taken from the NJPS version. Several pages of illustrations, showing the frontispieces or inner pages of haggadot through the ages conclude the book.

The JPS Commentary series have achieved a commendably high standard and this latest volume maintains it admirably.

This is a book for rabbis and laypeople alike, containing sufficient detail to enliven any Seder, as well as providing a brilliant, scholarly introduction to this most beloved of all Jewish rites.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh