

JPS Guide - The Jewish Bible. The Jewish Publication Society 2008.

The first of the new JPS Guides, this introduction to the Jewish Bible brings together the writings of some of the best biblical scholars alive today, including Marc Zvi Brettler, David E. S. Stein, Andrea Weiss, Michael Fishbane, Benjamin Scolnic and others.

The Guide is divided into sixteen different sections, covering such topics as: The Origins of the Hebrew Bible Text, The Public Reading of Torah, A Short History of Bible Translations, Methods of Bible Study and Commentaries on the Bible. There are also considerations of the different genres of biblical literature and an extremely helpful summary of each of the books of the Hebrew Bible.

As if the above did not offer riches enough the Guide also contains an excellent glossary, recommendations for further study, both online and in book form, a bibliography of works cited and sundry supplementary sections such as chronologies, a biblical events timeline, weights and measures in the Bible and maps.

This Guide is presented clearly and is immensely 'user-friendly'; it is a perfect book for those planning to convert to Judaism, Jews who wish to increase their knowledge in a painless and enjoyable way, and even rabbis will find it a ready source of help for that piece of information niggling away in an unreachable part of their memory!

The Jewish Bible promises a great deal for the other volumes that are to follow in the series.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh