

JPS Guide - Jewish Traditions edited by Ronald L Eisenberg.
The Jewish Publication Society 2008.

This is the first appearance in paperback of this book, created in 2004 by its writer and editor Ronald Eisenberg. It is a massive tome, and the reason for this is that it contains almost everything that anyone might wish to know about Judaism: the life-cycle, Shabbat and the festivals, synagogue and prayer, Jewish literature and mitzvot, and a miscellany that includes symbols, magic and superstition, food, plants and animals. There are also appendices with the weekly Torah and haftarah readings, readings for festivals and special Sabbaths, details of the tractates of the Mishnah and an excellent bibliography.

Jewish Traditions is a compendium that includes traditional and non-traditional opinions and practices in key areas and is set out in a clear, concise and highly readable style. It is a reference book of the highest quality that will recommend itself to everyone, rabbinic and laity, scholar and student, convert and born Jew. It is another excellent addition to the JPS Guide series and complements the excellent Guide to the Jewish Bible.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh