

The Modern Men's Torah Commentary - New Insights from Jewish Men on the
54 Weekly Torah Portions, edited by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2009.

Jewish Lights' splendid Women's Torah Commentary gave rise to the question why not a Men's Commentary? In spite of the obvious answer that every Torah commentary in existence that did not include the word 'women' in its title qualified for this name, a need was clearly felt for a post-feminism collection of men's commentaries on the 54 weekly Torah portions: The Modern Men's Torah Commentary is the result.

In his introduction, Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin describes this new collection as an 'homage - in its truest, literary sense - to those feminist commentaries that have preceded it', and it is evident that the imprint of the feminist Bible critique will be felt throughout the book, where issues such as 'What it means to be a father, son, husband, partner, lover; how to handle aggression; men's health issues, moral responsibility for violence against women and body image' are included in the sidra by sidra commentaries.

The list of contributors is impressive, including such luminaries as David Wolpe, Peter Knobel, Daniel Polish, Donniel Hartman, Avi Weiss, Brad Artson, Simkha Weintraub, Tony Bayfield, Art Green, David Rosen and Harold Kushner. As might be expected the quality of the contributions over all is very high and the substance worthy of study for lay people and congregational professionals alike.

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