

The Commentators' Bible: The JPS Miqraot Gedolot: Numbers.
Edited, translated and annotated by Michael Carasik,
Jewish Publication Society 2011.

The Numbers volume of the JPS Miqraot Gedolot is the third to be created by Professor Michael Carasik of the University of Pennsylvania and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Exodus and Leviticus being the previous publications in the series.

As with the previous volumes, Carasik commences with information about the commentators whose work he is analysing, and gives advice how best to use the text; the most important part of which is where he explains how he has treated the commentaries, and especially where he has abbreviated or omitted parts of them.

A few pages of Special Topics conclude the text, together with Resources for Further Study and details of other English translations of the principal commentators.

Whether you are new to the series or an aficionado, this latest volume of the JPS Miqraot Gedolot is a wonderful way for an interested lay person whose medieval Hebrew is somewhat basic to get inside the mind of the great medieval commentators, mediated by a modern Hebraist of great skill and linguistic sensitivity. It is also an excellent text to use for teaching this material, whether at the top end of Religion School, or at the adult level.

Highly recommended!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh