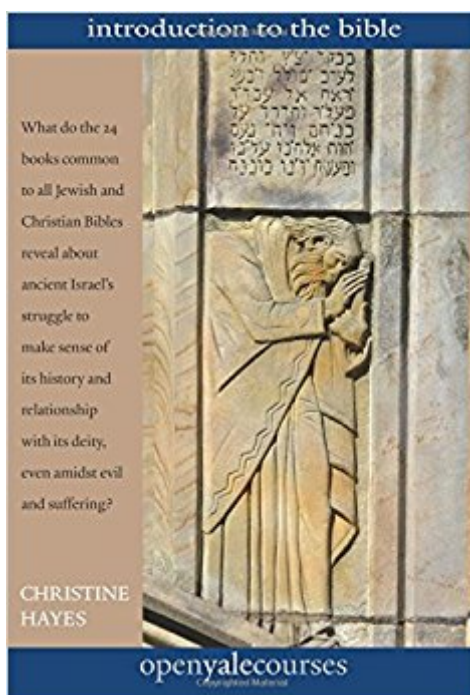


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Introduction To The Bible (The Open Yale Courses Series)



Synopsis

This book examines the small library of 24 books common to all Jewish and Christian Bibles; books that preserve the efforts of diverse writers over a span of many centuries to make sense of their personal experiences and those of their people, the ancient Israelites. Professor Christine Hayes guides her readers through the complexities of this polyphonous literature that has served as a foundational pillar of Western civilization, underscoring the variety and even disparities among the voices that speak in the biblical texts. Biblical authors wrote in many contexts and responded to a sweeping range of crises and questions concerning issues that were political, economic, historical, cultural, philosophical, religious, and moral. In probing chapters devoted to each of the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, Hayes reconstructs the meanings and messages of each book and encourages a deeper appreciation of the historical and cultural settings of ancient biblical literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christine Hayes is Robert F. and Patricia Ross Weis Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University. She is the author of *Between the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds*, *Gentile Impurities and Jewish Identities*, and *The Emergence of Judaism*. She lives in Hamden, CT.

I read this book after watching the 17 hours of professor Hayes' lectures at Yale Open Courses. Normally I would get bored by watching 24 (Youtube) lectures, but these were so interesting that I also wanted to read the book. "Introduction to the Bible" covers the development of the religion 1300 BCE - 300 BCE from polytheism to monotheism to the post-exilic prophets. The emphasis is on revealing the agenda of the authors of the Bible and the different books of the Bible sought to answer questions specific to the time it was written. In addition to source criticism and redaction criticism of the biblical text, Hayes also use archaeological sources and written sources from other cultures in the Middle East that confirm or contradict the biblical text. The inconsistencies between the different biblical books and authors are used to shed light on how the text changed and developed to fit the political and theological concerns of the redactors. This is highly recommended and excellent scholarship.

This excellent book follows the marvelous Yale free online course in the Hebrew Bible. I started viewing the lectures, then discovered the book, and have now raced ahead to the end of the book leaving a few lectures to view. The book and lectures present a widely accepted scholarly approach to the Hebrew Bible found in analogous courses at numerous other colleges. This approach sees the Bible as the work of many minds, with different views shaped by different times and circumstances. The special virtues of Hayes' presentation include faithful representation of scholarly sources, careful selection of material to convey important points in relatively brief compass, and enthusiastic commitment to this subject. The latter is especially evident in the lectures, where one has gestures and facial expressions to complement words. I can't recommend the book and lectures too highly.

This book follows very closely the lectures of the Yale online course on the Old Testament taught by Prof. Hayes and recorded in the Fall of 2006. The course is terrific, and the book is very helpful as a companion to the lectures and is a good guide to understanding the Old Testament standing alone. The book covers the Old Testament as literature and as history and is very helpful in placing the Old Testament in the context of the cultural development of the Ancient Middle East.

Book is excellent but tables and graphics do not show up well on my older Kindle. Suggest buying the paper copy for a few dollars more. The book accompanies the Open Yale Course by Christine Hayes. Recommend the course and the book, but as I said in paperback, for anyone looking for an introduction to the Hebrew Bible, its contents and context.

The presentation generally follows that of the Yale course videos but with significantly expanded content. Suitable as a companion to the series or as a followup.

After reading this book, it has earned a spot on my all time favorite list. I initially found Professor Hayes lectures on YouTube when I was looking for information on the redaction of the god El (chief god of the Canaanite pantheon) and Yahweh. I then started to cruise through all the videos pertaining to Old Testament criticism, and wondered how I could get all this information in print!! I immediately went to , punched her name in, and low and behold, it was a printed version of her lectures. This book covers all ground in the Old Testament, from the Torah, to the apocalyptic books, to wisdom. It is an introduction to the documentary hypothesis, the parallels between the bible and Ancient Near East mythology, the embellishment of history recorded in the Old Testament, and much more. Hayes also proves her points by throwing in archeological evidence to support her inferences. I am honestly surprised that this book hasn't received more attention! To all who stop by and consider purchasing this book, don't hesitate to buy it! The information in this book is outstanding, and interesting to learn about.

Great book goes along with an OCW course I'm doing!

Very informative

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