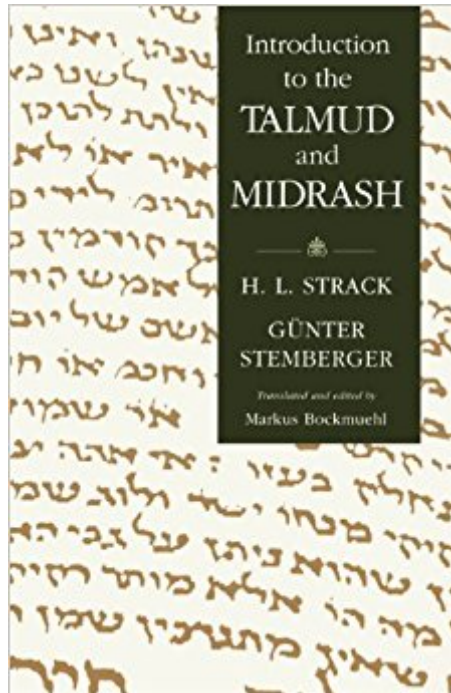




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Introduction To The Talmud And Midrash



Synopsis

Gunter Stemberger's revision of H. L. Strack's classic introduction to rabbinic literature, which appeared in its first English edition in 1991, was widely acclaimed. Gunter Stemberger and Markus Bockmuehl have now produced this updated edition, which is a significant revision (completed in 1996) of the 1991 volume. Following Strack's original outline, Stemberger discusses first the historical framework, the basic principles of rabbinic literature and hermeneutics and the most important Rabbis. The main part of the book is devoted to the Talmudic and Midrashic literature in the light of contemporary rabbinic research. The appendix includes a new section on electronic resources for the study of the Talmud and Midrash. The result is a comprehensive work of reference that no student of rabbinics can afford to be without.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

Readers will note a number of significant changes. Most importantly, the present text substantially represents the eighth German edition published by Gunter Stemberger in 1992.

(EDITED LATER IN PARANTHESIS)POOR ENGLISH TRANSLATION.(part if my problem is that the sources are in the same 'BOLD FONT' so the reader goes straight into the source as if its part of

the story line) TRANSLATED 1985. NOT FLOWING. LOTS OF DETAILS AND ALL THE SOURCES ARE GIVEN (which is good so I can reference the information in the original Hebrew) I PICKED UP SOME POINTS. I don't know who would want this because of the paper quality, the font is 'bold' thick black bold. They could have done a better job. This is 2016. Everything can be computerized TO IMPROVE. (the abbreviations are not the usual so I had to keep going in the back of the book). (once you get used to this style it makes it a little easier to read. Still it's a poor layout) THE VALUE IS NOT THERE IN PRINT BOOK BINDING PAPER AND PRINTING. BUT NEW INFORMATION/KNOWLEDGE IS PRICELESS. IT'S JUST NOT A COMFORTABLE READ. FOR A SERIOUS STUDENT OF HEBREW, YOU WOULD NOT NEED THIS, YOU WOULD GO DIRECT. ALTHOUGH THIS CAN GIVE YOU SOURCES WHERE TO GO. IT DEPENDS ON YOUR ABILITY AND ENERGY IN YOUR MIND. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT REWORKED. I WOULD BUY IT AGAIN

Just what I wanted, an introduction. Met all expectations. Well written for the average reader. Definitely recommend for anyone interested in this topic.

There are many books that claim to be an "introduction" to the Talmud. Most of them make that introduction without much context. Strack's volume will not teach you how to study Talmud and Midrash, but it will give you a good understanding of what they are and how they fit into the larger frame of Jewish tradition and literature. For the intermediate and more advanced reader alike, the book is a well-indexed reference work for Talmud and Midrash study, including quick and simple definitions of terms, identifications of obscure titles, and superior (if occasionally outdated) bibliographies for each chapter. This is a work that should be in the library of every serious student of rabbinics.

An absolutely indispensable volume on Rabbinic texts. A great reference book to study and to have on your shelf if you are student of Judaic texts. I will not repeat what has been said by other reviewers, but for me the summaries provided a great overview. The book is dry and academic, technical and reads almost like a dictionary, but this is what one should actually expect from this type of material. This book is not for an initial introduction to the rabbinic literature, but for those who perhaps understand much of scholarly talk and technical terminology. I especially like bibliographies at the end of each section. They tell you of published editions and translations of the original texts discussed if you are trying to locate them for study.

For my son for college. he will enjoy reading this book in class as he studies this material in school.

This is a good introduction to the Talmud and Midrash. However, perhaps the authors should have published an "Introduction to the Introduction of the Talmud and Midrash." There is a lot of scholarly material here, but it is written from the viewpoint that the reader is already somewhat familiar with Rabbinic Literature. One may wish to familiarize himself/herself with such terms as Baraita, Tannaim and Amoraim before beginning this book. A great book for anyone wanting to study Rabbinic Literature.

Overly Complex and not really an "Introduction" to anything. The book is written in extremely tedious contexts and any normal reader would quickly get frustrated. This is a typical work where the author/authors go so far overboard into granular details, that the audience completely misses anything of substance.

This is simply the best work available on the subject. Each section is based on a common plan: The text is briefly discussed; variant textual versions of texts are discussed; English translations are noted; and a detailed review is then given of the past hundred years of critical study on the document in question. It has sections on Rabbinical Hermeneutics and the Oral and Written Tradition. It covers the Mishna, Tosefta, Palestinian Talmud, Babylonian Talmud and the extracanonical tractates. Best of all, it covers all the classical midrashim compilations (midrash). This includes all the halakhic, exegetical and homiletic midrashim. However, note that this is not a book for beginners. For those who want an introduction to rabbinical literature, you should obtain "Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts", edited by Barry W. Holtz.

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