

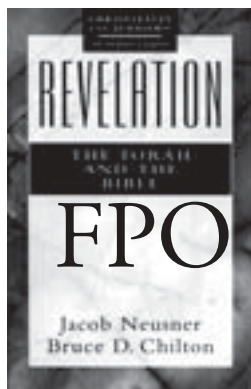
Recent Books



The Apostle Paul, Christian Jew: Faithfulness and Law, by Edwin D. Freed (University Press of America, 1994), pp. 256, \$34.50.

“Professor Freed invites us to ‘think otherwise’ with him about Paul and succeeds in writing a most provocative and challenging book. This volume forces us to rethink some of our basic assumptions about Pauline theology. By reading Paul in the context of the apostle’s fundamental Jewishness, he calls into question much of current interpretation. This is a profoundly thorough, honest, and scholarly treatment of Paul. To my knowledge it is the most consistent effort to understand the Pauline category of faith as faithfulness and all that view implies. It merits careful reading and consideration by every serious student of Paul” (Robert Kysar, Professor of New Testament and Homiletics, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia).

Edwin D. Freed is Professor Emeritus at Gettysburg College.



Revelation: The Torah and the Bible, by Jacob Neusner and Bruce D. Chilton (Trinity Press International, 1995), pp. 175, \$17.00.

Here is a superb resource for all who wish to deepen their understanding of Judaism and Christianity and the

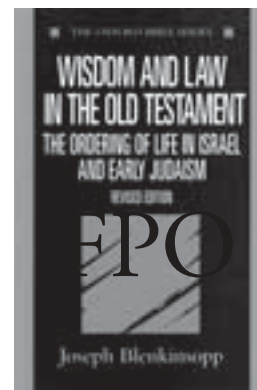
relationship between these two great traditions. The authors compare and contrast the paramount theological categories of Judaism and Christianity, specifically Torah, God, and Israel for Judaism, and Bible, God, and church for Christianity.

Revelation is the first of three volumes in support of this effort. It consists of a conversation between the Torah and its authoritative representation in the Talmud of Babylonia (a complete and exhaustive statement of God’s will for Judaism) and the Christian Bible (Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament), including the interpretation of scripture within the primitive church as the foundation of Christian authority.

Within this conversation the authors do not sidestep profound disagreement in favor of proposing obscure theological difference. Each believes in his tradition and its affirmations, and each seeks to grasp the rationality of the views of the other.

Jacob Neusner, leading scholar of the formative age and writings of Judaism, is Distinguished Research Professor of Religious Studies at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Bruce D. Chilton, New Testament and Judaic scholar, is Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.



Wisdom and Law in the Old Testament: The Ordering of Life in Israel and Early Judaism, revised edition, by Joseph Blenkinsopp, The Oxford Bible Series (Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 197, \$18.95.

“What a pleasure to find a book that takes seriously the meaning and importance of ‘law’ in the Hebrew Bible . . . This book is a helpful introduction to the current state of critical theology . . . both informative and stimulating” (*The Universe*).

This revised edition has been considerably expanded to take in work on the legal and didactic material published since the 1980s. It gives more attention to the different literary genres used by Israel’s sages and to the

social settings in which the material came into existence and circulated. References to relevant archaeological data have also been brought up to date. The main purpose of the book, however, remains the same: to trace the course of two related key streams of tradition, law and wisdom, throughout the history of Israel in the biblical period, and to demonstrate their essential lines of continuity with classical Jewish thought and early Christian theology.

Joseph Blenkinsopp is Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.



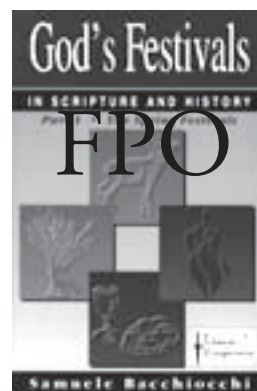
Pomegranates and Golden Bells: Studies in Biblical, Jewish, and Near Eastern Ritual, Law, and Literature in Honor of Jacob Milgrom, edited by David P. Wright, David Noel Freedman, and Avi Hurvitz (Eisenbrauns, 1995), pp. 861, \$59.50.

This collection in honor of Jacob Milgrom gathers leading biblical scholars such as Rolf Rendtorff, Michael Fishbane, Meir Weiss, Emanuel Tov, Moshe Greenberg, Anson Rainey, John Van Seters, Shalom Paul, Shemaryahu Talmon, Abraham Malamat, and many other important contributors.

The book contains sixty articles in two sections: the first section is titled "Ritual, Law and Their Sources," and the second section, "Other Literary, Historical, and Linguistic Studies."

These articles are preceded by a bibliography of the published writings of Jacob Milgrom (224) from 1955 to 1994 and even a list of forthcoming works. In his preface, the noted David Noel Freedman justifies this vast enterprise by saying: "Our guide and mentor in such matters has been and will continue to be Jacob Milgrom. He has brought from his many years in the rabbinate a pervasive pastoral concern for the flock, now greatly enlarged through his writing. He has insisted that scholarship should be in the service of teaching, and particularly aimed at those who wish to read, study, and profit from the Scriptures. So in everything he has written and preeminently in his masterworks . . . the scholarship is ubiquitous and overpowering, but not without accompanying interpretation and exposition in language that everyone is able to understand and appreciate, with the result that all of us, scholars and nonscholars alike, may gain in knowledge and improve our grasp of all these matters. . . . It

is altogether fitting then, that we should honor Jacob Milgrom at this time for the marvelous things he has already accomplished and to wish him the best possible combination of conditions and circumstances for continuing with his labors and completing the awesome task he has set for himself."



God's Festivals in Scripture and History, Part I: The Spring Festivals, by Samuele Bacchiocchi (Biblical Perspectives, 1995), pp. 252, \$14.95.

Most evangelical churches no longer observe the annual Biblical Festivals today, partly as a result of the radical antifeasts attitude of the Puritans, who swept away all religious holy days except the Lord's Day. The Puritans viewed the church calendar, which was filled with saints' days and Marian feasts instituted by the Roman Catholic Church, as indicative of the apostasy into which the church had fallen. To rid the church of all the pagan superstitions which had become part of the popular piety, the Puritans in Colonial America did away with all the annual holy days. In doing so, however, they left Christians without a religious calendar to commemorate the great saving acts of God.

In *God's Festivals in Scripture and History* Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi challenges Christians to bring about worship renewal by developing a church calendar patterned after the religious calendar God gave to Israel.

Samuele Bacchiocchi is the first non-Catholic to graduate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Currently, he is Professor of Church History and Theology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

How to Be a Perfect Stranger: A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies, edited by Arthur J. Magida (Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996), pp. 417, \$24.95.

In today's diverse American society, we often are invited—through family, friends, or business contacts—to religious ceremonies or services that are not of our own tradition or faith. Entering this unfamiliar atmosphere—whether a Presbyterian baptism, a Jewish bar mitzvah, a Roman Catholic wedding, or an Islamic, Hindu or Buddhist service—can be awkward. . . .

What will happen? What do I do? What do I wear?

What do I say? What should I avoid doing, wearing, saying? How long will it last? What are their basic beliefs? Will there be a reception? Will there be food? Should I bring a gift? When is it okay to leave?

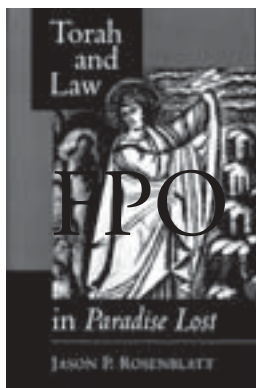
These are just a few of the basic, very practical ques-



tions answered in *How to Be a Perfect Stranger*. A lively, straightforward guide to the basic services and ceremonies of all major religions and denominations in America, it is based on information obtained directly from each of them.

An indispensable, easy-to-use handbook, it helps the well-meaning guest of *any other faith* to feel comfortable, participate to the fullest extent possible, and avoid violating anyone's religious principles or hurting their feelings.

This book helps turn the "strange" into the less confusing (but *not* the ordinary). Most of all, it enables the invited "stranger" to truly appreciate the experience, and enrich their own spiritual understanding.



Torah and Law in Paradise Lost, by Jason P. Rosenblatt (Princeton University Press, 1994), pp. 274, \$39.50.

It has been the fate of Milton, the most Hebraic of the great English poets, to have been interpreted in this century largely by those inhospitable to his Hebraism. To remedy this lack of balance, Jason Rosenblatt reveals Milton's epic representations of paradise and the fallen world to be the supreme coordinates of an interpretive struggle, in which Jewish beliefs that the Hebrew Bible

was eternally authoritative Torah were set against the Christian view that it was a temporary law superseded by the New Testament. Arguing persuasively that the Milton of the 1643-1645 prose tracts saw the Hebrew Bible from the Jewish perspective, Rosenblatt shows that these tracts are the principal doctrinal matrix of the middle books of *Paradise Lost*, which present the Hebrew Bible and Adam and Eve as self-sufficient entities.

"With brilliance and with learning, Rosenblatt sheds new light on Milton's ambivalent Hebraism. This is a book to be cherished not only by Miltonists but by anyone curious about the relationship between reading and writing, interpretation and originality" (Leslie Brisman, Yale University).

Jason P. Rosenblatt is Professor of English at Georgetown University.



Turning to Torah: The Emerging Noachide Movement, by Kimberly E. Hanke (Jason Aronson Inc., 1995), pp. 250, \$25.00.

The twentieth century has witnessed the emergence of a new, dynamic, and growing movement comprising Gentiles who are searching for the truths of the Bible. Many Gentiles and Jews have heard of the Noachide laws that are stipulated in the Talmud, but few are familiar with what these laws actually are. *Turning to Torah* is the story of the emerging Noachide movement and the Jews and Gentiles who have committed themselves to it.

"I warmly and strongly recommend this absolutely gripping and stirring account to any and all, whether Jew or Christian, who are interested in the spiritual journey, the Quest for God. After 1,900 years of Christian anti-Semitism, this incredible story documents one Christian's journey back the other way—to Jesus, and to *his* God, *his* Scriptures, and *his* beloved Jewish people. All Christians interested in a restoration of the original faith will greatly profit from this book and Jews of whatever persuasion will surely be fascinated by this journey 'back' to Judaism" (James D. Tabor, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity, University of North Carolina at Charlotte).

Kimberly E. Hanke has been involved in the Noachide movement since 1988 and currently resides in the state of Washington.