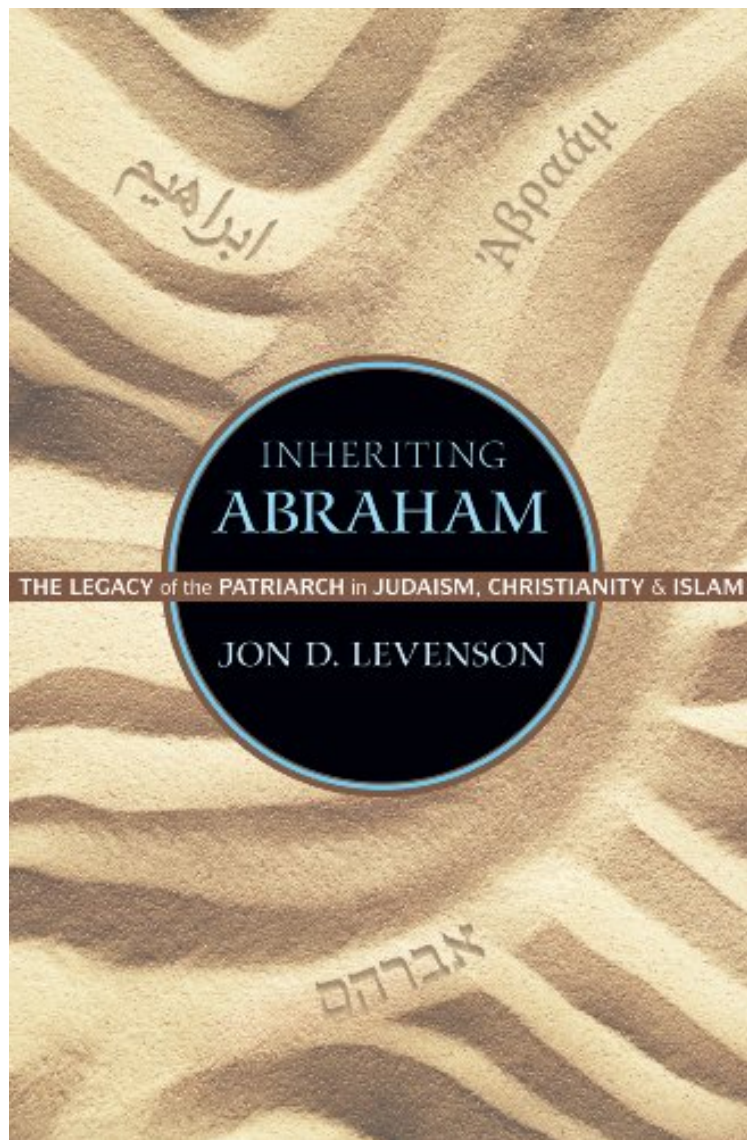


(Download) Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Library of Jewish Ideas)

## **Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Library of Jewish Ideas)**

*Jon D. Levenson*

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KauperAn excellent work. Scholarly researched yet very readable. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim readers will discover things that challenge their beliefs but also enlighten them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerA+6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy glauberThis will give you a great perspective on Abraham from the point of views of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Well written, readable, and very fair. It also contains one of the best appreciations i've seen of the theology of the Apostle Paul. Abraham is a perfect starting point for diving into each of those three religions.

Jews, Christians, and Muslims supposedly share a common religious heritage in the patriarch Abraham, and the idea that he should serve only as a source of unity among the three traditions has become widespread in both scholarly and popular circles. But in *Inheriting Abraham*, Jon Levenson reveals how the increasingly conventional notion of the three equally "Abrahamic" religions derives from a dangerous misunderstanding of key biblical and Qur'anic texts, fails to do full justice to any of the traditions, and is often biased against Judaism in subtle and pernicious ways.

Best Nonfiction Jewish Book of 2012, Jewish Ideas Daily.comOne of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2013"[T]he figure of Abraham has more often been a battleground than a meeting place. This is the brilliantly elaborated theme of Levenson's book, which retells the Abraham story while examining the use made of Abraham in later Jewish, Christian, and (to a lesser extent) Muslim thought."--Adam Kirsch, *New York of Books*"Levenson, a well-known biblical studies scholar and professor of Jewish studies at Harvard, makes a contrarian argument against those who would oversimplify the differences between the three religions that claim Abraham as a seminal figure. . . . Educated general readers interested in biblical studies may be awed by how closely Levenson reads the text."--*Publishers Weekly*"Levenson's book will be acutely sobering for those who favor easy accommodation between traditions. . . . And no one has been more effective than Levenson in calling Christian interpreters to a more honest self-awareness."--*Christian Century*"[A] learned, lucid and luminous examination of the distinctive character of Abraham."--Glenn C. Altschuler, *Jerusalem Post*"Written very well, argued delightfully, with deep insights, . . . *Inheriting Abraham* makes a superb contribution to our understanding and perception, opinion and insight, of the figure of Prophet Abraham."--Tauseef Ahmad Parray, *Islam and Muslim Societies*"Levenson's literary skill and encyclopedic grasp of the exegetical traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam makes this volume a valuable exercise in comparison. But the book also makes a strong and controversial argument about what that comparison actually reveals about the role of Abraham in the relationship between the three 'Abrahamic' religions. . . . [Levenson's] study encourages us to look unflinchingly at the limits of difference and commonality within and across religious traditions."--Martin S. Jaffee, *Jewish of Books*"The best Jewish book in each category this past year? *Inheriting Abraham* is the most impressive work of Jewish scholarship published during 2012. For more than three decades, Jon Levenson has been quietly developing a biblical theology that would revolutionize Jewish understanding and worship, if only more Jews were to learn of it. *Inheriting Abraham* is his most accessible book yet--a model of how exacting scholarship can be written for the well-educated layman."--D.G. Myers, *Jewish Ideas Daily*"[E]xcellent. . . . *Inheriting Abraham* is informed throughout by Levenson's characteristically great learning. . . . [G]raceful and clear."--Hillel Fradkin, *Commentary*"Jon Levenson's superb book demonstrates that despite some simplistic and ill-conceived attempts to harmonize the three Abrahamic faiths, and some lingering supersessionist antagonisms, we live in a period remarkable for serious and thoughtful dialogue among these cousin religions. It is a dialogue grounded in responsible awareness of the complexity, beauty, and defining commitments of each one. Working from this awareness is our best hope of developing the vital mutual respect and harmony our divided world requires."--Donald Senior, *Commonweal*"This well-conceived, elegantly written book traces how the figure of Abraham known from Genesis came to be understood in unique ways by the later Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. While many speak of Abraham as a figure shared by these three traditions, Levenson shows how each tradition's image of Abraham reflects its own distinct theological assumptions. . . . Rather than grounding interreligious dialogue in various conceptual false cognates in hopes of finding the lowest common denominator, Levenson has led the way in showing how true interreligious understanding can be achieved only if one grasps the nuanced theological grammar of each religious tradition."--Choice"[E]asily accessible to a wide readership. . . . [Levenson's] book is a masterful corrective to the ever more popular, pat and misleading myths that have emerged under the 'Abrahamic' banner."--Allan Nadler, *Moment Magazine*"[E]rudite and readable. . . . His book will indubitably be valuable for undergraduate courses in scriptural exegesis, interreligious dialogue, and comparative religion."--Mara Benjamin, *Religious Studies*"Simply put, Jon D. Levenson is one of those rare scholars whose every word repays careful reading. *Inheriting Abraham* is no exception."--Matthew Thiessen, *Anabaptist Witness*"While Levenson displays expertise in all three religions, his particular strength lies in his treatment of the numerous, varied and even contradictory Jewish traditions on Abraham and in showing the contrasts between Jewish, Christian and Islamic views of Abraham, thereby questioning the validity of the existence of an authentic, unified supra-Abraham."--Rivkah Fishman-Duker, *Jewish Political Studies*"Levenson is a seasoned scholar of this material and his learning, here lightly presented, shines through."--H.G.M. Williamson, *Journal of Jewish Studies*From the Back Cover"*Inheriting Abraham*, one of the world's leading Bible

scholars, Jon D. Levenson, has given us an incisive and deeply challenging account of the three Abrahams of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic theology. It may be, he suggests, that we are divided by a common ancestry and that we need to understand our differences no less than our commonalities. A brilliant, well-argued, and much-needed work."--Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

"In this groundbreaking book, Levenson gives us a close reading of the Abraham narratives in Genesis and explores how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have construed Abraham from antiquity to today. His thought is crisp and nicely provocative, his writing is lucid, witty, and accessible to the nonspecialist. Inheriting Abraham is an eye-opening and compelling read."--R.W.L. Moberly, Durham University

"Levenson's fine book on the intertwined hermeneutics of Abraham throughout the ages among Jews, Christians, and Muslims deals elegantly with the complex relationship of texts and communities. It offers an excellent starting point for the comparative study of the three religions harking back to Abraham."--Guy G. Stroumsa, author of *A New Science: The Discovery of Religion in the Age of Reason*

"Levenson provides a masterful reading of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thinking that yielded three different portraits of Abraham. He sets the record straight about the biblical patriarch."--Sidney H. Griffith, author of *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam*

"Well-written and beautifully argued, this book makes an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the figure of Abraham. The educated public often labors under the grave misunderstanding that the three great monotheistic faith traditions share a common ancestor in Abraham. As Levenson demonstrates in this unique and timely book, Abraham has been shaped by each of the traditions to reflect the ideas and ideals of their own theology."--Gary A. Anderson, author of *Sin: A History*

About the Author  
Jon D. Levenson is the Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies at Harvard University. His many books include *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life*, which won the National Jewish Book Award, and *Creation and the Persistence of Evil* (Princeton).