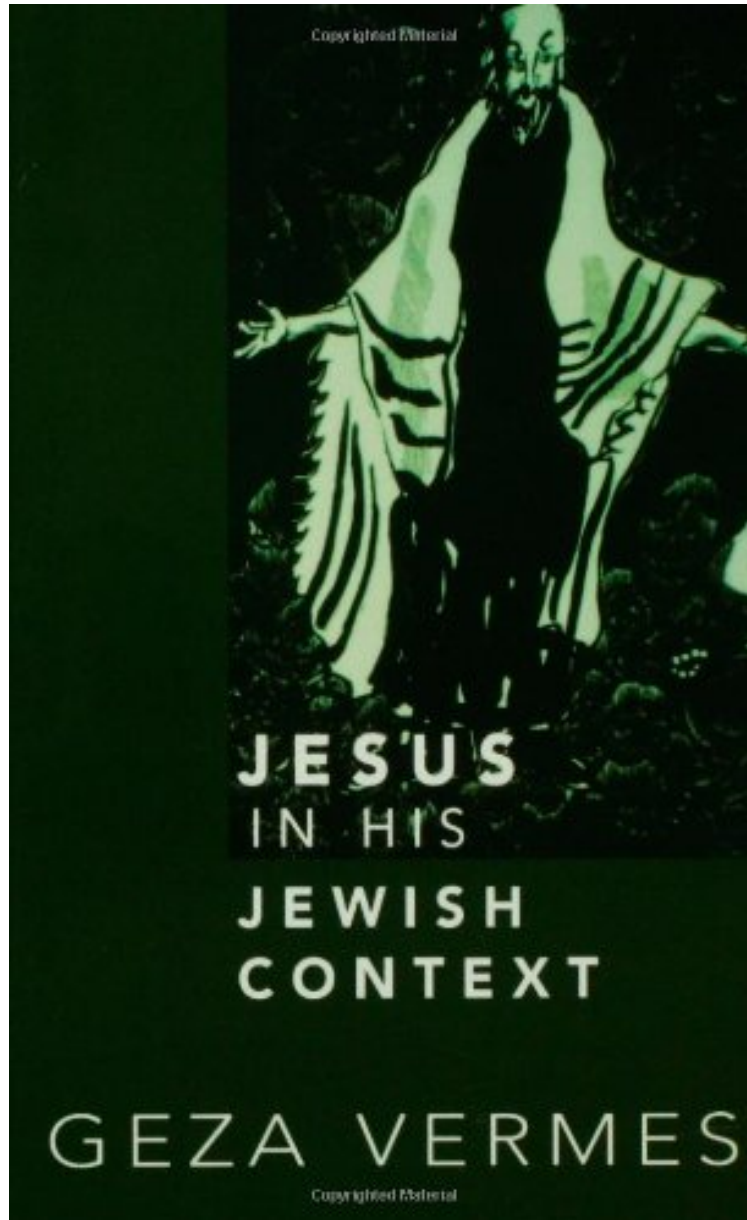


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Jesus in His Jewish Context

Emeritus Professor of Jewish Studies Geza Vermes
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Emeritus Professor of Jewish Studies Geza Vermes : Jesus in His Jewish Context before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jesus in His Jewish Context:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Understanding Jesus By Edwin H. This book is not for the faint of heart. It would be a difficult read for a seriously conservative or fundamentalist Christian. However, Vermes'

admiration for Jesus and his fairness in his assessments come through very forcefully and very clearly. He calls for placing the New Testament...and other First Century Christian literature...within the whole complex of Jewish literature and evaluating it together. He seeks out the Aramaic and Hebrew elements of language that lie behind the New Testament Greek. He seeks to understand the impact of the Semitic elements on the Greek. For example he shows quite clearly that the element "Son of Man" does not refer to a celestial individual who operates behind the Christian scene or even to Jesus himself. He shows the history of the expression in other Jewish literature and, importantly, in the Dead Sea literature. In essence the phrase is a circumlocution pointing to the speaker himself...a substitute for the word "I". As one reads this book, one comes to see Jesus more clearly and to sense his humanity and his struggles. One sees his objections to certain Jewish elements and certainly to the domination of the Romans. Jesus becomes a struggling human who faces a cruel and untimely death at the hands of conspirators who kill him for their own reasons. What one wishes to do with the resurrection and with the divinity of Jesus is, certainly, up to the individual believer, but after reading this volume one comes away feeling much closer to the Man from Nazareth who had great aspirations for his fellow Jews. It helps one understand that Jesus was indeed a Jew struggling with First Century Jewish concerns. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. NOT HEARD IN THE PEWS Jesus was an apocalyptic Jewish ...By John Conforti NOT HEARD IN THE PEWS Jesus was an apocalyptic Jewish prophet preparing the lost sheep of Israel for God's imminent intervention in history. He would be utterly baffled by the dogma and ritual that now bears his name. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Early Christianity in a Jewish matrix. By G. Adams Vermes is one of the foremost experts on the Jewish world that produced Jesus. This book is a good summary of much of his research into the language and the customs of Judaism and early Christianity during the intertestamental period. Fully annotated for the scholar, it still allows an informative reading by the interested layperson.

Readers: College, university, and seminary students; biblical scholars; clergy

From the Publisher Lucidly written, Vermes's newest work is addressed to all readers interested in ancient religions, history, and culture. A renowned scholar of ancient Judaism, he explores how Jesus and his followers fit into the Jewish world of Judea and Galilee. Vermes includes five new chapters in this revised edition that will not fail to stimulate discussion. With his sharp historical sense and unrivaled knowledge of ancient Judaism, Vermes opens new windows on Jesus, the Gospels, and earliest Christianity. About the Author Geza Vermes was Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies at the University of Oxford, UK and was one of the world's greatest experts on the historical Jesus, Christian beginnings, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. With the publication of "Jesus the Jew" (1973) he introduced the idea of Jesus as a 1st century Jewish holy man to the general public. His book "The Dead Sea Scrolls in English" (1962) introduced the English reader to the Scrolls, going on to sell over half a million copies. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. With the discovery and study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other archaeological treasures, and the corresponding improvement in our understanding of the ideas, doctrines, methods of teaching, languages and culture of the Jews of New Testament times, it is now possible, not simply to place Jesus in relief against this setting, as students of the Jewish background of Christianity pride themselves on doing, but to insert him fair and square within first-century Jewish life itself. The questions then to be asked are where he fits into it, and whether the added substance and clarity gained from immersing him in historical reality confers credibility on the patchy gospel picture. -- from chapter 1