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Description/Summary
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Book description: The Hebrew Bible is only part of ancient Israel’s writings. Another collection of Jewish works has survived from late- and post-biblical times, a great library that bears witness to the rich spiritual life of Jews in that period. This library consists of the most varied sorts of texts: apocalyptic visions and prophecies, folktales and legends, collections of wise sayings, laws and rules of conduct, commentaries on Scripture, ancient prayers, and much, much more. While specialists have studied individual texts or subsections of this vast library, Outside the Bible seeks for the first time to bring together all the major components into a single collection, gathering portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, the biblical Apocrypha, and Pseudepigrapha, and the writings of Philo of Alexandria and Josephus. The editors have brought together these diverse works in order to highlight what has often been neglected; their common Jewish background. For this reason the commentaries that accompany the texts devote special attention to references to Hebrew Scripture and to issues of halakhah (Jewish law), their allusions to motifs and themes known from later Rabbinic writings in Talmud and Midrash, their evocation of recent or distant events in Jewish history, and their references to other texts in this collection. The work of more than seventy contributing experts in a range of fields, Outside the Bible offers new insights into the development of Judaism and Early Christianity. This three-volume set of translations, introductions, and detailed commentaries is a must for scholars, students, and anyone interested in this great body of ancient Jewish writings. — Publisher description

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Comments
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helpful springboard for further broadly. helen spurling university of southampton Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture. Edited by Louis H. Feldman, James L. Kugel and Lawrence H. Schifman. 3 vols. of Philo The organizing rubric of ‘ancient and Josephus, through ‘interpretive Jewish writings related to Scripture’ texts centering on biblical figures’, is appropriate on the whole, but some testaments, prayers and psalms, and further justification or rationale for wisdom writings, to texts with a more inclusion or exclusion might have tenuous relationship to Scripture, been welcome. Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2013. 3 volumes. 3302 pp. Jason Kalman (a1). (a1). Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion Cincinnati, Ohio. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0364009414000695. Published online: 12 May 2015.