Role

Co-editors: Louis H. Feldman, James L. Kugel, Lawrence H. Schiffman
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Description/Summary

Angela Kim Harkins is a contributing author, “Thanksgiving Hymns (Hodayot),” pp. 2018-2094.

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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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 ReligionCincinnati, Ohio. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0364009414000695. Published online: 12 May 2015. This three-volume set is an anthology of ancient Jewish writings which, as the title indicates, never became part of the official Jewish Bible and in most cases were not incorporated into rabbinic tradition. They come from various sources under the title of "Biblical Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha." Some of these writings will be familiar to readers, including those translated from Hebrew or Aramaic into Greek which made their way into various Christian canons, where they were classified as "Old Testament Apocrypha." Among these are 1 and 2 Maccabees, which record some of the history of Hanukkah; the Wisdom of Ben Sira[ch]; Judith, Tobit, Susanna and the Elders, and several more. Many of the other works will be altogether new.