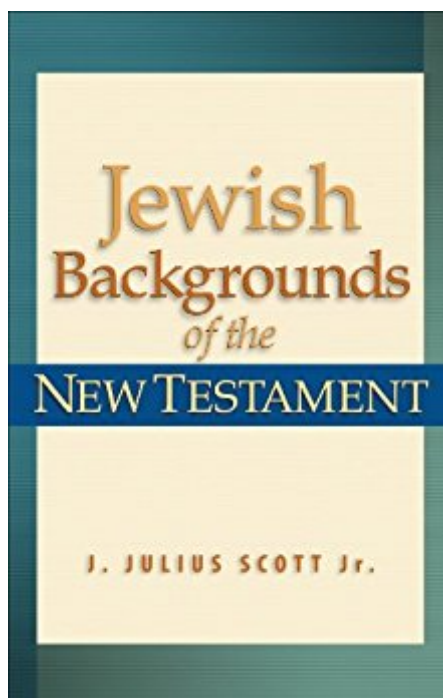


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# Jewish Backgrounds Of The New Testament



## Synopsis

This survey of intertestamental Judaism illuminates the customs and controversies that provide essential background for understanding the New Testament. Scott opens a door into the Jewish world and literature leading up to the development of Christianity. He also offers an accessible overview of the data through helpful charts, maps, and diagrams incorporated throughout the text to engage his readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This humble professor has given us a clear vision of what the majority of the first century Christians grew out of: their Hebrew, Jewish roots. This book brings Paul's analogy of the olive tree in Romans 11 alive. It is a wonderful reminder that the large majority of the early first century church were Jews who accepted and followed Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah.

The book was a good summary of information. I bought it because it was "strongly recommended" for use by the professor. I passed the paper so that's a plus. The comments from the professor

make me think the book may not be as "scholarly" as most students need.

This is an excellent book on the subject of Judaism in the period between the OT and the NT. Dr. Julius Scott covers a lot of ground regarding religious beliefs and how they changed over time. There were different branches of Judaism with similarities as well as differences. The author also details some contrasts between Samaritans, Pharisees, and Sadducees. There is some helpful information on the Septuagint, its source, and difference of translation between the Hebrew OT and the Greek OT. Dr. Scott looks at Josephus and Philo and the value of their writings in the study of intertestamental Judaism, with some understandable scepticism of Josephus. He also details the priesthood and rivalry between families—Zadokites and Tobiads. The pollution of the priesthood is also discussed. He covers the start of rabbinical Judaism and the circumstances that led to the perceived need for oral law/tradition as a hedge around Torah. There was some interesting information about Simon bar Kosiba (Kochba). There is an "Intertestamental Calendar and Festivals Table" that is an excellent resource about the Biblical feasts. This period also saw the addition and alteration of some OT feasts. The use of the sacred name is discussed. "The Talmud and other rabbinical sources indicate that by the time of Simon the Just (c. 200 BC) the divine name was no longer pronounced, except by the high priest on Yom Kippur". He also had an interesting perspective on the sabbatical and Jubilee years. "The sabbatical year, occurring every seventh year and the Jubilee, every fiftieth year, prevented the accumulation of too much wealth and oppression of the poor". There is a very good list of general sources, frequent footnotes and quotes. I found a few minor points that I think are debatable in the book. That doesn't lessen the value of the author's work. While not as comprehensive as Edersheim's "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah", this book is a good choice for anyone interested in the diverse beliefs and Messianic expectations of the period.

A very good overview, goes a bit into how modernization affected the culture but I would have paid more for much more detail.

I purchased this book for a seminary class on the NT. It is very well organized and full of exciting and enlightening information. I have found it very practical in my preaching and teaching ministry. I have also recommended this book for lay-Christians who are serious Bible students and have given it as gifts.

An excellent book on the background of the New Testament. I would say every Christian has to

have this on their required reading list. Not difficult. Read it for a college course years ago, and have returned to it as a reference many times.

It really made a big difference on my seminary paper.

enjoy this

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