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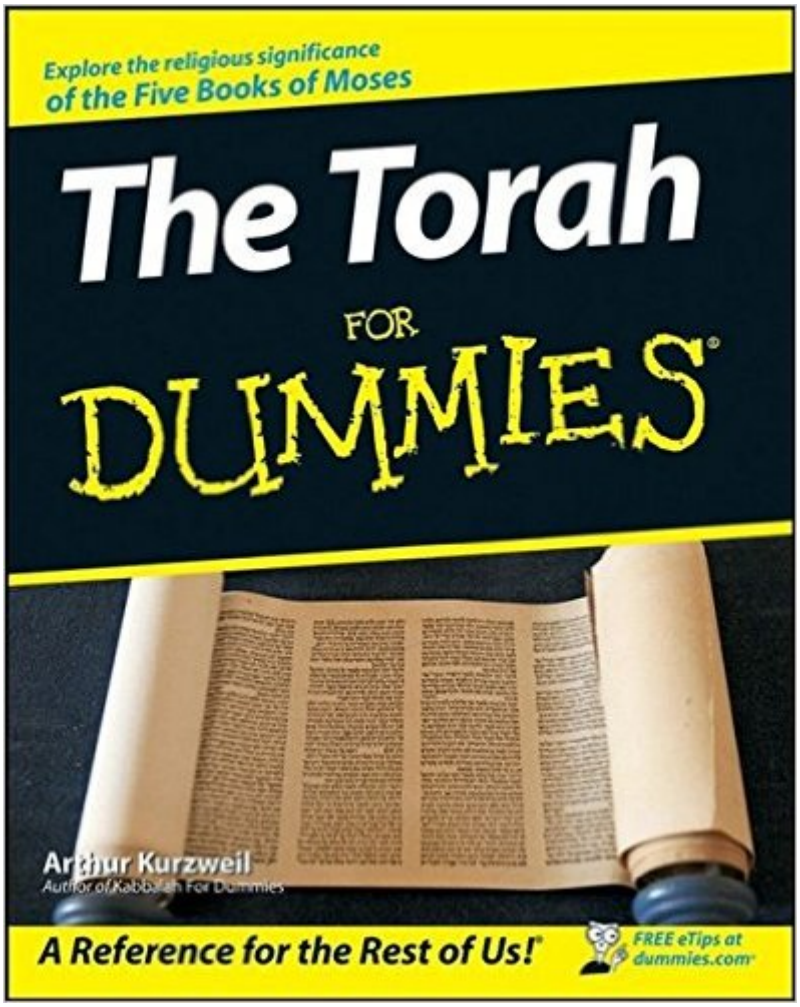
The Torah For Dummies



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Synopsis

An easy-to-understand introduction to Judaism’s most sacred text The foundation of Hebrew and Jewish religion, thought, law, and society is the Torah-the parchment scroll containing the text of the Five Books of Moses that is located in every synagogue. This accessible guide explains the Torah in clear language, even to those who were not raised in the Jewish religious tradition. Christians who want to know more about the Jewish roots of Christianity need to understand the Torah, as do followers of Islamic tradition and those interested in the roots of Abrahamic faiths. The Torah For Dummies explains the history of the Torah, its structure and major principles, and how the Torah affects the daily lives of people who follow the Jewish way of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Torah for Dummies is chock full of invaluable, meaningful, and fascinating information, answering questions I’ve had for years about what the Torah is, and what the Torah actually says. The book is presented in a comprehensible, organized and reader-friendly manner. It’s divided into six sections. The first, called Torah 101, provides a clear overview of the basic and most important concepts in the Torah. Section 2 addresses each of the five books of Moses, describing the contents, the main ideas and the significance of each one. The third section teaches us how Torah relates to our everyday lives, offering an abundance of examples of how we are meant to use it as a manual for life. Section 4 talks about the importance of the Torah in Judaism and in Jewish tradition, elaborating on the Shabbat, the Jewish holidays, life cycles, traditions and symbols, as well as on the laws and reasons for kashrut. Section 5 discusses, in detail, the Ten Commandments and

several common misconceptions people have, both about the commandments and about other quotes from the Torah. The last section, apart from offering a glossary of names and terms used in the Torah, includes a list of all 613 commandments (both the do's and don'ts), categorized according to subject. The book provides direct references to the Torah throughout, making it easy to find exactly where in the Torah a particular quote or idea can be found. The margins of the pages of Torah for Dummies contain occasional icons, or symbols, which call the reader's attention to particularly important concepts, misconceptions, or words of wisdom found in the Torah. My review cannot possibly do this book justice. It is simply a "must read for yourself" in order to appreciate this thorough and eloquent account of what the Torah is, and what it has to tell us.

THE TORAH FOR DUMMIES by Arthur Kurzweil is a great book. I highly recommend it. Several features really stand out. First, the book can be read front to back, like a textbook, and it can be read by topic, like a reference book. The appendices and intra-chapter references are genuine aids. Second, the treatment is both light and serious. The flashes of humor are genuine and enjoyable. They amplify; they never intrude. Finally, I never felt "lost" or as though I were being "talked down to."This is a wonderful introduction to, and overview of, the Torah.

the book is good, easy to read and full of valuable information for Jews and gentiles.i always wanted to learn about B'nei israel and their sacred text. it is unfair to call all B'nei israel: Jews or to call all Jews: B'nei israel. there is a huge distinction between both names that is lost on many people including scholars.keeping your personal behavior in line with the Torah (chapter 9) and living by the word of the torah (chapter 10) are my favorite chapters. they attempt to summarize the gems of wisdom contained within the Torah.i am currently seeking out a minyan of Jews who uphold the values delineated in the above two chapters plus chapter 8. when i find them, my family and I will:1. invite them on a tour of Egypt so they can visit to my small village (Saila) in Egypt near El Fayoum, where the patriarchs Ephraim and Menasseh ben Israel are buried and where the Goan Saadia ben Yosef Al-Fayyumi dwelt and taught.2. help them obtain the keys to the 12 closed and abandoned synagogues in Egypt and ask them to practice their faith openly and ask them to pray for the people of Egypt.3. furthermore, my children and i will carry rocks, stones and mortar to help build bnei israel third temple, wherever they think it should be built.4. i will explain Kiruv to my people and i will ask every Muslim i meet to practice Kiruv with every Jew they come in contact with (i.e. help secular jews become nearer to God and Torah).my email is: omersalem@gmail.com, if anyone would like to start a discussion regarding this email, please feel free.

Couldn’t be happier with this book! As a convert who wants to get a better handle on how to approach studying Torah, it’s been a fabulous addition to my references - it’s an informative read, not in the least boring, and it feeds and fuels my curiosity to study more and to deepen my own understanding. I’d recommend it to anyone who is not Jewish and is curious, to Christians who want to get a better sense of the foundation of their own faith, and to Jewish folks who have not received much (or received an unsatisfactory) Jewish education. I’m also now curious to read other books by this author... and I know he did one for the "Dummies" series about Kabbalah. Kabbalah’s not something that’s really my bag, but I also don’t know too much about it... so maybe if I learn something, I might feel differently? (Like so many other things in life!)

The Torah is the central and most holy text of Judaism. It tells the story of creation and the early history of the Jewish people with the story from Exodus. It also contains many laws and guidelines for Jews to follow and numerous hidden meanings as well.This book is a look at what the Torah is and how it applies to Jewish life. Kurzweil explains the five books of the Written Torah and what the stories in them mean. He also explains how the Torah guides Jews in their daily life such as how kosher food laws work and how to treat fellow people. He also looks at other aspects of the Torah including how it is read during synagogue services and how a proper Torah scroll is made.This book is not a general overview of Judaism, but only focuses on aspects of Judaism as it relates to the Torah. Also, the author writes mainly from an orthodox viewpoint. He gives very little credence to theories that the Torah originated in any other ways other than the story of how Moses wrote it as commanded by God.This is an interesting book to read for those looking for an overview of the most important text of Judaism. I would recommend this to those wanting to learn about Judaism.

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