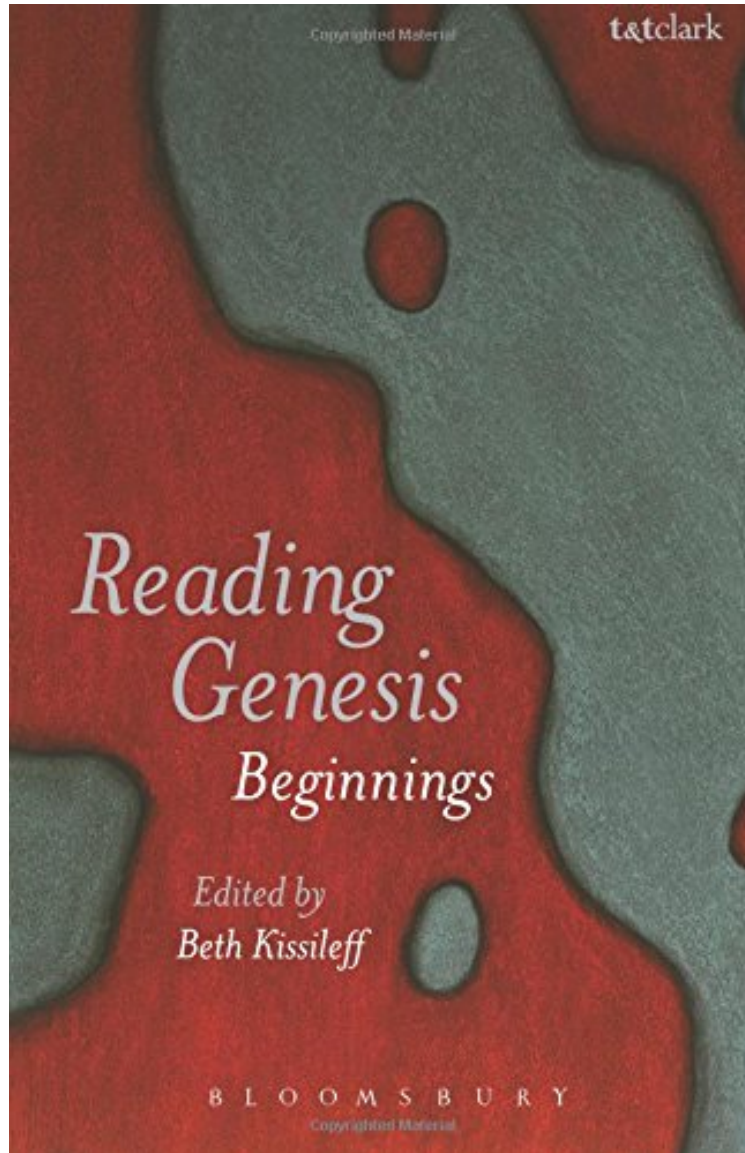


(Download) Reading Genesis: Beginnings

Reading Genesis: Beginnings

From Bloomsbury TT Clark
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From Bloomsbury TT Clark : Reading Genesis: Beginnings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reading Genesis: Beginnings:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Bernice Greenberg An exciting look at the world of Genesis
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. interesting essays from a variety of viewpoints By Michael Lewyn This book is a collection of essays from a variety of perspectives: a couple of law professors, a philosopher, a political science professor, novelists, scientists, poets, journalists and even Ruth Westheimer. Some of the most

interesting essays include: *An essay on the almost-sacrifice of Isaac focusing on the Torah's drawn-out, almost slow-motion description of Abraham's conduct. The author suggests that the slowness of the description suggests that Abraham is resisting the Divine order the only way one can resist an order from someone far more powerful: through foot-dragging. *An essay by the editor about Rebecca. Why does Rebecca feel the need to deceive Isaac and antagonize her son Esau in order to satisfy an old prophecy? The essay goes back to her brother Laban's statement about her marriage to Isaac: that "The matter is from God, we cannot speak further about [it]" (Gen. 24:50). Perhaps Rebecca believes that once a matter "is from God" (such as the prophecy that the elder shall serve the younger Jacob), the matter is fixed, and she is somehow duty bound to speed the prophecy's fulfillment. By contrast, because of Isaac's experiences (almost being sacrificed, yet saved at the last minute) he is more open to the possibility of unexpected change, though less interested in taking control of a situation. *Another essay compares the story of Jacob to the Odyssey, pointing out that while the characters of Greek mythology never develop very much, Jacob is capable of improvement (e.g. reconciling with Esau). 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A bit disappointing By c.k. musch The most important shortcoming of the book is that the main feature is not explicitly explained. Most contributions come from Jewish writers. That alone could have given the book a distinct importance, were it not for the fact that the editor, Mrs. Kissileff, refrained from explaining why she chose to do so and why this chosen Jewish perspective was so important. That would also have helped for instance to put the chapter by Jeffrey Schoulsen into perspective. Now it remains just a little too much an ode to the Jewish dimension, without explaining why that is important. Mrs. Kissileff's job as an editor must not have been a taxing one, for she also does not make an effort to weld the book into the organic whole it could (and should!) have been. That is a pity. As a result some chapters are overlapping and where there is contrast this is left unexplained as well. Apparently Mrs. Kissileff did not notice that the footnotes in chapter 2 are missing. That is a pity because the writer, Steven J. Brams, is applying game-theory to te creation. A rather challenging effort in which the footnotes would have been, one presumes, enlightening. In chapter 9, the last three footnotes are missing as well. Sloppy work for an editor. There is more. On page 115 the writer states having found an important commentary, without giving us the benefit of the source. All in all, her work as an editor can not have been more taxing than finding a staple-machine that was large enough. Mrs Kissileff also invited some feminist witors to contribute. That was a pity. As with most, if not all, forms of feminist writing, there really is too much narrativity and too little fact in these chapters. As usual there is not enough science for their feminist interpretation. Also beware of contributor Dara Horn, trying to interpret Aurbach in an otherwise interesting essay. She is without doubt a courageous thinker, trying to convince us that the stanger Jacob fought with, really must have been his brother Essau. In my case she did not scucceed, as her line of reasoning was too little analytical for my taste. All in all, the book sometimes is a bit of a hotch-potch. However, having said that, the other contributions to the book are a good read. Especially the chapters by J.H.H. Weiler on the serpent and Moses L. Pava on forgiveness were inspiring.

Deuteronomy 32:47 says the Pentateuch should not be 'an empty matter.' This new anthology from Beth Kissileff fills Genesis with meaning, gathering intellectuals and thinkers who use their professional knowledge to illuminate the Biblical text. These writers use insights from psychology, law, political science, literature, and other scholarly fields, to create an original constellation of modern Biblical readings, and receptions of Genesis: A scientist of appetite on Eve's eating behavior; law professors on contracts in Genesis, and on collective punishment; an anthropologist on the nature of human strife in the Cain and Abel story; political scientists on the nature of Biblical games, Abraham's resistance, and collective action. The highly distinguished contributors include Alan Dershowitz and Ruth Westheimer, the novelists Rebecca Newberger Goldstein and Dara Horn, critics Ilan Stavans and Sander Gilman, historian Russell Jacoby, poets Alicia Suskin Ostriker and Jacqueline Osherow, and food writer Joan Nathan.

"Reading Genesis: Beginnings offers a gateway into a treasure trove of stories and characters that have influenced Western culture through religion, art and literature. With modern tools of analysis, these stories can still guide our exploration of human nature. While ancient, the biblical text offers insight not only to our relationship with God but also to each other in Gods divine plan." - Rebecca I. Denova, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette one cannot help but be impressed by Beth Kissileff's broad and multifaceted collection of essays on Genesis. It includes contributions by some of the best-known Jewish thinkers, scholars, writers, and public figures the crafters of 21st-century American Jewish culture. The diversity of topics, from game theory to neurobiology, from culinary traditions to human sexuality, presents contemporary evidence that the Bible speaks to all human knowledge. The Christian Century A marvelous collection of insights, provocations and aperçus on the founding book of the human family. Rabbi David Wolpe, Sinai Temple, LA, USA With a host of contributors, diverse in their approaches and perspectives, Kissileff has put together a thought-provoking, stimulating collection that ranges far from a standard explication of the biblical text. Chicago Jewish Star If you think you already understand the Book of Genesis, think again. Reading Genesis offers wondrous new approaches to this ancient text penned by some of the world's most interesting minds. Sure to be a classic. Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University, USA This is a stimulating collection of essays on the Bible, bringing diverse

fields of expertise to bear on the text. The results are often intriguing and eloquent, yielding fresh insights. Avivah Zornberg "A dazzling array of eminent names and wildly differing perspectives [A] book which will be enjoyed by all who care about reading, preaching and living Genesis." -Regent's s "An intriguing anthology One that breathes the sense of Genesis being a text that matters and that speaks to the human condition at a fundamental level." -Journal for the Study of the Old Testament "Beth Kissileffs new anthology, Reading Genesis, brings together a stellar collection of essays by a diverse group of almost two-dozen experts, each bringing the tools and methodology of his or her field to bear on a particular aspect of the seminal biblical book. By bringing together such a wealth of brilliant interpreters, Kissileffs book justifies the maxim that you can turn and turn (learn again and again) the Torah endlessly so that facets of the text will glimmer and sparkle anew." -Hadassah Magazine About the Author Beth Kissileff has received fellowships from the Corporation of Yaddo and the National Endowment for the Humanities and has taught at Carleton College, the University of Minnesota USA, Smith College USA, and Mount Holyoke College USA.