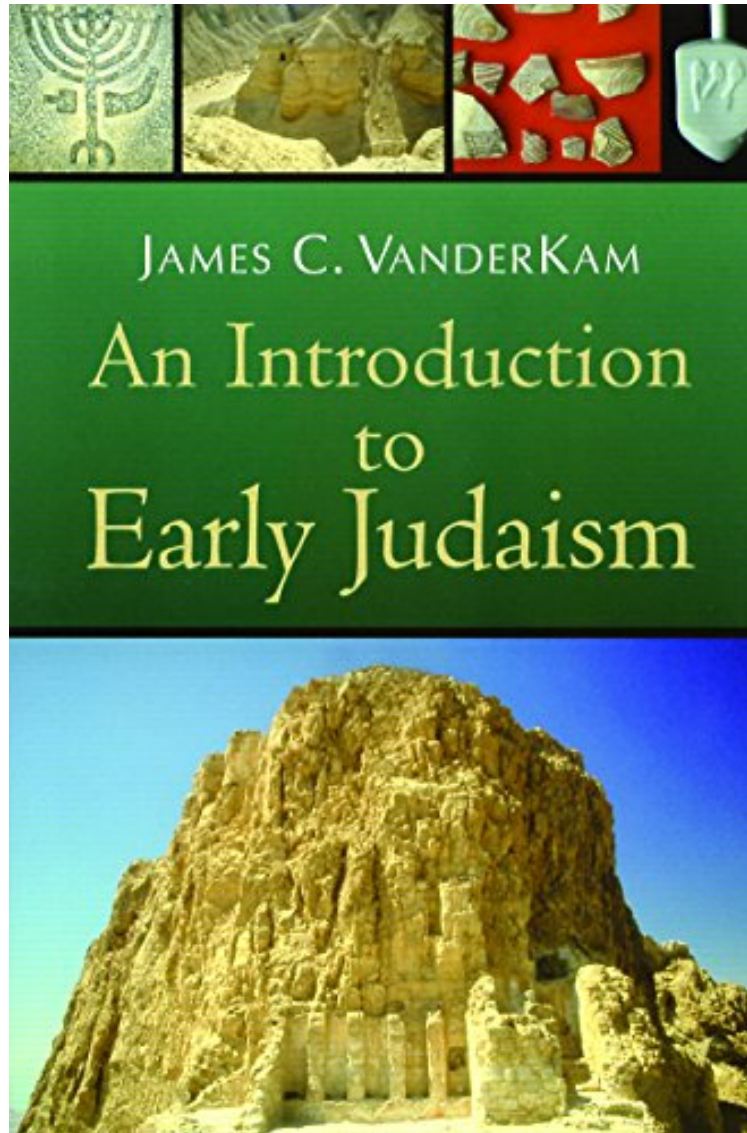


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## An Introduction to Early Judaism

*James C. Vanderkam*

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**James C. Vanderkam : An Introduction to Early Judaism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Introduction to Early Judaism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting and Enjoyable ReadBy Bro. JohnJames C.Vanderkam has gifted the world of Bible Scholarship with a fascinating and comprehensive study of the Second Temple Period. Impeccable scholarship and ample notes and Bibliography make this book a "must" for anyone interested in learning more of this important period in Jewish History. Written in a style that makes the period come alive for the reader, "An Introduction to Early Judaism" is not only informative but also engrossing and will provide hours of pleasant reading.

A really fine book and well worth a "Five Star Rating" 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Historical Information which Influenced the Authors of the Bible By Randall C. Mcgrady-beach This is an awesome introduction to the extra-biblical material in the Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha. Very helpful to look at material that influenced the writers of the scriptures which are in the Canon. Not only gives a synopsis of many of the books, but also a history of the period from 400 B.C.E. to the turn of the millennium. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Introduction to 2TP Literature By William H. Brown Initially, I was worried that the book would be too broad. Fortunately, as I allowed Vanderkam to speak to my mind, I began to hear wisdom. Unlike some introductions, Vanderkam presents a broad spectrum of summaries and thoughts from the Second Temple Period. He does it in such a way that does not demand extreme smarts of the reader. At the same time, he doesn't assume his reader is stupid. He writes fluidly and to the point. Based on his writing, I would assume that he is a fantastic professor. So, that said, I may just have to apply to a Masters program at Notre Dame in Ancient Judaism. If you are looking for a basic book and introduction to early Judaism, this is perfect. It deals with the primary sources and is not tainted with theological goals, as that is not the purpose of the book. I hope this helps you out!

One of today's most respected scholars of biblical history and the Dead Sea Scrolls, James C. VanderKam here offers a superb new introduction to early Judaism. Based on the best, most recent archaeological research, this illustrated volume explores the history of Judaism during the Second Temple period (516 B.C.E. - 70 C.E.), describing the body of Jewish literature written during these centuries and the most important groups, institutions, and practices of the time. Particularly interesting are VanderKam's depiction of events associated with Masada and the Kokhba revolt, and his commentary on texts unearthed in places like Elephantine, Egypt, and Qumran. Written in the same accessible style as VanderKam's widely praised Dead Sea Scrolls Today, this volume provides the finest classroom introduction to early Judaism available.