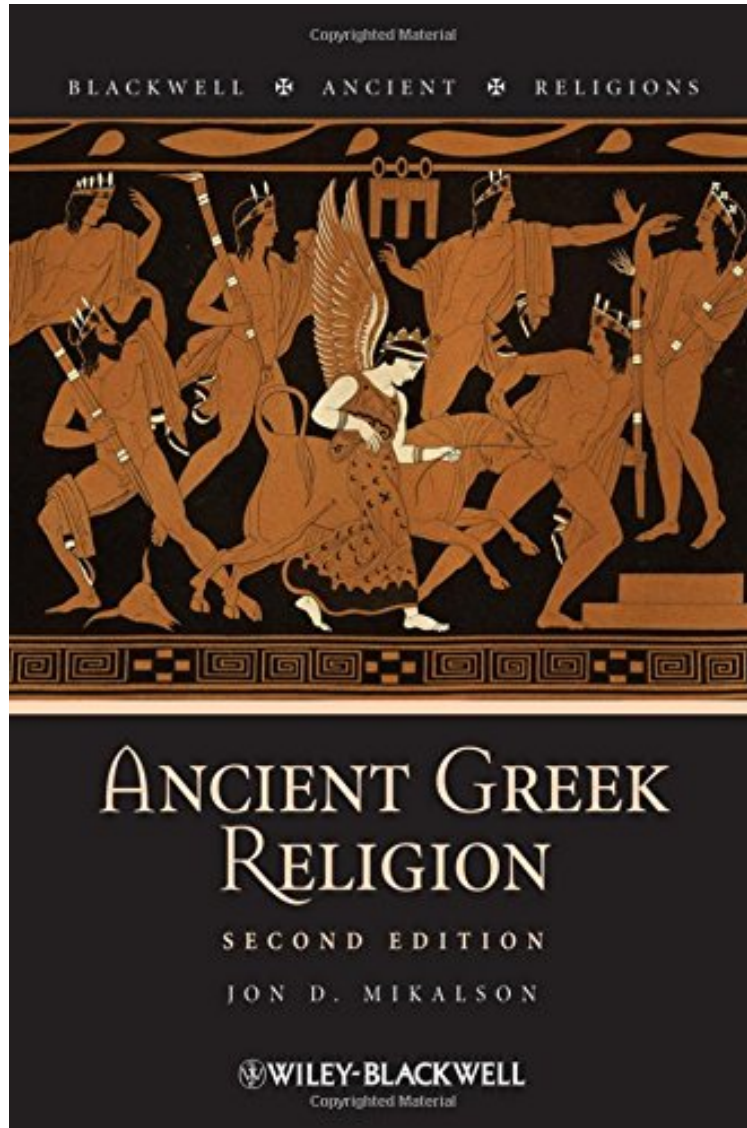


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Ancient Greek Religion

Jon D. Mikalson

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Jon D. Mikalson : Ancient Greek Religion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ancient Greek Religion:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The best for beginners By Joao Miguel Oliveira Ancient Greek Religion by Jon D. Mikalson is the best book I have found for people just beginning their journey in Greek Religion studies. Its language is very simple and conveys subjects in a very interesting way, you'll want to read what comes next, which is something that many books on Greek Religion seem to miss. It covers sanctuaries and their primary

components, come cults and a few myths as well as religious practices (ideas and interpretations are left aside) at both state, family and individual levels. It focuses primarily in Athens, except for the cult of Dionysus at Thebes, Apollo at Delphi and Zeus at Olympia, and sometimes the author doesn't make it clear that he is referring to Athens, which may give people just beginning the wrong idea (for instance, in the family chapter he doesn't say that he is describing Athenian families and their practices and that, for example, at Sparta both family organization and practice was quite different). This is however a minor problem for an introductory book, which obviously focuses on what is most widely known and discussed. It is also interesting that it has a chapter on religion in the Hellenistic period, something lacking from most books. However it fails to provide information on the Archaic, Dark and Bronze Age, which means it gives no clue to origin. However, since this is an introductory book, with a simple and understandable language, good structuring and, in my opinion, a good though not perfect selection of subjects, I think you should start by this. And if you are not starting, it still is an interesting reading and helps us getting back to the basics and organize information a lot better. Good for both scholars, people interested in the subject and modern practitioners of Hellenismos. Five stars!

6 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Good StudyBy Ian A. Mooney A good textbook, well formatted and well researched. It is extremely approachable with a wide knowledge based. I highly suggest this book. My only regrets were that it didn't go as "in-depth" as I would have liked, and it seemed to be lacking in appendices and indexes.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Source! By Dylan M. Nash An excellent scholarly source on the Ancient Greek Religion. As a practitioner of Hellenismos, I found this book to be very interesting. Mr. Mikalson is a highly engaging writer, even with such a dense topic; the way he writes will certainly keep you reading. This book is on par with Burkert's "Greek Religion," though it is better written, so that even someone who is just beginning to delve into the topic can understand it all.

Ancient Greek Religion provides an introduction to the fundamental beliefs, practices, and major deities of Greek religion. Focuses on Athens in the classical period Includes detailed discussion of Greek gods and heroes, myth and cult, and vivid descriptions of Greek religion as it was practiced Ancient texts are presented in boxes to promote thought and discussion, and abundant illustrations help readers visualize the rich and varied religious life of ancient Greece Revised edition includes additional boxed texts and bibliography, an 8-page color plate section, a new discussion of the nature of Greek piety, and a new chapter on Greek Religion and Greek Culture

Praise for the first edition: "A brilliant general synthesis covering the Greek world over the period of 'classical' Athens ... [Mikalson's] book is a model of how it should be done." BBC History Magazine "A first introduction to ancient Greek religion, which encompasses hundreds of deities of several different types, and varied widely over nearly two thousand years and thousands of large and small Greek city-states." Reference and Research Book News "Clearly written and organised, it will be appreciated by students." Antiquity "It is well written, very accurate, and communicative." Australian Religion Studies A Choice Outstanding Academic Title of the Year This thoroughly updated new edition offers a vivid, engagingly written and beautifully illustrated introduction to the major phenomena of Greek religion from a leading authority in the field. Daniel Ogden, Professor of Ancient History, University of Exeter, editor of *A Companion to Greek Religion* (Blackwell 2007) An excellent introductory text, even more user-friendly in its second edition, augmented by color plates, updated bibliography, and a new chapter exploring how religion influenced Greek culture as a whole. Charles C. Chiasson, The University of Texas at Arlington

From the Back Cover Ancient Greek Religion provides an introduction to the fundamental beliefs, practices, and major deities of Greek religion. While the focus is on Athens in the Classical Period, the book includes detailed discussion of Greek gods and heroes, myth and cult from the archaic age to the Hellenistic world. The book clearly sets out the fascinating but alien concepts of Greek polytheism, building up a picture of Greek religion as it was actually practiced. It emphasizes the experience of worshippers, considering Greek religious practice from a variety of perspectives from the slave and members of the family, to priests and public officials. It examines views of the gods and the afterlife, the relationship between cult and myth, the nature of piety and impiety, and the wider social and political context in which religion functioned. New to the revised edition are additional feature boxes and bibliography, a new discussion of the nature of Greek piety, and a new chapter on Greek Religion and Greek Culture. Throughout the book, vivid descriptions of actual sanctuaries and practices, the inclusion of ancient texts in translation, and the use of abundant illustrations re-create the rich and varied religious life of ancient Greece.