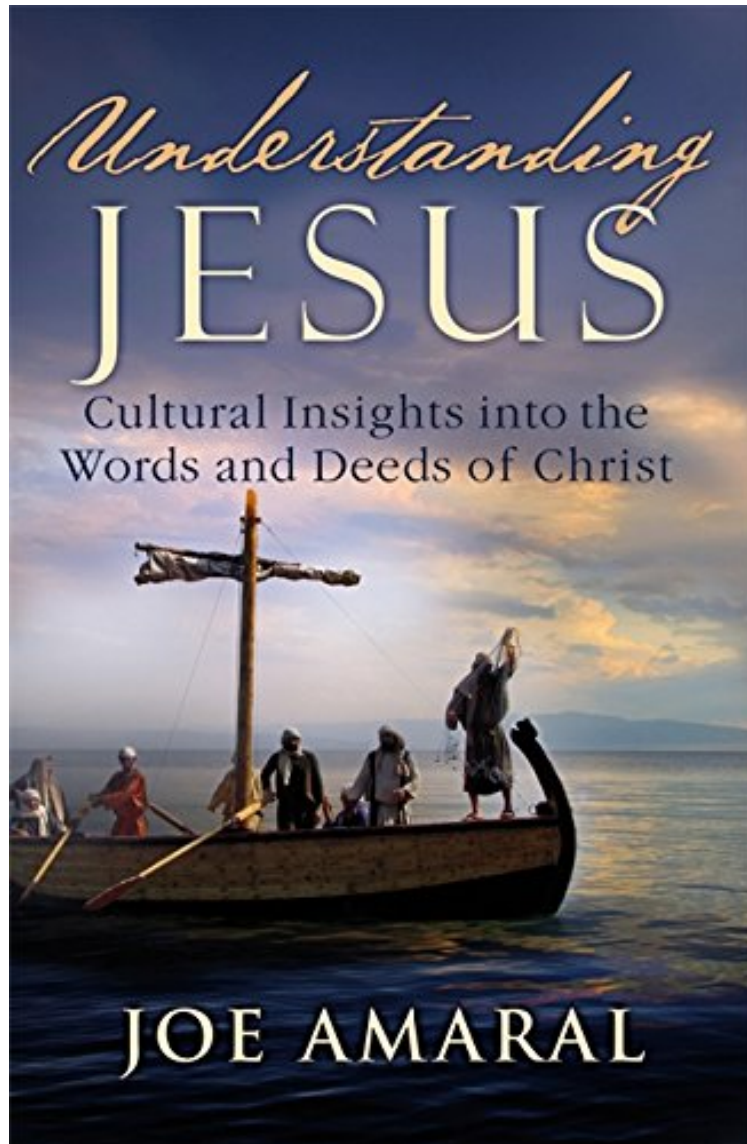


(Download free ebook) Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ

Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ

Joe Amaral

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#550359 in Books FaithWords/Hachette Book Group 2011-04-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .50 x 5.251, .40 #File Name: 0446584762208 pagesUnderstanding Jesus Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ | File size: 17.Mb

Joe Amaral : Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Understanding JesusBy sammyI purchased "Understanding Jesus" as the result of an interview that I heard on our local, Christian radio station with author Joe Amaral. Evidently, Joe is a scholar of Jewish traditions and antiquities, particularly those influences on current understanding of ancient Bible texts. If correct and legitimate, many of these ancient customs and traditions that he has written about do indeed change the way one looks at some Bible writings. Taken to their extreme, in cases where other non-Bible writings are offered on the same level as those of the Bible itself, alternative conclusions and definitions challenge divine writings given to us as God's own Word. This then makes some of the author's writings suspect to those believing on the infallibility of the Word. The author himself asks that in some cases, that the reader not shoot the messenger but consider the text on its own merit. To a strict, complete and total believer in the written Word, the Bible as inspired by God, he/she needs to consider everything that lies within the covers of "Understanding Jesus" as wonderful stories if they are indeed true and otherwise dismiss them. The final determinant in this decision must be in fact, the Bible itself. One example is where the author states how common raising the dead was during pre-Jesus times: a feat performed by Temple Priests 'on a regular basis'. His suggestion is that they could only perform that 'miracle' on those dead only one to two days old. This is reminiscent of many of the medieval times who drank alcoholic grog from pewter vessels and fell "dead" but whose true 'illness' was no more than a feign of death that wore off after 24 - 48 hours when normal heart beat, breathing rate and pulse were regained. It may have been no more than a mis-diagnosis originally, anyway. Bottom line: interesting reading but don't lose your hold on what is true and sacred about the Holy Word. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for Christians who want to put Jesus in contextBy C. TubbOne of the most amazing pieces of Christian Literature I have ever read. I cannot say enough about how special I think this book is except to say I have ordered more copies and am giving them to very learned Christian teachers and pastors because I think they will be surprised by things in the book - things they did not learn in the best seminaries in this country. I plan to order more copies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very helpfulBy Tennessee trackerI really enjoyed reading this book. The points are well reasoned and abundant scriptures are provided. I highly recommend this book and author.

Modern-day Christians often bring their own presuppositions and assumptions to the reading of the Bible, not realizing how deeply their understanding of Christ's life and teachings is affected by a 21st-century worldview. In UNDERSTANDING JESUS, author Joe Amaral delves deep into Jewish history, societal mores, and cultural traditions, closing the gap created by geographical distance and over two thousand years of history. Using a chronological approach to the life of Christ, he guides the reader through significant events such as Jesus' birth, baptism, and crucifixion, pointing out illuminating details that the Western mind would normally miss. Amaral's premise is that to understand Jesus, we must understand the time and place in which he was born, the background from which he drew his illustrations, and the audience he spoke to. Throughout the book he explores specific terms, places, and events for their significance and shows how they add richness and meaning to the text. Topics include the connection between Jesus and John the Baptist, the annual Feasts and why they are important to modern Christianity, Jewish customs such as foot-washing, clean and unclean foods, paying tribute to political governments, and the significance of various miracles. In UNDERSTANDING JESUS, Amaral draws back the curtain on a way of life that existed during the reign of the Caesars, and in doing so, reveals truths about the way we live more than two thousand years later, half a world away.

"The fact that Jesus took on Jewish flesh means that we can't fully appreciate what He said and did unless we know the Jewish culture of His day. Joe Amaral sheds significant new light on the person and work of the Messiah and by digging deeper into the Hebraic roots of the New Testament text." Wayne Hilsden, Senior Pastor, King of Kings Community, Jerusalem Joe Amaral's UNDERSTANDING JESUS is a must read for anyone who is serious about determining the true meaning of Jesus' teachings. Amaral's knowledge of First Century Jewish life presents Jesus in His original cultural context. In doing so, many misunderstood or difficult passages are brought to life." Dr. Dan Bahat, former District Archaeologist of Jerusalem "Joe Amaral's insights into first century Jewish culture will be of great benefit for anyone who is looking to discover and understand the original meaning of Jesus' teachings. I recommend heartily this reader-friendly book." Craig A. Evans, Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Acadia Divinity College About the Author Joe Amaral was born in Portugal on the island of St. Miguel, and immigrated with his family to Toronto, Ontario, when he was two years old. A rebel against Christianity, he credits a youth pastor who "loved me unconditionally" with being a major factor in his conversion and subsequent decision to enter the ministry. He attended Eastern Pentecostal Bible College (now a Master's College and Seminary). In November 2002, he first visited Israel, and learned about the culture from his tour guide, a Messianic Jew. Today, along with his father-in-law, he operates a ministry called Operation Outreach, conducting tours of the Holy Land several times a year and teaching on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. He resides with his wife, Karen, and family in Ontario.