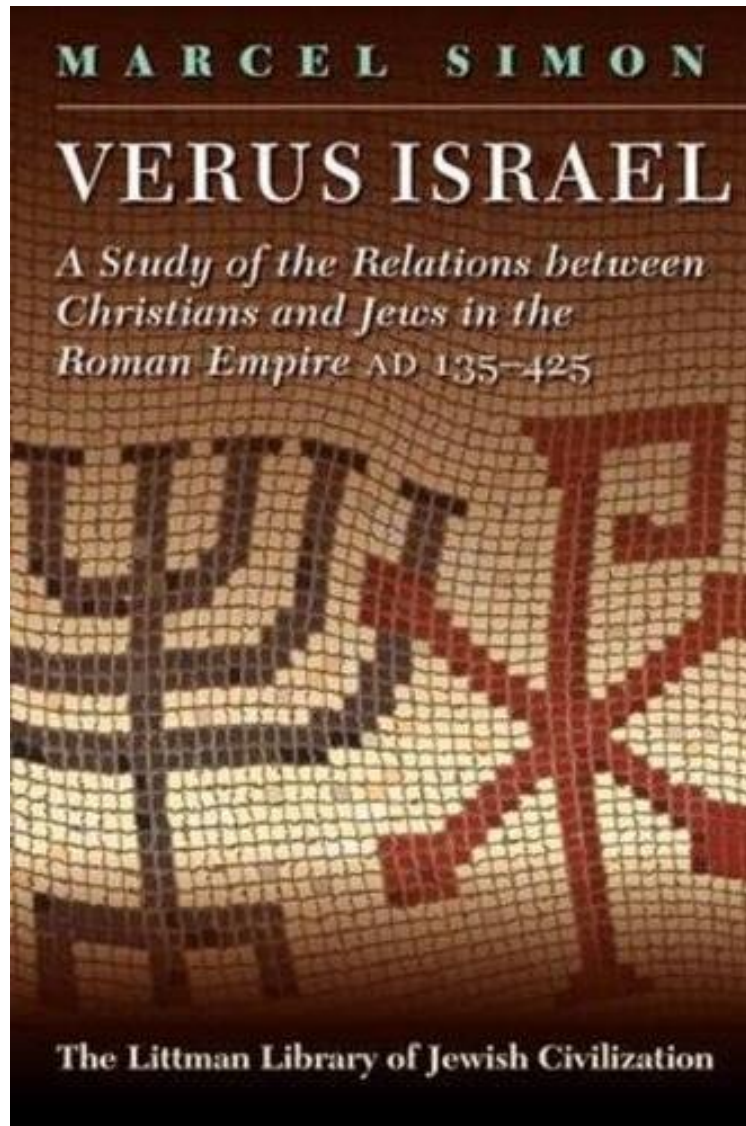


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Verus Israel: A Study of the Relations Between Christians and Jews in the Roman Empire (AD 135-425) (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization)

Marcel Simon

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Marcel Simon : Verus Israel: A Study of the Relations Between Christians and Jews in the Roman Empire (AD 135-425) (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Verus Israel: A Study of the Relations Between Christians and Jews in the Roman

Empire (AD 135-425) (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization):

21 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A Milestone, but One We've Passed By Ricardo Signes Verus Israel is, without a doubt, an important milestone in the history of studies in early Jewish-Christian relations. Its scholarship is strong, its intentions are noble, and its conclusions are logical. That said, however, it is important to remember that it is a milestone, written some time ago. Milestones show us how far we have come, but once we have passed them we must realize that they were not the destination. Marcel Simon wrote Verus Israel some fifty years ago, in the shadow of the Holocaust. Despite the strange times in which he wrote, his work is fairly unbiased, but only in relation to other works of the period. Serious modern scholarship makes Verus Israel, in comparison, seem like something of a cultural relic which, in many ways, it is. Although a mere fifty years is brief when seen beside the nineteen centuries separating Simon from his period of interest, vast stores of data have since been found, and many basic assumptions in the field have changed. Verus Israel is a classic, and a worthwhile read if you're interested not just in the field of ancient Christian-Jewish relations, but also in the subject's history. Reading this book alone, however, could lead to a false impression of what scholars currently consider to be reliable. It will be best read with several modern works on the subject.

Marcel Simon's classic study examines Jewish-Christian relations in the Roman Empire from the second Jewish War (132-5 CE) to the end of the Jewish Patriarchate in 425 CE. First published in French in 1948, the book overturns the then commonly held view that the Jewish and Christian communities gradually ceased to interact and that the Jews gave up proselytizing among the gentiles. On the contrary, Simon maintains that Judaism continued to make its influence felt on the world at large and to be influenced by it in turn. He analyses both the antagonisms and the attractions between the two faiths, and concludes with a discussion of the eventual disappearance of Judaism as a missionary religion. The rival community triumphed with the help of a Christian imperial authority and a doctrine well adapted to the Graeco-Roman mentality.

"A masterly survey ... indispensable for anyone working in the field." -- Judith Lieu, Journal of Religious History
Language Notes
Text: English, French (translation)
From the Back Cover
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