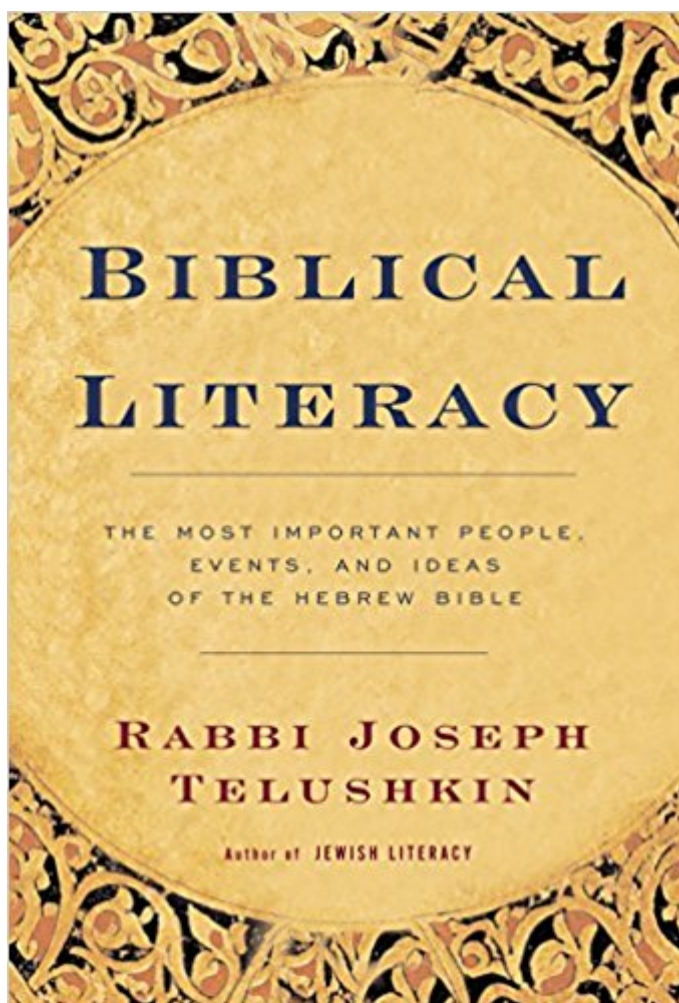


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# Biblical Literacy: The Most Important People, Events, And Ideas Of The Hebrew Bible



## Synopsis

In the tradition of Stephen Prothero's *Religious Literacy* and Ken Davis's *Don't Know Much About the Bible*, *Biblical Literacy* is a one-stop course on the Bible that offers readers—whether religious or not—every Bible story and passage they need to know. Professor Tim Beal has selected the Bible stories that have shaped history and our world and provides the key information we need to understand their significance and meaning. Whether atheist or believer, readers will benefit from this entry-level course into the heart of the most influential book ever written.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Hebrew Bible has played an important role in American society as Judaism's primary text and as Christianity's Old Testament. Today, however, fewer people are as well versed in scripture, so the author, a lecturer and rabbi of Los Angeles's Synagogue for the Performing Arts, has written this readable introduction. Not a concordance or commentary but a personalized study guide or overview for the Jewish or Gentile reader, it is a less successful sequel to Telushkin's popular home references, *Jewish Literacy* (Morrow, 1991) and *Jewish Wisdom* (Morrow, 1994). Although the book does not merit reference status, some patrons might be helped by the selective summaries of and thoughts on weekly Bible readings or the enumeration of the 613 mitzvot (commandments) that guide the observant Jew. Telushkin's book has the potential to increase a reader's Jewish literacy either as an introduction or companion to study of the Hebrew Bible. —Andrew B. Wertheimer,

As he did so brilliantly in his bestselling book, *Jewish Literacy*, Joseph Telushkin once again mines a subject of Jewish history and religion so richly that his book becomes an inspiring companion and a fundamental reference. In *Biblical Literacy*, Telushkin turns his attention to the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament), the most influential series of books in human history. Along with the Ten Commandments, the Bible's most famous document, no piece of legislation ever enacted has influenced human behavior as much as the biblical injunction to "Love your neighbor as yourself." No political tract has motivated human beings in so many diverse societies to fight for political freedom as the Exodus story of God's liberation of the Israelite slaves--which shows that God intends that, ultimately, people be free. The Bible's influence, however, has conveyed as much through its narratives as its laws. Its timeless and moving tales about the human condition and man's relationship to God have long shaped Jewish and Christian notions of morality, and continue to stir the conscience and imagination of believers and skeptics alike. There is a universality in biblical stories: The murder of Abel by his brother Cain is a profound tragedy of sibling jealousy and family love gone awry (see pages 11-14). Abraham's challenge to God to save the lives of the evil people of Sodom is a fierce drama of man in confrontation with God, suggesting the human right to contend with the Almighty when it is feared He is acting unjustly (see pages 32-34). Jacob's deception of his blind father, Isaac raises the timeless question: Do the ends justify the means when the fate of the world is at stake (see pages 46-55). Encyclopedic in scope, but dynamic and original in its observations and organization, *Biblical Literacy* makes available in one volume the Bible's timeless stories of love, deceit, and the human condition; its most important laws and ideas; and an annotated listing of all 613 laws of the Torah for both layman and professional, there is no other reference work or interpretation of the Bible quite like this Stunning volume.

Very impressive book about Hebrew Bible, Very worthwhile readable. Thank you.

I have not finished it yet. I've been busy, but this book is at the top of the stack when life slows down and I have the time to finish it. I have enjoyed the Jewish Traditions that explain so much about the stories in the Jewish Bible. The traditional story of why Abraham was called the most righteous man on Earth is inspiring as well as humorous. That is just one example of the additional information the Author shares in this book. The historical and traditional vignettes are informative and entertaining. A very good read.

I first saw this book when a friend was reading it. This isn't so important in the grand scheme of things BUT this fellow has been a Professor at MNU Christian College for 30+ years and a pastor for the same. He told me this was the most insightful book he had ever read on the Old Testament. Quite an indorsement!!!! He was correct it is a must read when studying the books of the Old Testament.

I first took the book out of the library and after I started reading it I felt that the contents deserved more careful consideration than I could give it if I had to return it. I purchased the book and am now enjoying its contents. It is beautifully written.

This book gives a Hebrew point of few which gives a non-Jew an insight to the Hebrew mind and history.

Big book but very nice read!! Love learning this stuff!!

Love this for a beginner.

It came with a ripped cover ... otherwise it was good . Interestingly the writer discusses Christian interpretations a few times , with some obvious understanding ... ( as well as a Jewish bias ) . Much of it is basic Biblical History , but many parts were EXTREMELY enlightening , and relevant today .

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