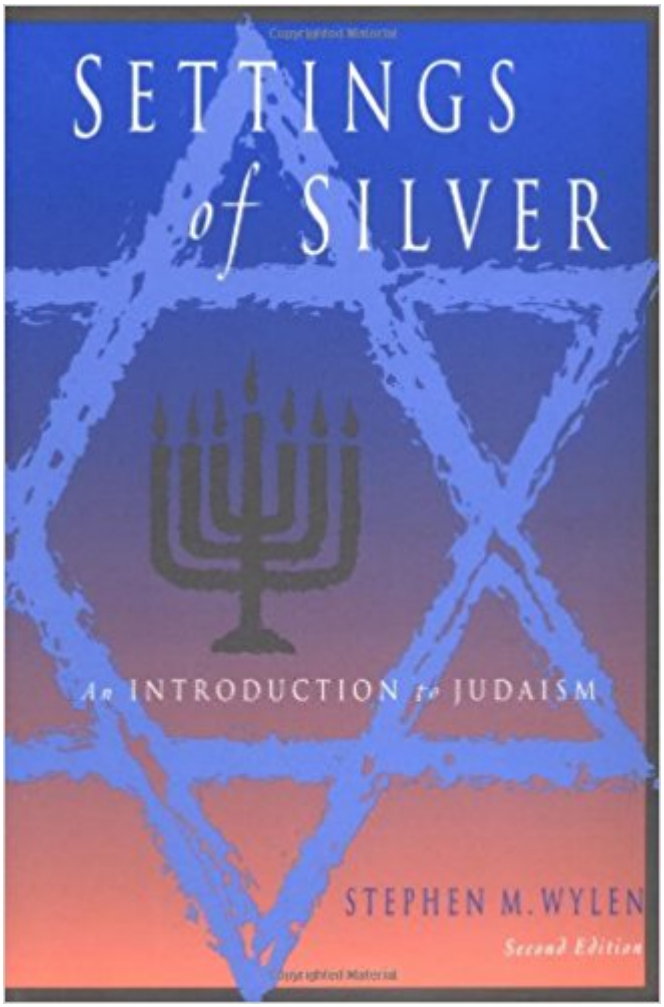
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Settings Of Silver: An Introduction To Judaism



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Synopsis

Originally published in 1989, this comprehensive survey of Judaism has become a popular text in universities, religious colleges and seminaries, and adult education classes. Now, its author, Stephen Wylen, performs a genuine service by updating his critically acclaimed text for the 21st century. Settings of Silver, Second Edition, reflects the changes in the political structure of Eastern Europe and other recent events, while retaining its accessibility, easy-to-understand language, and compactness. In four sections, the author covers the history of Judaism. Section One includes basic beliefs, what it means to be a Jew, the role of Torah, and the Jewish view of God. Section Two covers faith, practices and customs, including holydays, marriage and family law and ritual, dietary laws, and beliefs surrounding death and the afterlife. Section Three is a history of Judaism, from its foundations to the early part of the 20th century, with a look to mysticism, literature, philosophy and daily life in the Jewish community. In Section Four the author continues the history of Judaism up to the present day, including the Holocaust, the State of Israel, the effects of modernism on Judaism, and the future of Judaism. Engaging, timely, and appropriate for persons of all religious backgrounds, this enduring work belongs in the library of anyone (Jews included) who wants to understand Judaism and the Jewish people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

His analysis helps the reader to understand Judaism in relation to Christianity. -- Ben HollanderStephen Wylen’s Settings of Silver is an excellent, concise, easy, and informed introduction to the religion of the Jews. --Lawrence Kushner, Rabbi-in-Residence at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and author of Invisible Lines of Connection;

Eyes Remade for Wonder, and other books.

Rabbi Stephen M. Wylen is the religious leader of Temple Beth Tikvah in Wayne, NJ, and writes a bi-weekly column for The Record, Hackensack, NJ.

My son, the child of a mixed marriage who was raised with respect for all faiths, but (if we're honest about it) in sort of a rudderless manner, has found ENORMOUS comfort in this book, as with the following book (The Concise Book of Mitzvoth: The Commandments). At a time in his life where this sort of guidance is enormously comforting, this Presbyterian mom is so, so grateful to the author. I look forward to helping him find guidance for and celebrating his Bar Mitzvah.

If you are looking for a fairly thorough, balanced, and scholarly approach to the introduction of Judaism, it seems this book should suit your needs. The writing is fairly clear and direct, so it could be used for an introductory course to the Jewish faith, and covers Judaism in more detail than shorter works. The writer tries to avoid introducing biases or preferences for one view of Judaism (Modern, Conservative or Reform) over the other. Historical dimension on the development of Judaism is also included here. On the whole I found it to be a responsible and thorough overview to the Jewish faith, and the concerns of the Jewish people.

This is a very good and complete book on Judaism. I'm still in the middle of reading this it will take me a long time to get through it because there's so much information so I am observing it slowly.

This book is an excellent primer for those who are looking to learn more about Judaism, whether for the purpose of gaining general knowledge or wishing to discover whether conversion is a good route for them to take. It is incredibly informative and easy to read without dumbing down things or sounding preachy- in fact, this book makes no attempt to encourage conversion, it just provides information clearly. A refreshing change from many Christian works which encourage conversion first and provide information second, often in false causal chains or assuming unrelated line items to be true. This book is not dogmatic making it great.

Explains concepts very well. Good textbook for Judaism classes.

Great book for learning about Judaism. Very well thought out with lots of useful information.

Got this for my Judaism class & it is pretty clear and easy to understand.

Wonderful foundation book about Judaism. Great for people who are converting or those who want to understand the faith and traditions of the Jewish people.

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