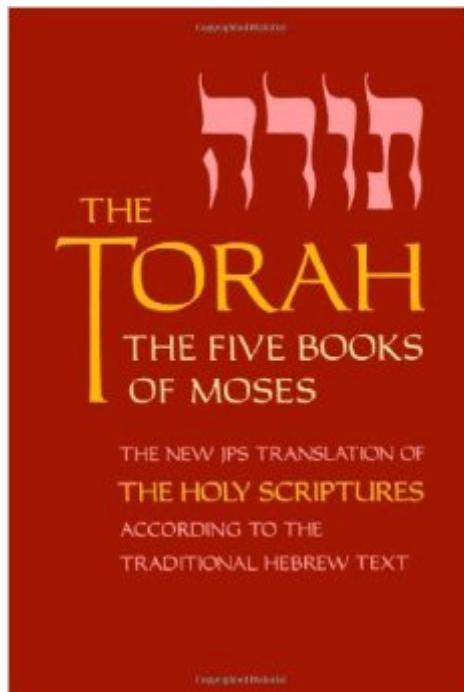


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Torah/Pocket Edition



Synopsis

Read our customer guide The Torah is the essence of Jewish tradition; it inspires each successive generation. The current JPS translation, based on classical and modern sources, is acclaimed for its fidelity to the ancient Hebrew.

Book Information

Series: Five Books of Moses (Pocket)

Paperback: 620 pages

Publisher: The Jewish Publication Society; Pocket edition edition (2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 082760680X

ISBN-13: 978-0827606807

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 4 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,483 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Torah #38 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) #102 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament

Customer Reviews

Translating the Hebrew writings commonly and collectively known as the Old Testament is a complex task. Not only is the scholar faced with the absence of written vowels, leading to many uncertain words, but there are also the wide varieties of literary types (histories, poems, narratives, tales, songs, etc.) to not only translate but convey into an intelligible English that preserves the meaning as well as the style of the original. Add to this the intense religious importance of the work to the three major religions on the world and all the feeling that can accompany that and the task is, to put it mildly, heroic. Moreover, some translations are made from the Masoretic text, others from the Septuagint, still others from combinations of the two. While the Septuagint is actually an older version, it is also in Greek. Thus the translator is faced with the choice between Scylla and Charybdis when choosing a source document - the older Greek and thus twice removed, being a Greek translation of an older Hebrew or perhaps even Aramaic text, or the more recent (ninth century B.C.E.) Masoretic text that is at least in Hebrew. Most often the result of all this textual and linguistic juggling is the production of a mere shadow of the original. In the case of the JPS Torah,

the result is better than average. The word choices made by the translators are often, if not conventional, very good. The footnotes are informative and there is an honesty to the work not commonly found when such material is translated, as when the meaning of a Hebrew word is not known, it is declared as unknown. Alternate or conventional variations are also offered if the point is very contentious.

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