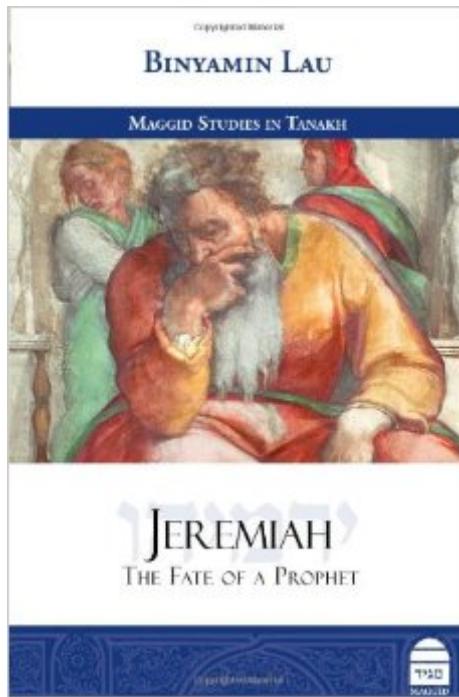


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Jeremiah



Synopsis

In *Jeremiah: The Fate of a Prophet*, Rabbi Dr. Binyamin Lau breaks down the Book of Jeremiah, rearranging its chapters according to historical events and the chronology of the prophet's life. This groundbreaking reconstruction turns the biblical narrative from a collection of disjointed prophecies into a thrilling account of warring empires and nationalistic struggle, social decay and political intrigue, soaring hope and crushing despair.

Book Information

Hardcover: 260 pages

Publisher: Koren Publishers (July 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592641946

ISBN-13: 978-1592641949

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #543,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Talmud #476 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) #676 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament

Customer Reviews

It is extremely difficult if not impossible to understand the life, thinking, and writings of the late seventh and early sixth century BCE prophet Jeremiah without reading this book by Rabbi Dr. Binyamin Lau, a highly respected and articulate Orthodox rabbi with a PhD. This is primarily due to the fact that the book Jeremiah is not composed in chronological order. Lau narrates and explains Jeremiah's life and reveals his concerns and messages to the people of his time and to their kings as it actually happened, not in the order currently in his book. For example, the chronological order for the start of Jeremiah's life and messages is: chapters 1, 3, 31, verses 23:1-8, chapters 30, 2, 10, 17, 11, 18, 3. The order of the end is: chapters 42, 43, 44, 52. Like Maimonides (1138-1204), Lau takes the position that "The prophet's job is not to tell the future, but to open the eyes of the people and their leaders to the emergent reality and to cogently and soberly sketch what will unfold. The prophet participates in real life, but from a vantage point that allows him to discern what others cannot." • Jeremiah was able to understand, what the leaders of his nation

could not, that a political union with Egypt against Babylonia, the two then world powers, would result in angering the Babylonians and result in the destruction of the nation and its temple. After Judea was destroyed in 586 BCE, as he foresaw, and many of its inhabitants exiled to Babylon, some of his coreligionists wanted to return to Judea, but Jeremiah advised them that this was not the time to return. Lau, a scholar, is unafraid of pointing out that different Bible texts have conflicting views.

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