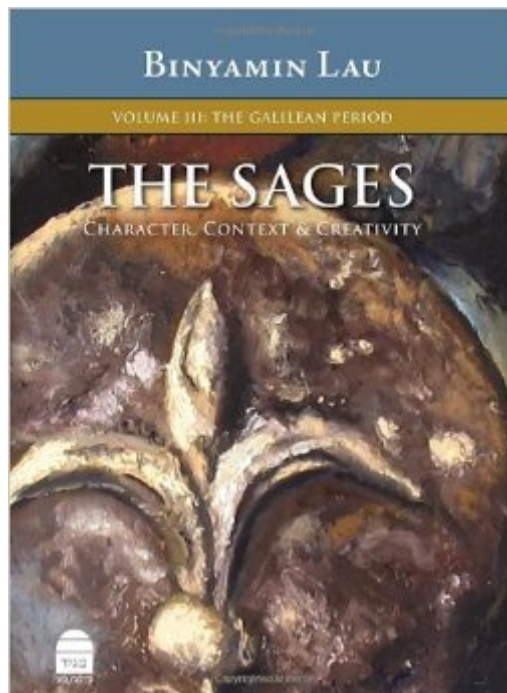


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The Sages, Vol.III: The Galilean Period (Sages: Character, Context & Creativity)



Synopsis

The Sages brings the world of the Talmud to life, revealing the stories of the men behind its pages. This fascinating multi-volume series explores the lives and times of great Jewish sages (Haza) their teachers and disciples, their families and professions, the values they cherished and ideologies they opposed, the historical challenges they faced and the creative wisdom with which they faced them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In three very well-written, comprehensive, informative, and engrossing volumes, Binyamin Lau, a highly respected Orthodox rabbi with a PhD, introduces his readers to the history of rabbinic Judaism, and the philosophy and ideology of its leaders with fascinating anecdotes and explanations of their sayings. He details the changes that occurred in Judaism due to new developments, and much more. Lau reports sayings and anecdotes about the ancient sages and analyzes them in an interesting and reasonable fashion. He doesn't consider them as legends that are worthless or as truthful reports. Instead he accepts the scholarly view that much in the reports is legendary, but we are able to learn a lot from them about the culture and history of the times as well as the ideas that concerned the sages and common people. In his first volume of this series, among many other subjects, Rabbi Lau discusses the origin of the Oral Law. There is a tradition that God commanded the Oral Law at Sinai. Some Jews take the statement literally. Others understand that it says that the spirit of the Oral Law derives from the Written Torah. Rabbi Dr. Binyamin Lau takes the latter approach and shows by countless examples that the Oral Law must keep developing. We "do not have an exact date for the beginning of the Oral Law...it seems that the beginning of this

period must be placed somewhere between the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (about 450 BCE) and the ascent of Alexander of Macedonia (333 BCE)." Lau describes the struggles accompanying the onset of the Oral Law. The Sadducees and Pharisees were in conflict. "The Sadducees attempted to maintain the ancient regime.

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