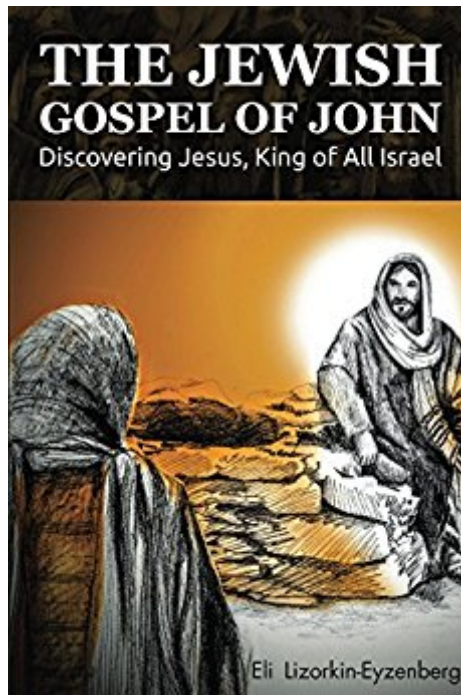




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The Jewish Gospel Of John: Discovering Jesus, King Of All Israel



Synopsis

The Jewish Gospel of John is not, by any standard, another book on Jesus of Nazareth written from a Jewish perspective. It is an invitation to the reader to put aside their traditional understanding of the Gospel of John and to replace it with another one more faithful to the original text perspective. The Jesus that will emerge will provoke to rethink most of what you knew about this gospel. The book is a well-rounded verse-by-verse illustrated rethinking of the fourth gospel. Here is the catch: instead of reading it, as if it was written for 21 century Gentile Christians, the book interprets it as if it was written for the first-century peoples of ancient Israel. The book proves what Krister Stendahl stated long time ago: “Our vision is often more abstracted by what we think we know than by our lack of knowledge.” Other than challenging the long-held interpretations of well-known stories, the author with the skill of an experienced tour guide, takes us to a seat within those who most probably heard this gospel read in the late first century. Such exploration of variety of important contexts allows us to recover for our generation the true riches of this marvelous Judean gospel. “A genuine apologetic is one that is true to the texts and the history, akin to the speeches of a defense attorney with integrity. Using the best of contemporary scholarship in first-century Judaic history and contributing much of his own, Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg has demonstrated that the Gospel of John is not an anti-Jewish, but a thoroughly Jewish book.” Daniel Boyarin, Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, University of California, Berkeley “Dr. Lizorkin-Eyzenberg places the text of John’s Gospel in its authentic context by examining the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, rabbinic literature, and suggesting innovative explanations for the nomenclature, the Jews.” His fresh analysis is sure to stir meaningful debate. His creative approach will make an enduring contribution to the discipline of New Testament studies.” Brad Young, Professor of Biblical Literature in Judeo-Christian Studies, Oral Roberts University “For some time, research on the Gospels has suffered from stagnation, and there is a feeling that there is not much new that one can say. In light of this, Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg’s new commentary on the Gospel of John, with its original outlook on the identity of the original audience and the issues at stake, is extremely refreshing.” Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Head of the Talmud and Late Antiquity Department, Tel-Aviv University.

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Customer Reviews

I've been a Bible student for most of my life. For that reason I read many commentaries and translations of The Book in order to understand it better and how it informs my life. I had the good fortune to have discovered Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg's blog a couple of years ago, and in it was a series on the Book of John. It answered quite a few questions I had about that somewhat puzzling Gospel. Now, those blogs and much more have been included in Dr. Eli's latest book, entitled, The Jewish Gospel of John: Discovering Jesus, King of All Israel. It's written in easy-flowing prose, and reads like having a conversation with a friend. Verse by verse and story by story Dr Eli leads the reader through the historical and cultural roots and word-root meanings. Most of all, it creates an understanding of the Jewish political and social thought at the time, separating the few Jews who held tenuous power under the Roman structure, therefore felt threatened by this man, Jesus, who was an anathema and had such a popular following among the people. Many readers throughout time came to take John's catagoric reference to "the Jews" to understand that the whole Jewish population was responsible for Jesus' crucifixion and death. This idea is strongly refuted by Dr. Eli, as he argues that the small group of Pharisees who actually agitated for Jesus' death were most threatened by his growing popularity and abilities. My favorite part from the book is Jesus interview

with the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well. His explanations and alternate opinion about who she might have been and what it may have meant to the Samaritan readership of John shone a whole new understanding on it. He also shines a light on the John 9: healing of the Man born blind, and what it meant to Jesus' whole ministry, sets the scene and describes the town of Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead, and gives some background for the difference between being washed in the Pool of Bethesda, and in the pool of Siloam. I recommend Dr. Eli's book to anyone who has an abiding interest in the Bible New Testament and having a better understanding of it.

I loved the book. From an organizational standpoint, I really liked the chapter by chapter and group of verses by group of verses analysis. It made the whole work easier to follow, digest and understand. The author's definition of the "Ioudaioi" and "kosmos" gave me a whole new outlook on this Gospel and its interpretation. The emphasis on the Samaritans as being a part of the original target audience of this Gospel was eye-opening to me. I had never before really understood the Samaritans' role, or really even who they were, so this was probably the most novel, informative and interesting part of the book to me. I also liked that the book often went back to the original Greek and Hebrew words when necessary to illustrate points. I have read the Gospel of John many times both in the original Greek and in several different English translations. Reading this book gave me a whole new outlook on the work as a whole. It expanded my understanding of the original audience and how the Gospel might have been understood at the time it was written, which impacts how I understand it today. I think I have a better appreciation for the Gospel of John now. I will definitely recommend it to friends.

My husband and I have sought out literature that explains the "New Testament" from the perspective of the times: the context and understanding from when it was written. It is very encouraging that we are finding Jewish authors and scholars that are delving into explaining and teaching the "New Testament" with their knowledge and expertise. The Jewish Gospel of John is another one of those books. I have even recommended it to everyone "in my circle". Looking forward to more books like this one.

Since I received faith in Yeshua as the true Jewish Messiah many years ago, my sixth sense has invariably guided me to the Gospel of John as my favorite. Dr. Eli's Jewish Gospel of John is broadening my knowledge, shedding light on all sections of the Gospel of Light and Life, unearthing hidden mysteries, and is

written by someone whose depth of scholarship and warm personality flow from his pen. I highly recommend it for those who are deterred by John's seemingly negative attitude to his fellow countrymen, and those seeking the fullness of what this rich gospel offers to those drawn by its lighthouse attraction. The book leaves me with the perception that Dr. Eli has the gift of looking directly into the mind of John and extracting from it what he meant to express all those long centuries ago; now that is important for our modern understanding.

The Jewish Gospel of John is written by someone who as a Messianic Jew has a love for his people, and as to his scholarship and ability to explain and convey spiritual matters, there can be no doubt. Those who feel strongly, even mystically attracted to this gospel will be royally rewarded by reading and studying Dr. Eli's excellent exegesis. David Ben Haim, Netanya, Israel

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