

F 603 Genesis Recommended Reading

Hendel, Ronald. *The Book of "Genesis": A Biography*. (Princeton University Press, 2012). Scholarly but very readable with a focus on how Genesis has influenced Western thought and literature. Available on Kindle.

Sarna, Nahum, M. *Understanding Genesis: the Heritage of Biblical Israel* (Jewish Theological Seminary, 1966). Has been reissued numerous times. Weaves traditional Jewish understanding with modern archaeological evidence. This book became Sarna's commentary in *The JPS Torah Commentary: Genesis* (JPS, 1989). Available on Kindle.

In 1996, Bill Moyers produced a TV series for PBS, *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, which is available on DVD. There is also a book version and a resource guide, *Talking About Genesis*. Panels included some very articulate contemporary thinkers.

One of the panelists on Bill Moyers' series was Aviva Zornberg, who has written *The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis* (JPS, 1995; Doubleday, 1996) A very difficult read, drawn from many sources, but rich in thought and language. Available on Kindle.

The Jewish Study Bible, edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler (Oxford, 2004), in addition to the 1999 JPS translation, has a brief introduction and annotations on Genesis by Jon D. Levenson and a number of essays on Jewish biblical interpretation over time, the history of bible transmission and the technical background for contemporary interpretation. This is a comprehensive reference text, edited and contributed to by some of the most outstanding contemporary Jewish scholars. The second edition was published in 2014 with extensive additional material.

The ultimate (?) scholarly edition is vol 1 of the Anchor Bible series, by E.A. Speiser (1964), originally published by Doubleday, but now published by Yale University. The translation is Speiser's own, and the footnotes indicate where various manuscript versions differ.

Other than the Anchor and King James (or Authorized) Version, I am not familiar with various non-Jewish translations. I recommend you consult *Biblical Archaeology Review's* 2013 review of 27 different bible versions. It is currently available, free, in ebook format:

<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/free-ebooks/the-holy-bible-a-buyers-guide/>