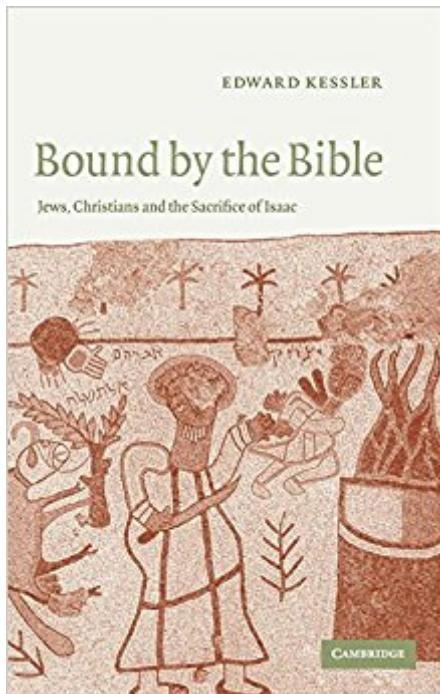


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Bound By The Bible: Jews, Christians And The Sacrifice Of Isaac



Synopsis

One of the most well-known stories in the Bible is the account of how Abraham's faith in God was demonstrated by a willingness to sacrifice his long-awaited son at God's command. This story has been a source of fascination for Jews and Christians over many centuries, and Edward Kessler offers an engrossing account of their interpretations. Explaining that neither the story nor its interpretations can be understood independently, this book makes a valuable contribution to biblical studies.

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"This is a magisterial treatment of the Akedah, which intervenes helpfully and judiciously in a well-established and sometimes fraught debate. The volume will be a pleasure to read for those who know the literature as well as for beginners in the field." -Bruce Chilton, Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion, Bard College, New York "In the clash of civilisations, texts can become weapons in a war of words. Ed Kessler has taken a key biblical text -- the binding of Isaac -- and shown how early Jewish and Christian interpretations were closer than has hitherto been thought. This richly documented study is a landmark in the necessary journey from disputation to dialogue." -Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth "...on the whole this is a very instructive and sympathetic book, richly documented and a pleasure to read." -Pieter W. van der Horst, Utrecht University W. van der Horst, Bryn Mawr Classical Review "Kessler's work is a valuable contribution to the literature. Many studies of Jewish-Christian

relations in late antiquity have mainly approached the subject from other angles, including that of polemics, proselytism and studies of individual church father. Kessler, however, offers another approach. His approach is exegetically rooted." -Marvin R. Wilson, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts"Bound by the Bible is rich in exegetical detail and attentive to the original biblical text, in part because of the verse-by-verse examination that K[essler] undertakes. Yet, the book captures the reader's imagination...K[essler] presents a very plausible case for a two-way interaction between Jewish and Christian exegetes of the first six centuries CE." -Sarah J. Melcher, Xavier University, *The Classical Bulletin*

The Sacrifice of Isaac is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. It is also a shocking account of how Abraham's faith in God was demonstrated by a willingness to sacrifice his long-awaited son at God's command. This story has been a source of fascination for Jews and Christians for many centuries and Edward Kessler offers an enthralling account of their interpretations, explaining that neither can be understood properly without reference to the other. Compelling and convincing, this book makes a valuable contribution to the field.

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