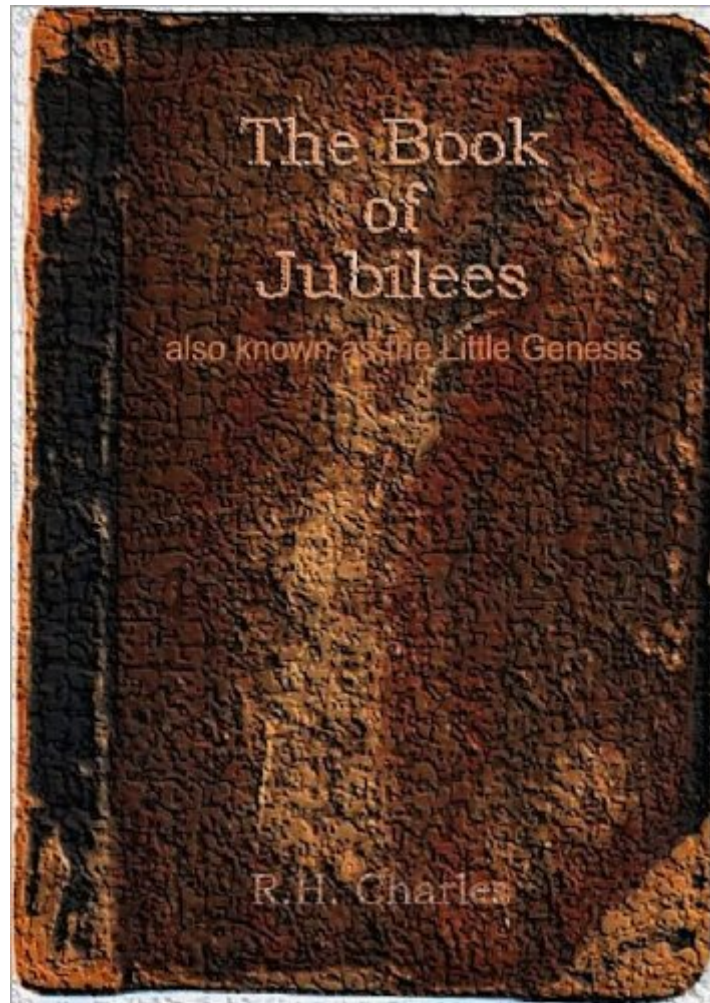




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The Book Of Jubilees



Synopsis

The Book of Jubilees translated by R. H. Charles The Book of Jubilees, or, as it is sometimes called, The Little Genesis, purports to be a revelation given by God to Moses through the medium of an angel and contains a history, divided up into "jubilee periods" of 49 years, from creation to the coming of Moses. Although the actual narrative of events is only carried down to Moses's birth and early career, its author envisages the events of a later time and in particular certain events of special interest at the time he wrote, which was probably in the latter years of the 2nd century B.C. This work, though containing one or two passages of an apocalyptic character, is quite unlike the typical apocalypses. It is largely based upon the historical narratives in Genesis and Exodus, interspersed with legends and emphasizing certain legal practices (such as the strict observance of the Sabbath, circumcision, etc.). The author's main object is to inculcate a reform in the regulation of the calendar and festivals in place of the lunar calendar, which he condemns. He proposes to substitute a solar calendar consisting of 12 months and containing 364 days. The result of such a system is to make all festivals, except the Day of Atonement, fall on a Sunday--a radical idea for its day. With notes clarifying the translation, this is an important text for students of the origins of Christianity and Essene teachings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very good translation and the book has an extensive introduction by Charles. Scholars believe that Jubilees was composed in Hebrew sometime between 135 and 105 BCE. Just as the author of the biblical book Chronicles rewrote his book with many variations from what is contained in other biblical books, this Pharisee also wrote a book reflecting his own view of biblical history, one that met his own agenda. His approach to the biblical text is also very similar to Midrashic lore. He enlarges on various text, removes what he considered offensive elements, and writing as he did during a time when the Hellenistic spirit was rampant in Israel, he sought to defend Judaism from Hellenistic attacks and show that Jewish law has everlasting validity. He contended that before the law was revealed to humans it was kept in heaven by angels. While Israel was ruled during his lifetime by the Maccabean family, descendants of Levi, he contended that the Messianic kingdom would be ruled by a man from the tribe of Judah. He divides events into Jubilee periods of 49 years and states, for example, that the Israelites entered Canaan at the close of the fiftieth Jubilee. The Book of Jubilees states that it was composed by an angel who dictated it to Moses. While the book purports to describe the history of the world, which is also reported in the biblical books Genesis and Exodus, the story in Jubilees is radically different. No one knows why these differences exist.

Very interesting. I've been reading the Bible for years and it's very interesting to note the similarities.

Great book enjoyed the Reed did find a couple of typos but overall good book

Exactly as I expected. Good reading for background in Biblical studies.

R.H Charles are great translations

great

love this book

One of the most interesting extra-biblical books, a must have for any serious Bible student.

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