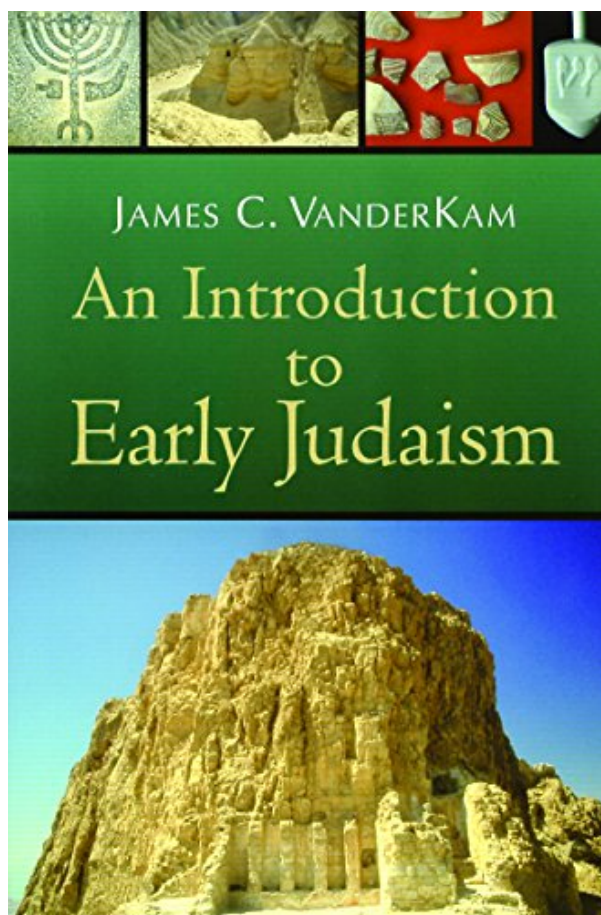


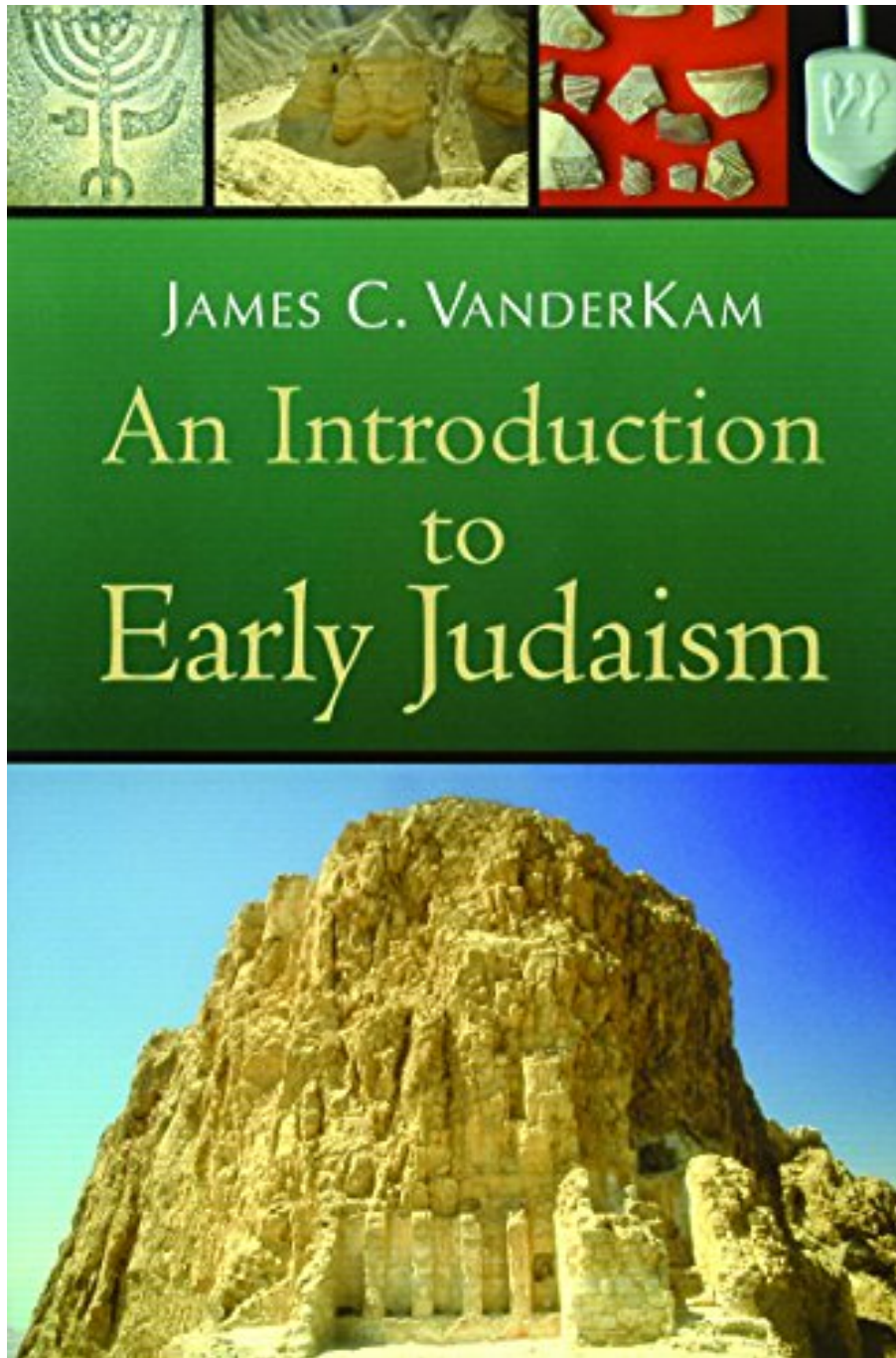
AN INTRODUCTION TO EARLY JUDAISM

BY JAMES C. VANDERKAM



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Review

"For anyone with an interest in early Judaism, this is a book to be picked up and read."

About the Author

James C. VanderKam is John A. O'Brien Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at the University of Notre Dame and a member of the international team responsible for preserving and translating the Dead Sea Scrolls. His previous books include *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* and *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (both Eerdmans).

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- Sales Rank: #234915 in Books
- Color: Multicolor
- Published on: 2000-11-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .62" w x 6.00" l, .74 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 248 pages

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still in the sea surrounding the second temple

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biblical scholar.

Here in this accessible volume (easy to follow, 234 pages), VanderKam provides a succinct overview of the sea of literature and lays the foundation to eliminate the enormous task of getting a hold of the literature from the Second Temple period. It is helpful (especially trying to cut through for the specific task of research) to have a resource which provides a simple and straightforward explanation of the whos, whats and wheres of documents which are filled with people, places and symbols quite foreign to most everything else you learn in church and typical coursework for New Testament studies.

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This book is very useful as a history of Judaism as it markedly evolved from the Biblical to the Talmudic era. VanderKam is highly conversant with the Dead Sea Scrolls and other recently un-earthed archeological material and integrates their evidence into his historical narrative. Conversely, he gives little indication of being aware of Talmudic aggadot that pertain to this historical era of Judaism's transition . For example there is not even a reference to the Mishna Avot, which is concerned with the rabbinical sages during this period of the development of Judaism.

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