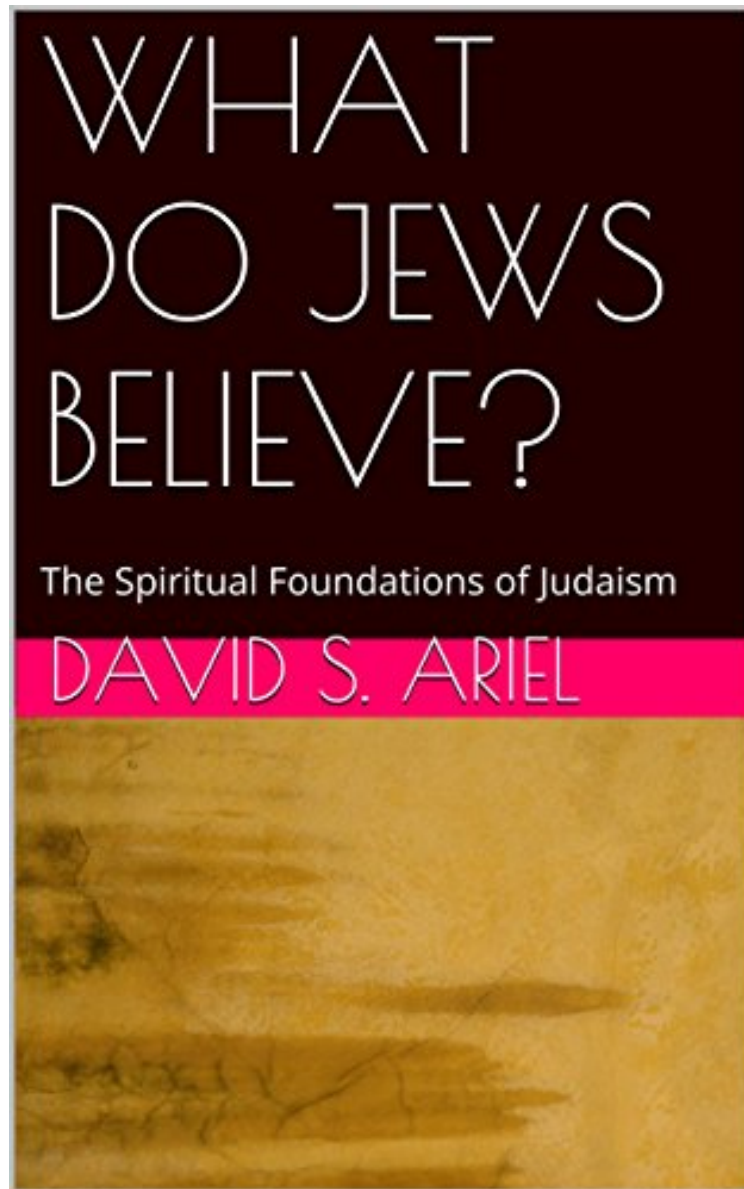


(Free) What Do Jews Believe?: The Spiritual Foundations of Judaism (English Edition)

What Do Jews Believe?: The Spiritual Foundations of Judaism (English Edition)

Von David S. Ariel

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Von David S. Ariel : What Do Jews Believe?: The Spiritual Foundations of Judaism (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Do Jews Believe?: The Spiritual Foundations of Judaism (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A balanced, erudite study of Jewish beliefs. Von Ein KundeDavid Ariel , in "What Do Jews Believe" gives a balanced account of the evolution of Jewish thought and beliefs, demonstrating that Judaism is a living, changing system, always renewing itself. Each chapter covers a different concept: God, the problem of good and evil, mitzvot, prayer, Jewish identity, and starting with the Torah, traces the development of those concepts in the Talmud and among the various sages and schools in Jewish history right up to the present. The book, though an overview, is by necessity deep reading , yet I can think of no other which has succeeded in presenting such an enormous and difficult topic so clearly and fairly. One is left with an awe of and appreciation for Judaism's capacity for creative diversity, while remaining grounded in scripture and history. I consider this book a must for one's personal library.

KurzbeschreibungIn this fresh and lucid study, Ariel presents the fundamentals of Jewish thought on the profound issues of God, human destiny, good and evil, Torah, and messianism, guiding the reader toward a definition of the beliefs that shape Jewish identity. This lively exploration of Jewish ideas and beliefs provides a rationale and stimulus for anyone seeking to understand or reconnect to the rich and diverse spiritual tradition of Judaism..deWhat Do Jews Believe?: The Spiritual Foundations of Judaism, by David Ariel, is a basic exploration of the broad question posed by its title. Ariel's contention is that "Judaism is not a religion of fixed doctrines or dogmas but a complex system of evolving beliefs." And yet despite its diversity, "no matter how literally or metaphorically we choose to interpret them, ... sacred myths form the framework for the Jew's ongoing search for personal meaning in his or her own life, the life of the Jewish community, and society at large." What Do Jews Believe? describes some essential "sacred myths," such as the existence and nature of God, the meaning of the Torah, the importance of prayer, and the significance of chosenness. Ariel's selection and exploration of these myths is guided by the following questions: Which Jewish beliefs have survived from antiquity to the present day, how have they evolved over time, and what beliefs distinguish Judaism today? As he pursues these questions, Ariel enthusiastically describes Judaism's seminal influence on the rise of humanism, which makes his book especially credible for readers whose sympathies are more secular than his own. Perhaps the best part of this book is its conclusion, a tzavaah, or ethical will, written as an open letter to his children. In it, he quotes a letter from a mother to her child, written while they were living in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940, before they both were murdered by the Nazis. This letter offers an extraordinarily persuasive and poignant summary of what exactly makes a Jew a Jew: "Judaism, my child, is the struggle to bring down God upon earth, a struggle for the sanctification of the human heart. This struggle your people wages not with physical force but with spirit and by constant striving for truth and justice. So, do you understand, my child, how we are distinct from others and wherein lies the secret of our existence on earth?" To these words, Ariel adds a moving piece of advice to his own children, and to his readers: "Remember, your life is like a book. Write in it what you want to be known about you." --Michael Joseph GrossPressestimmen"A remarkably rich and useful introduction to millennia of Jewish beliefs."--Kirkus s "Brilliantly organizes the major ideas of Judaism. Anyone seeking orientation within the complex world of Jewish thought should begin with this book"--Susannah Heschel, author of On Being a Jewish Feminist "A thoughtful, informed, broad-minded overview of the most basic principles of the Jewish religion."--Robert M. Seltzer, author of Jewish People, Jewish Thought"Ariel's lucid presentation is a perfect gift to someone rediscovering his or her Jewish roots or someone choosing to be a Jew."--Hadassah Magazine