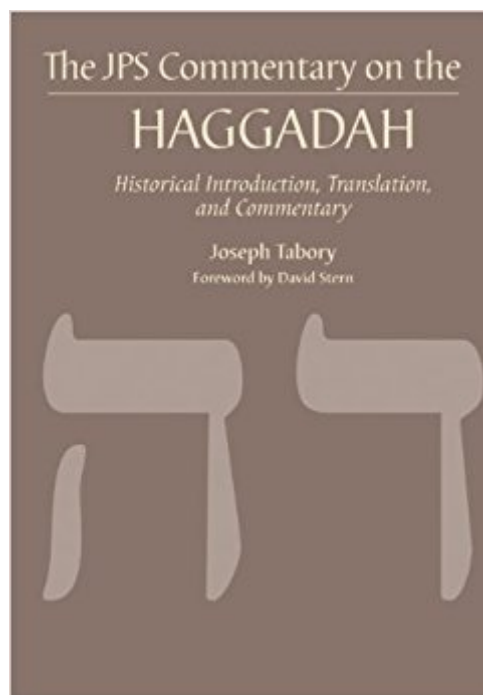




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# The JPS Commentary On The Haggadah: Historical Introduction, Translation, And Commentary (JPS Bible Commentary)



## Synopsis

Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of this book possible: Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Best. A definitive historical-critical commentary on the Passover seder. The Passover haggadah enjoys an unrivaled place in Jewish culture, both religious and secular. Of all the classic Jewish books, the haggadah is the one most alive today. Jews continue to rewrite, revise, and add to its text, recasting it so that it remains relevant to their lives. Joseph Tabory, one of the world's leading authorities on the history of the haggadah, traces the development of the seder and the haggadah through the ages. The book features an extended introduction by Tabory, the classic Hebrew haggadah text side by side with its English translation, and Tabory's clear and insightful critical-historical commentary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a significant and valuable work that, in examining the Haggadah from an historical perspective, offers insight into Jewish history as well." —Chicago Jewish Star (Chicago Jewish Star)

"...every person interested in the Pesah Seder should add this volume to her book shelf, and study it now, and before the festival."

Each year at Passover dinners called Seders, Jews around the world recite a traditional Hebrew text

(with some Aramaic), handed down from generation to generation for more than a millennium. That text, called the Haggadah, tells the story of the Exodus from Egyptian bondage. How and when did this text develop? This new JPS commentary on the Haggadah seeks to answer that question. Taking a predominantly historical and scholarly approach, the JPS Commentary on the Haggadah reviews how the Haggadah came to be the way that it is. The book sets forth an extensive essay on the Haggadah. It follows with the traditional Hebrew text along with an English translation in a parallel column. Some footnotes explain items in the text. Finally, 13 pages of black-and-white illustrations show selected pages from historic Haggadah editions. The JPS Commentary on the Haggadah provides a worthy addition to the outstanding and growing Jewish Publication Society library of commentaries, which include the JPS Torah Commentary: Genesis, Exodus: The Traditional Hebrew Text With the New Jps Translation (J P S Torah Commentary), Leviticus: The Traditional Hebrew Text With the New Jps Translation (J P S Torah Commentary), The Jps Torah Commentary: Numbers : The Traditional Hebrew Text With the New Jps Translation (J P S Torah Commentary), The Jps Torah Commentary: Deuteronomy : The Traditional Hebrew Text With the New Jps Translation (J P S Torah Commentary), JPS Commentary on Jonah, Jps Commentary on Esther (JPS Bible Commentary), Ecclesiastes: The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation (The Jps Bible Commentary), and Bible Commentary/Haftarot. Many of these volumes, particularly Milgrom's Numbers, Tigay's Deuteronomy, and Fishbane's Haftarot, are without peer for authority and completeness. Fans of the series may share my disappointment that the JPS Commentary on the Haggadah places so much of its analysis in the 69-page introductory essay, rather than in the footnotes to the text. In contrast to the usual volume in the JPS Commentary series, the introductory essay in the JPS Commentary on the Haggadah is longer than the annotated text itself. Many pages of the Haggadah text pass without any annotation at all. And not infrequently, footnotes to the Haggadah text merely refer the reader to discussions in the introductory essay. Especially with a text like the Haggadah, which Jews traditionally discuss and expound while reading, it would have been better to present more of the analysis in footnotes accompanying the traditional text. And observant Jews may find the scholarly point of view of the JPS Commentary on the Haggadah somewhat antiseptic. The author appears to treat exposition of the Haggadah in the Mishnah and the Talmud more as guides to musty history than as still valid instructions for a living religion's observance. Observant Jewish readers seeking an exposition of the traditional text might do better to start with a Haggadah from the Orthodox Artscroll Publishing Company's library, like the fine The Schottenstein Edition: The Interlinear Haggadah: The Passover Haggadah, with an Interlinear Translation, Instructions and

Comments. But these are just quibbles. The Jewish Publication Society helps to fill a substantial void with this handsome commentary on this important text. One can hope that the JPS will continue to expand its library of commentaries on holy texts, perhaps to add a commentary on the traditional Jewish prayer book (along the lines of the fine work *Or Hadash: A Commentary on Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*). Each year with the Passover Seder, Jews seek to bring new life to their historical liberation story. The JPS Commentary on the Haggadah helps nicely to uncover the history of that history.

I have several Haggadahs. You never know what you'll pick up of interest. It's always informative to read the different commentaries and after all, the seder is not just supposed to be a great meal but a great learning experience. This JPS Haggadah is a wonderful tool. It is easy to read. It is loaded with fascinating, well written, and well researched historical information on Passover and the seder service. Did you know that there originally only three questions? Did you know there were entire prayer sections removed from the service? Did you know Karpas was an anagram? Did you know why they put nuts in Charoset? Give you a hint... it has to do with fighting a hangover! The service itself is beautifully written with great commentaries. Bravo to JPS and all involved. Well worth a look.

PHD thesis, well written and annotated with historical perspective. Definitely not Artscroll, but very respectful of the material nonetheless. A great addition to the usual dry homiletic stuff.

Great history to the Seder and Haggadah.

Very informative commentary. Helpful insight for your Seder

Book came in perfect condition with the original retail price sticker still on it and at a much lower cost!

A succinct summarization of the authors long version in hebrew. Very informative and guides you along with precise easy and lucid instructions.

This is a very scholarly and well written book. I quoted from it rather extensively in the discussion surrounding our Passover Seder. Recommended for those interested in history Passover seder. Error. Error. I discovered to my dismay that I had used the wrong scale on several items. I

reviewed every purchase in about the last five years and discovered several comparable errors. The changes should be posted within 48 hours. Terribly embarrassed about these errors.

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