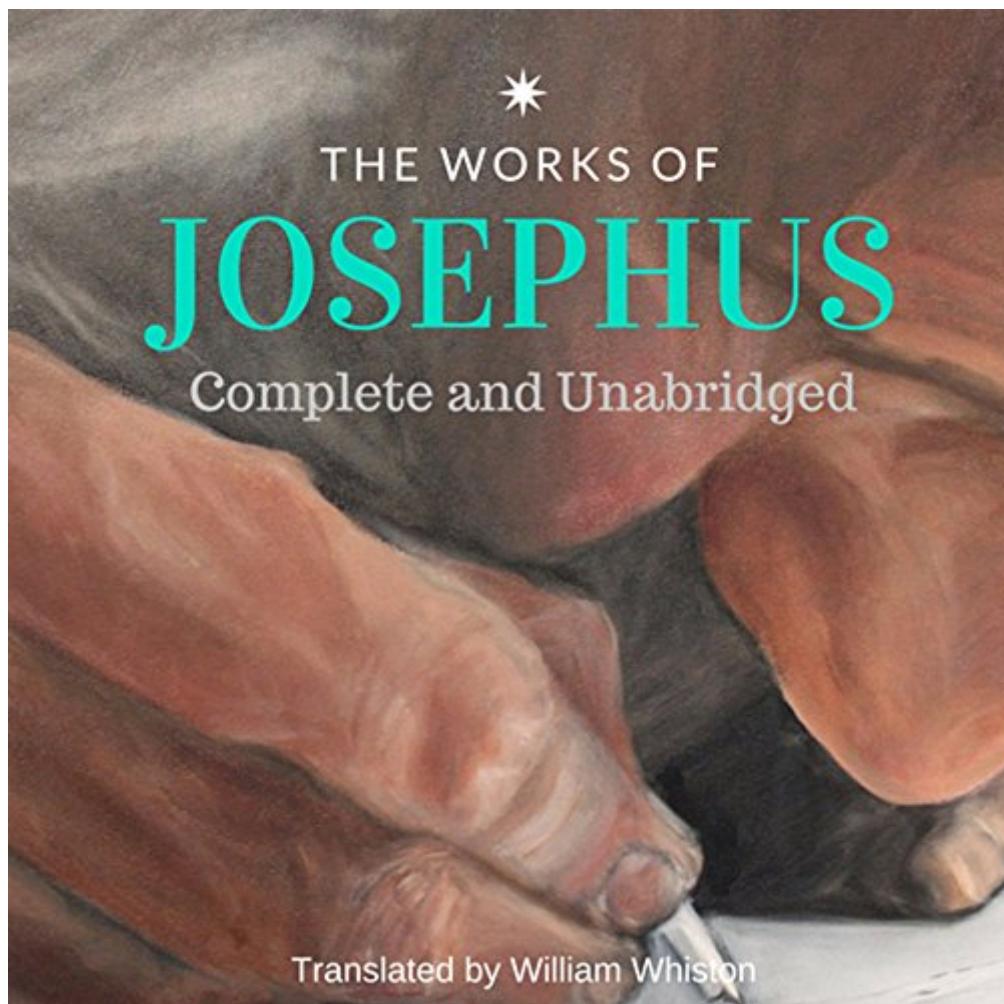


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The Works Of Josephus: Complete And Unabridged



Translated by William Whiston



Synopsis

As a Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus gives the Christian a new perspective on the Bible and Jewish history. This collection of his works produced as an e-book by Delmarva Publications is clear, easy to read and understand, including a linked table of contents. You will be most pleased with this study guide to the Bible. The Works of Josephus include the following: THE LIFE OF FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, his autobiography written shortly before he died. THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, history of the Jewish nation from creation to the first century. This book gives insight to ancient Jewish thought, background and history up until the time of Christ; giving readers a deeper perception of the Bible and a bridge between the Old and New Testament. THE WARS OF THE JEWS, the earliest of Josephus' writings. He gives a first-hand account of the Roman invasion in Israel and how the Jewish people revolted, but were eventually overtaken. AGAINST APION, a two volume defense of Judaism as classical religion and philosophy. AN EXTRACT OUT OF JOSEPHUS'S DISCOURSE TO THE GREEKS CONCERNING HADES, an alternate glimpse of Hades opposing the view of the Greeks.

Book Information

File Size: 3056 KB

Print Length: 800 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: www.DelmarvaPublications.com (March 6, 2016)

Publication Date: March 6, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01CO6VIQC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,385 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament Study > Jesus, the Gospels & Acts #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) #5

Customer Reviews

Flavius Josephus (about AD 37-101) lived and worked during the first century AD, a time when major events occurred that would impact Judaism forever and the religion known as Christianity was born. He provides us with firsthand information regarding the Jews and Romans, which acts as good background information to the New Testament writings. After all, he lived during the time of the early Church. He also (scholarly debates aside) mentioned Jesus, John the Baptist and James. This edition includes his complete works. They are:

- The Life of Flavius Josephus:** This allows the reader learn about the life of Josephus from his own pen.
- Antiquities of the Jews (20 chapters):** It chronicles the history of the Jewish people from the Genesis creation account until the outbreak of revolt in AD 66. This section also includes information on the Roman leaders of the Jewish province, such as the Herods.
- The Jewish Wars (7 chapters):** This is Josephus' account of Jewish uprisings and wars. It starts with Antiochus Epiphanes. Most of the book, however, chronicles the Jews under the Romans, including the subjugation by Vespasian, the siege and conquest of the temple by Titus and the sedition of the Jews at Cyrene.
- Against Apion (2 books):** This is a defense of the antiquity of the Jewish people and a refutation of the charges brought against them by the grammarian Apion of Alexandria.
- An Extract from the Discourses to the Greeks Concerning Hades:** This short document outlines "Josephus'" views on Hades. Many scholars do not think Josephus is the author. The translations are fairly easy to read, but since they were completed in the middle of the eighteenth century some words may be difficult for certain readers.

People spend a great deal of time interpreting scripture, and for good reason. For believers, the Bible is not just a historical document, but the living word of God. Still, as we research scripture, we want to know what life was like in the days of Jesus, and how the people of Jesus' day lived and interpreted scripture so we can better understand scripture in our own day. Perhaps the most important tool for such a task would be the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus. Josephus himself was an interesting figure. He was born to a well to do Jewish family of the priestly class. He was a religious seeker and studied under the Pharisees and spent some time living an ascetic life. He later developed connections with Rome, and tried unsuccessfully to end the Jewish rebellion. His association with the Romans made him a bit of a turncoat to many people, but his involvement in many spheres of life in the years of the Jewish revolt gave him the opportunity to write a thorough

history of his times, understanding the religious, political, and social dimensions of the day. It is largely through the writings of Josephus we understand the world of Jesus' day, and ultimately Jesus himself, even though there is only one questionable reference to Jesus in the writings (modern scholars believe this was probably a patristic insertion or at least a reworking by patristic writers). This edition of the writings of Josephus is an excellent tool for non-scholarly Biblical study. Whiston's translation has been a standard for years and provides a good translation for preparation for preaching, Bible studies, and people who have an interest in scripture that would be deeper than the interest of a casual reader.

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