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CAMBRIDGE COMMENTARIES ON  
WRITINGS OF THE JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN WORLD  
200 BC TO AD 200

VOLUME 7

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*General Editors:*

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A. R. C. LEANEY

J. W. PACKER

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- 2 *The Qumran Community* – M. A. Knibb
- 3 *Early Rabbinic Writings* – H. Maccoby
- 4 *Outside the Old Testament* – M. de Jonge
- 5 *Outside the New Testament* – G. N. Stanton
- 6 *Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman Views* – M. Whittaker
- 7 *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200* –  
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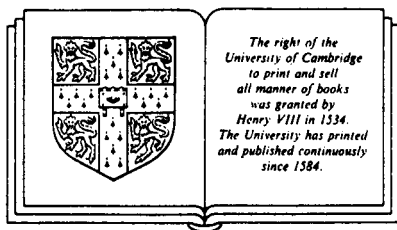
Frontmatter

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# THE JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN WORLD 200 BC TO AD 200

A. R. C. LEANEY

*Formerly Professor of Christian Theology  
The University of Nottingham*



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A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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To my son  
John

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978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

General Editors' Preface	<i>page</i>	xi
Author's Foreword		xiii
List of Abbreviations		xv
Maps		xvi

## PART I

1	Historical Outline: Exile, Restoration and Diaspora	1
	Exile	1
	Restoration	2
	Diaspora	4
2	Diaspora: The Historical Background	7
	Main Periods of History	7
	Babylonia and Mesopotamia	9
	Babylon and the Persian Empire	9
	Alexander the Great and the End of the Persian Empire	11
	The Seleucid Empire	12
	The Rise of Parthia	15
	The Rivalry of Parthia and Rome in the East	16
	The Jews in Babylonia and Mesopotamia	20
	Babylonian Jewry and the Books of the Old Testament	30
	Asia Minor	32
3	Italy: Rome and the Jews	37
	The Roman Constitution	37
	Rome: Outline of History 264 BC to AD 284	41
	I The Rise and Decline of the Roman Republic	41
	II The Age of Augustus	49
	III The Empire	53
	Jews in Rome	73
	Josephus (AD 37 to c. 100)	76

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

4	Syria, Phoenicia, Judaea, Egypt, Cyrene	<i>page</i>	78
	Syria and Phoenicia		78
	Syria		78
	Phoenicia		80
	Jews in Syria and Phoenicia		82
	Judaea		83
	The Jews of Judaea 200–168 BC		83
	The Seleucid–Hasmonaean Period		88
	Judaea under Rome:		94
	I The End of the Hasmonaeans		94
	II The Reign of Herod the Great		99
	III Palestine under the Herodians		106
	IV Judaea under Procurators		108
	V The Reign of Agrippa I		111
	VI Roman Procurators		113
	VII The First Jewish Revolt		115
	VIII Judaea AD 70–135		120
	IX Judaea in the Antonine Period		125
	X Judaea in the Severan Period		126
	Egypt		127
	Outline of History 304 BC to AD 284		127
	Jews in Egypt		135
	Philo of Alexandria (c. 15 BC to c. AD 45)		140
	Cyrene		140
	Jews in Cyrene		141
5	The Jewish Diaspora and Roman Empire in Later Centuries		143

## PART II

6	The Synagogue	145
	Origins	145
	Evidence of Vocabulary	146
	Archaeological Evidence	147
7	Law, Prophets and Writings	149
	The Law	149
	Prophets	149
	Writings	150
	Text Transmission	151
	Traditional Jewish Understanding of the Canon	151

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

8	Greek Versions, Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	<i>page</i>	153
	The Septuagint		153
	Apocrypha		155
	The Septuagint Apocrypha		156
	Vulgate Apocrypha		158
	English Bible Apocrypha		158
	Pseudepigrapha		158
	The Main Pseudepigrapha		159
	Other Pseudepigrapha		168
9	The Qumran Writings		171
	The Wicked Priest and the Teacher of Righteousness		177
	The Main Qumran Documents		180
	Texts of the Hebrew Bible		180
	Apocryphal or Para-Biblical Texts		181
	Texts of Apocrypha or Pseudepigrapha		
	Already Known		182
	Further New Material		182
	Greek Manuscripts		183
10	Early Rabbinic Judaism		184
	The Pharisees		184
	The Oral Law		186
	The Chain of Tradition		187
	Early Rabbis		189
	Generations of Rabbis		195
	Targum, Midrash, Halakah, Haggadah, Mishnah, Baraita, Tosephta		196
11	Christian Writings		198
	The New Testament		198
	New Testament Apocrypha		198
	The Apologists		201
	The Early Gnostics		203
	Christian Writers of the Second Century		207
12	Writers, other than Jewish or Christian, in the Roman Empire 200 BC to AD 200		210



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

Appendix I: Dates	<i>page</i> 220
Appendix II: The Literature	229
Appendix III: Chronological Tables	237
1 The Early Roman Emperors and the Augustan Succession	238
2 Hasmonaeans and Herodians	239
Bibliography	240
Index	244

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## General Editors' Preface

The three general editors of the Cambridge Bible Commentary series have all, in their teaching, experienced a lack of readily usable texts of the literature which is often called pseudepigrapha but which is more accurately defined as extra-biblical or para-biblical literature. The aim of this new series is to help fill this gap.

The welcome accorded to the Cambridge Bible Commentary has encouraged the editors to follow the same pattern here, except that carefully chosen extracts from the texts, rather than complete books, have normally been provided for comment. The introductory material leads naturally into the text, which itself leads into alternating sections of commentary.

Within the severe limits imposed by the size and scope of the series, each contributor will attempt to provide for the student and general reader the results of modern scholarship, but has been asked to assume no specialized theological or linguistic knowledge.

The volumes already planned cover the writings of the Jewish and Christian World from about 200 BC to AD 200 and are being edited as follows:

- 1 *Jews in the Hellenistic World* – J. R. Bartlett, Trinity College, Dublin
- 2 *The Qumran Community* – M. A. Knibb, King's College, London
- 3 *Early Rabbinic Writings* – H. Maccoby, Leo Baeck College, London
- 4 *Outside the Old Testament* – M. de Jonge, University of Leiden
- 5 *Outside the New Testament* – G. N. Stanton, King's College, London
- 6 *Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman Views* – M. Whittaker, University of Nottingham

A seventh volume by one of the general editors, A. R. C. Leaney, *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200*, examines the wider historical and literary background to the period and includes tables of dates, relevant lists and maps. Although this companion volume will preface and augment the series, it may also be read as complete in itself and be used as a work of general reference.

P.R.A.

A.R.C.L.

J.W.P.

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978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Author's Foreword

This book is intended as a student beginner's guide to the history of Judaism and Christianity in the period 200 BC to AD 200, and to the literature associated with both the Jews and Christians which falls outside the list of accepted books of the Old Testament, Apocrypha and New Testament.

The book is divided into two parts. The first is concerned with the history of the peoples where Jews lived, and of the Jews themselves in those places, covering the Mediterranean world, Mesopotamia and Egypt and part of Europe and North Africa. This has involved an outline history of Rome from 264 BC to AD 284, necessary also because of its importance for the history of so many other peoples.

The second part deals with the literature which arose from Judaism. It discusses the Jewish scriptures – the Law, the Prophets and the Writings – and the New Testament, almost wholly as formed collections, and mentions only briefly individual books among them. For information about these the reader is referred to the Cambridge Bible Commentary Series based on the New English Bible. The literature discussed here is the non-canonical writings of both Judaism and Christianity, of which most students of the Bible are perhaps only dimly aware, while conscious of their importance. Besides \*Jewish writers in the hellenistic world, these are the \*Pseudepigrapha (for the term see p. 158), the \*Qumran writings, \*early rabbinic Judaism, and \*non-canonical Christian writings. In addition, the lists at the end of the book include \*non-Jewish and non-Christian authors of the Roman Empire. (Separate volumes on all the subjects marked with an asterisk, giving examples in English translation from representative authors with commentary, are being published in the same series as the present volume.)

The author acknowledges with sincere gratitude the hard work contributed by his fellow-editors, Professor P. R. Ackroyd and Canon J. W. Packer, the former having supplied important parts of the material and the latter having undertaken a full and

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A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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*Author's Foreword*

thorough final revision. He is most grateful also for essential constructive criticism from the Revd J. R. Bartlett, Professor M. de Jonge, Dr M. A. Knibb, Mr Hyam Maccoby, Professor G. N. Stanton and Miss M. Whittaker. Mr Roger Coleman of the Press has given to the task much hard work and patience. While the author accepts full responsibility for the final product, he thankfully recognizes the corporate discharge of a varied task.

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A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Abbreviations

Standard abbreviations for the books of the Bible and the Apocrypha are given on p. 229, those for the Qumran documents on pp. 233f., those for the Pseudepigrapha on pp. 231f., and those for certain rabbinic writings on pp. 234f. The following occur in the text:

<i>ANET</i>	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i>
AV	Authorized Version of the Bible
b.	In Jewish names 'ben' (= 'son of'); elsewhere 'born'
c.	<i>circa</i> , Latin for 'about', used for approximate dates
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CPJ	Corpus Papyrorum Judaicorum
d.	Died
<i>DOTT</i>	<i>Documents from Old Testament Times</i>
<i>fl.</i>	i.e. <i>floruit</i> , Latin for 'he flourished'. Used with a date to indicate the most active period in the life of someone whose dates of birth and death are unknown
<i>Hist. Aug.</i>	<i>Historia Augusta</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LXX	Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament
<i>Making</i>	E. B. Mellor (ed.), CBC <i>The Making of the Old Testament</i>
M	Mishnah
NEB	New English Bible
P. Ox.	Oxyrhynchus Papyrus

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A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

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Map 1 The Diaspora. After S. Safrai and M. Stern (eds.), *The Jewish People in*

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 A. R. C. Leaney  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)



the First Century, Vol. I, Van Gorcum (Assen), 1974

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-28557-5 - The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200

A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Map 2 Asia Minor. After L. H. Grollenberg, O.P., *Atlas of the Bible*, Nelson, 1956



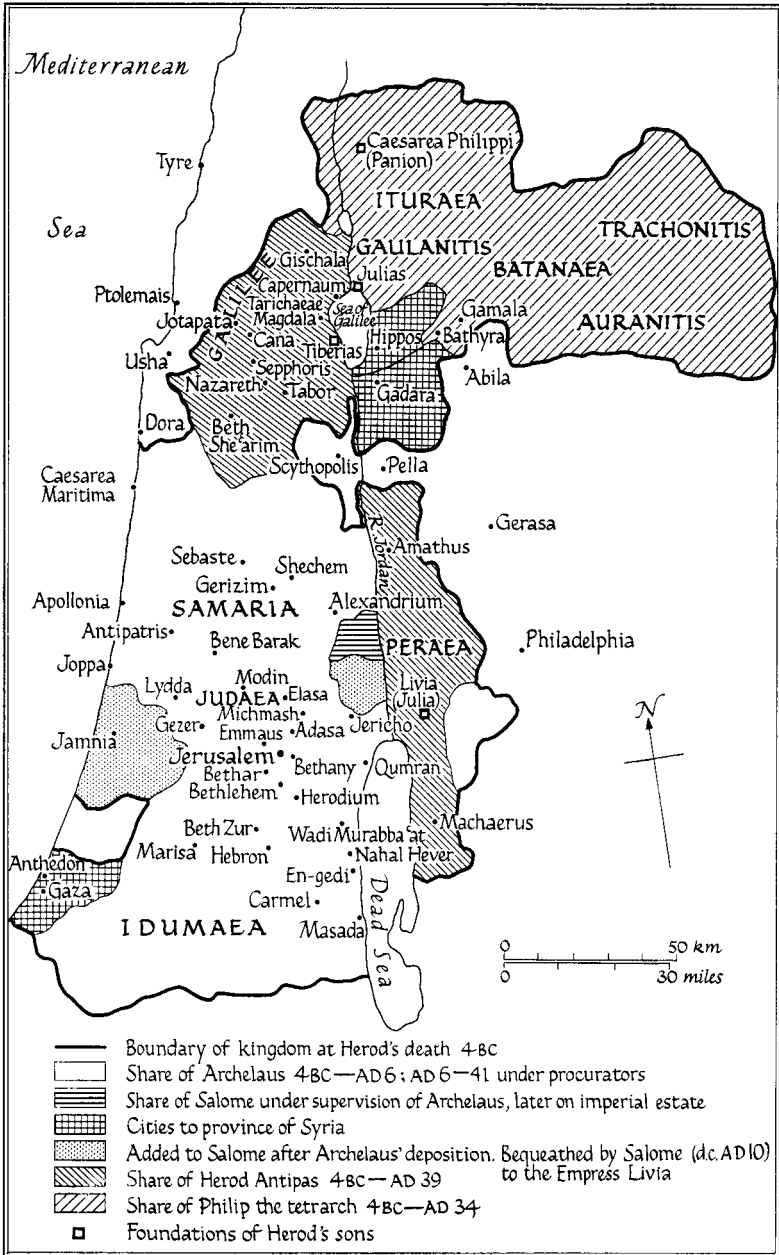
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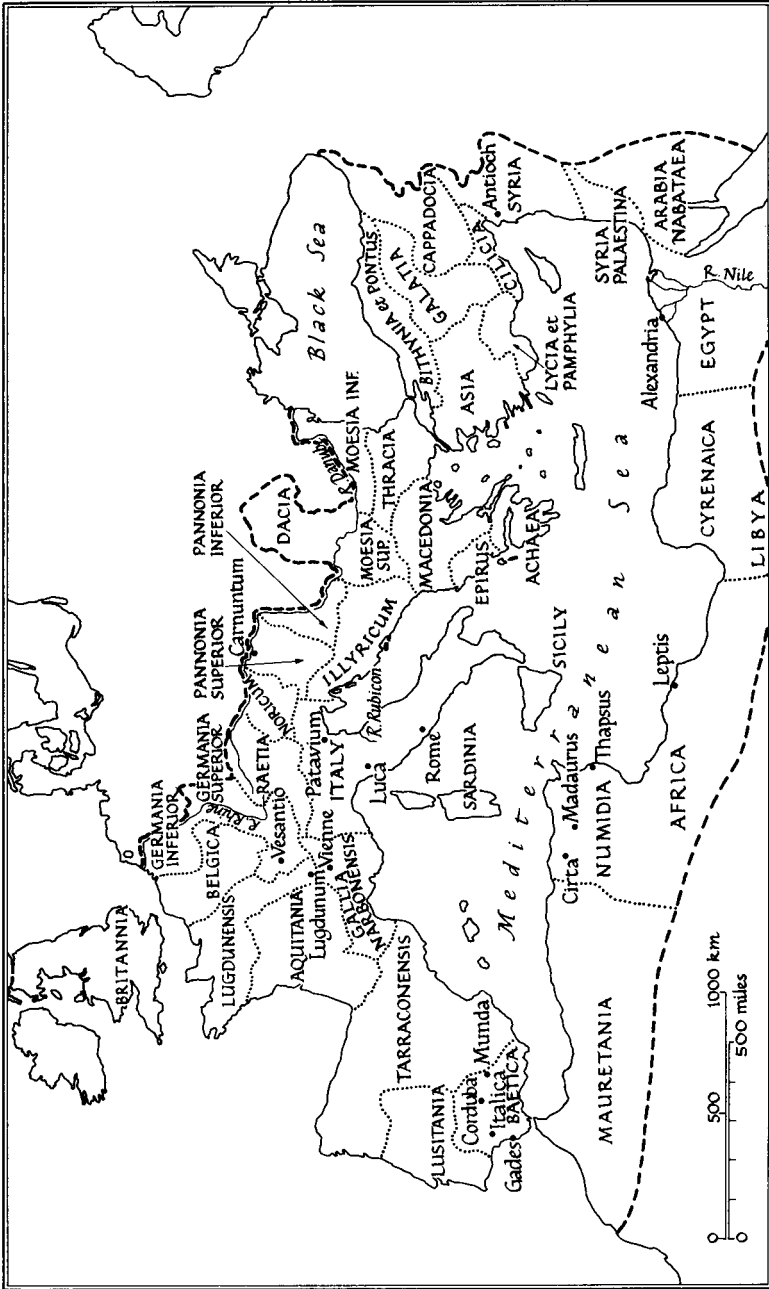
A. R. C. Leaney

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Map 3 Palestine after death of Herod. After S. Safrai and M. Stern (eds.), *The Jewish People in the First Century*, Vol. I, Van Gorcum (Assen), 1974



Map 4 Provinces of the Roman Empire AD 161. After Michael Grant, *The Climax of Rome*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1968, p. 257