

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

### Advance praise for the second edition

---

“*The Cambridge Companion to the Bible* was a remarkable contribution when it was first released in 1997, which only makes the achievements of this thoroughly updated second edition all the more impressive. The abundance of stunning new photos from Todd Bolen, the additional sidebars of useful, contextualized information, the new maps in each section, and the revised bibliographies and main text all make the second edition an essential book for serious students, clergy, and general readers alike.”

–Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

“This resource book offered by Cambridge University Press is a rich, accessible, and reliable reference. It provides state-of-the-art scholarship that connects each of the Biblical books to its socio-historical context. Its offer of ‘social history’ is broad and deep. Such a perspective is crucial in the current ‘battle for the Bible,’ and the work here is exceedingly well done. Its publication will immediately make it a primary reference for serious students of the Bible.”

–Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

“A clear, up-to-date, and authoritative account of the Bible by the leaders of the field, the new edition of the *Cambridge Companion* defines the context in which the Bible is read for history, literature, religion, and theology, the best path into Scripture now in print.”

–Jacob Neusner, Bard College, Distinguished Service  
Professor of the History and Theology of Judaism

“For those readers of Scripture who want a broader and deeper glimpse into the forces and factors which shaped the Biblical community, it is hard to imagine a tool more convenient and accessible than *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*.”

–The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Fifteenth Episcopal Bishop of  
New York

“An excellent update of a masterful work! *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition*, is packed with indispensable information of understanding the world’s best-selling and most influential book. It somehow manages to be both studious and exhilarating, thorough yet remarkably concise. No other Bible companion is as competently informed by modern archaeological research or by historical analysis of the societies for which the biblical writings were produced. The main text, trustworthy and illuminating in its own right, is supplemented by more than 250 sidebars that render the volume ripe for browsing and provide a wealth of information on intriguing topics. As a bonus, the Companion also treats the significant apocryphal works that did not come to be numbered among the ‘sacred sixty-six’ books of the Christian canon but that are revealing of Jewish and Christian religion nevertheless.”

–Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

### Praise for the first edition

---

“A truly wonderful book. Clear, concise, illuminating. It will be useful for all of those of us who preach every week, and for the educated person who wants to learn more about the sacred scriptures without being overwhelmed by academic detail. Everyone should have a copy.”

– Father Andrew M. Greeley, The University of Chicago and the  
University of Arizona

“The Bible, the greatest of all books, is half-closed to those who cannot identify the innumerable names and places which are central to almost every chapter. *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible* answers this need in a learned, and very accessible, way. It is indispensable to the general reader and to the student.”

– Arthur Hertzberg, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Dartmouth College

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini  
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO THE BIBLE, Second Edition

Written by an international team of experts, *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*, second edition, provides in-depth information and analysis on the canonical writings of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, as well as the apocryphal works produced by Jewish and Christian writers. Throughout, the book offers an expanded focus on the ever-changing social and cultural worlds in which the biblical authors and their original readers lived. Bruce Chilton served as the general editor of the second edition, synthesizing revisions from the authors, information on the most recent archaeological discoveries, and the new secondary literature. Improvements to the *look* of the book include 107 stunning new photographs, a new color section, and nine newly created maps (for a total of 21). In addition, all of the 250 sidebars have been updated, and 22 of them are new to this edition, collectively illuminating the book's main narrative. The result is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in fully encountering the Bible and its world.

**Bruce Chilton** is Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College. His most recent books include *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography* (2000), *Redeeming Time: The Wisdom of Ancient Jewish and Christian Festal Calendars* (2002), *Rabbi Paul: An Intellectual Biography* (2004), and *Mary Magdalene: A Biography* (2005).

**Howard Clark Kee** is William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of Biblical Studies, Emeritus, at Boston University. He is the author or editor of more than twenty books, including the first edition of *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*, *Understanding the New Testament* (fifth edition), and *Jesus in History* (third edition).

**Amy-Jill Levine** is E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University. Her numerous publications address Christian origins; Jewish-Christian relations; and sexuality, gender, and the Bible. Her most recent books (as author or editor) include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (2006), *The Historical Jesus in Context* (2006), and *The Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writing*.

**Eric M. Meyers** is Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Judaic Studies at Duke University. He has authored or coauthored nine books, edited many others, and published widely in the fields of Hebrew Bible, biblical archaeology, and Second Temple Judaism. He also served as editor in chief of the five-volume work *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East* (1997).

**John Rogerson** is the author of *The Atlas of the Bible* (1984); *The Study and Use of the Bible*, volume 2 (1988); and *The Bible: A Cultural Atlas for Young Children* (1993) and coauthor of *The Old Testament World* (1989).

**Anthony J. Saldarini** was at the time of his death in 2001 Professor of Biblical Studies at Boston College and a leading scholar of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism. His books include *The Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan* (1975); *Jesus and Passover* (1984); *Pharisees, Scribes and Saducees in Palestinian Society* (1989); and *Matthew's Christian-Jewish Community* (1994).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini  
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO THE BIBLE

---

Second Edition

**Bruce Chilton,**  
General Editor

Bard College

**Howard Clark Kee**

Boston University, Emeritus

**Amy-Jill Levine**

Vanderbilt University

**Eric M. Meyers**

Duke University

**John Rogerson**

University of Sheffield, Emeritus

**Anthony J. Saldarini**

Late of Boston College



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini  
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521869973](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521869973)

© Cambridge University Press 1997

© Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Amy-Jill Levine,

Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Anthony J. Saldarini 2008

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First edition published 1997

Reprinted 1997, 1998 (twice), 1999

Second edition published 2008

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

The Cambridge companion to the Bible / Howard Clark Kee . . . [et al.].

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Bible – Introductions. 2. Bible – History of contemporary events.

3. Bible – History of Biblical events. I. Chilton, Bruce

BS475.2.C26 1997

220.9 – dc20 96 – 43914

ISBN 978-0-521-86997-3 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-69140-6 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

---

<i>Editor's Foreword</i>	page ix
<b>Introduction</b>	I
<i>Howard Clark Kee</i>	
I. Preface	I
II. Purpose	3
III. The concept of God's People	4
<i>Bibliographical Essay</i>	35
<b>Part One. The World of the Hebrew Bible</b>	39
<i>Eric M. Meyers and John Rogerson</i>	
I. The World of Israel's Ancestors	39
II. The World of Israel's "Historians"	110
III. The World of Israel's Prophets	178
IV. The World of Israel's Worship	249
V. The World of Israel's Sages and Poets	281
VI. The World of Apocalyptic	305
<i>Bibliographical and Biographical Essay</i>	316
<b>Part Two: Jewish Responses to Greek and Roman Cultures, 322 B.C.E. to 200 C.E.</b>	327
<i>Anthony J. Saldarini as revised by Amy-Jill Levine</i>	
I. Preservation and Adaptation: The Encounter with Hellenism	327
II. Antiochus IV and the Maccabean Crisis	346
III. Roman Invasion and Jewish Response	395
IV. Herod the Great	406
V. Herod's Heirs	412
VI. Roman Rule in the First Century C.E.	418
VII. Mid-First-Century C.E. Crises	434
VIII. The Jewish World after the Fall of Jerusalem	443
<i>Bibliographical Essay</i>	473

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

<b>Part Three: The Formation of Christian Communities</b>	481
<i>Howard Clark Kee</i>	
I. Jesus and the Covenant	481
II. Paul: The Jesus Movement in the Roman World	530
III. Christianity Responds to Formative Judaism	579
IV. Christianity Responds to Roman Culture and Imperial Policy	606
V. Diversity in the Church	651
VI. Attempts to Unify Faith and Practice	659
<i>Bibliographical Essay</i>	673
<i>Index of Biblical References</i>	683
<i>General Index</i>	709

*Color plates follow page 38*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69140-6 - The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, Second Edition

Edited by Bruce Chilton, Howard Clark Kee, Eric M. Meyers, John Rogerson, Amy-Jill Levine and Anthony J. Saldarini  
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

---

Contributions from Cambridge University Press have stood out for several decades among introductions to the Bible and works of biblical reference. In *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*, serious students as well as general readers have enjoyed access to critical discussion of the Scriptures with appropriate reference to the secondary literature. In terms of judicious balance, theological sensitivity, and historical accuracy, the Press has set the standard within this sector of publishing.

This second edition revises and updates the brilliant investigations developed in the first edition of key historical and exegetical issues within the study of the Bible. Two principles have been applied consistently to the task of revision.

The first principle involves understanding the social histories of Israel and the early Church as they shaped the biblical texts. This approach identifies the constituencies for which the sources of the texts were produced. By “sources” we do not mean the documents as they stand (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and so on), but rather the traditions that fed into those documents. The final, editorial moment when traditions were crystallized in writing is a vital juncture in the literary formation of the Scriptures but is not solely determinative of their meaning. The unfolding of meanings within texts during the whole of their development explodes the claim of a single, exclusive meaning in biblical exegesis. The *Companion* attends to the variety of meanings inherent within the Scriptures – without limitation to a particular theory of interpretation, and with constant attention to issues of historical context.

The second principle concerns reference to archaeological discoveries, already an important feature of the first edition. The archaeological aspect of any work in the Bible has been severely complicated since the appearance of the first edition. Accusations of fraud and forgery, including warrants of arrest issued by the Israel Antiquities Authority, have emphasized the necessity of disciplined care in this field. In addition, new electronic communication permits images and maps to be produced that improve on the illustrative value of the first edition. Finally, the interpretative interface between archaeology and exegesis has seen renewed discussion within the last decade, which is reflected in this second edition.



My involvement in the second edition of the *Companion* comes at the suggestion of Howard Clark Kee (William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of Biblical Studies, Emeritus, Boston University), who served as General Editor of the first edition, and with the agreement of Eric M. Meyers (Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Judaic Studies, Duke University) and John Rogerson (Professor of Biblical Studies, Emeritus, the University of Sheffield), Professor Kee's colleagues in that project. They have been helpful and patient in consulting on the second edition, a process that was greatly facilitated by Andrew Beck (Commissioning Editor, Religion and Anthropology, Cambridge University Press). A great deal of the work that the late Anthony J. Saldarini (Professor of Biblical Studies, Boston College) contributed to the first edition remains; with the permission of his estate his section of the *Companion* was revised initially by Amy-Jill Levine (E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, Vanderbilt University). I worked on the basis of revisions, my own contributions, and the original work, giving all my colleagues access to any part of the manuscript they asked to see in addition to their own sections.

Collaborative projects are notorious for occasioning unanticipated and inadvertent disagreements. Owing to the high level of engagement on the part of my colleagues, I am happy to note that any disagreements in preparing the second edition have been professional and substantive; these scholars have also been extremely cooperative in implementing my policy of attempting to explore possible consensus, while letting a range of opinions become explicit, as appropriate. The *Companion* focuses on exegesis and interpretation with close reference to texts and encourages readers to pursue issues of scholarly debate as they may wish.

Todd Bolen (Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, The Master's College, Israel) consulted with my colleagues and me on archaeological work and provided a number of illustrations, so that the images differ substantially from those in the first edition. (Consultation with staff of the British Museum, the Cairo Archaeological Museum, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Culture, Heritage Malta, the Ministry of Culture in Ankara, the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, the Soprintendenze Archeologica di Roma, and the Soprintendenze per i Beni Archeologici delle province di Napoli e Caserta resolved issues of authenticity and of the fair use of images.) In addition, maps for the second edition expand on the initial presentation and take greater account of physical features as a result of the work of David Cox.

It remains for me only to thank my colleagues, to acknowledge the support extended to the project by the Press and by Bard College, and to wish our readers well in assessing the literatures of the Bible within the contexts that produced them while enjoying the enduring significance of their messages.

Bruce Chilton  
Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion  
Bard College