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Gallaty's "The forgotten Jesus: How western Christians should follow an eastern rabbi" (Book Review)

Lindsay Hallam
Alaska Christian College

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Book Reviews



Gallaty, R. (2017). *The forgotten Jesus: How western Christians should follow an eastern rabbi*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan. 224 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780310529231

“If we look at Christianity today and compare it to how it began, we might notice that the ‘Jewishness’ of both its founder and its original followers have been lost” (p. 13).

This is the premise for Gallaty’s newest book, *The Forgotten Jesus: How Western Christians Should Follow an Eastern Rabbi*. Written for the general Christian population with the purpose of inspiring readers to rethink the cultural lens through which they view Jesus, and on a larger scale, Christianity, *The Forgotten Jesus* is similar to other books of its kind. Along with other books about Jesus from a Jewish perspective, this book seeks to bring readers back to a more historical view of Jesus and the culture in which he lived.

The Forgotten Jesus stands out from its counterparts by including cultural history from the Old Testament as well as the New. Gallaty emphasizes the need for Christians to understand the Old Testament in its cultural context in order to fully understand the New Testament. “By knowing the Old Testament, the Bible Jesus read and studied, we are better able to identify the connections that Jesus made, identifying himself as one with God.” (p.106)

After giving the reader a brief three-chapter review of the Old Testament period and the intertestamental period, Gallaty then spends a chapter tying the two testaments together, emphasizing the many links between the two. Gallaty uses the word *kesher* (Hebrew for connection) to describe these links.

The remainder of the book examines the Messianic miracles that Jewish tradition mandated the coming Messiah fill, the four groups of people who questioned and tested Jesus during his ministry, and the trial, arrest, and death of Jesus, all through a Jewish context.

Gallaty concludes *The Forgotten Jesus* with a helpful list of “next steps” for those that want to continue their studies in this subject, including a bibliography of resources that he recommends.

This book will give readers a deeper understanding of the significance of Jesus’ “Jewishness” and will lead to a clearer overall picture of the Bible in its original context.

Reviewer

Lindsay A. Hallam, Alaska Christian College