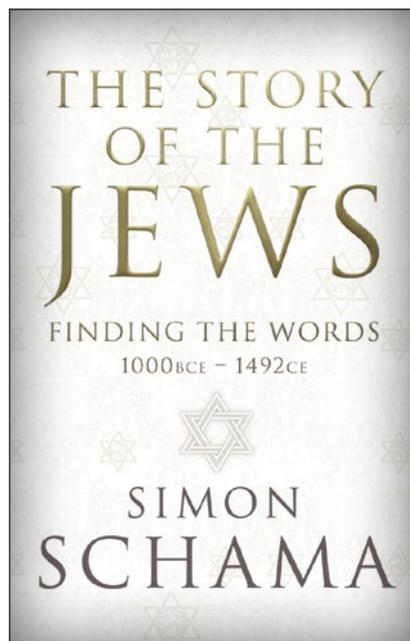


Christian and Muslim sources. But what followed was forced conversions and yet another outburst of hatred towards the Jews, resulting in the 1492 Spanish Expulsion, modelled on the English example of 1290.

There are excellent illustrations included, and this book, though long, is worth reading.

RCurtis



Victor Kugler:
The Man Who Hid Anne Frank
Eda Shapiro & Nick Kardonne

Gefen Publishing House 2008
HB p 136
ISBN 978 9652294104
£ 12.50

This readable book is a testimony to a Righteous Gentile. The story of Anne Frank needs no introduction and the book places another piece in the jigsaw that is her story. The book is as much about the quest to find out more about him as it is about his interaction with Anne, the Frank family and the secret hiding place.

Elements of the narrative are quite poignant and parts which are particularly gripping like the

time when the cover of the Frank's hide-out was broken and the Gestapo arrived with the heart-stopping search and eventual finding of the family. Then their poise and demeanour as they were taken away. But this story is about Victor Kugler – the Mr Kraler in the Diary of Anne Frank, - and we read of the horrors that he later endured because he had been part of sheltering and hiding Jews. It is amazing that he - like many others - ever survived the brutality.

The book reveals a quiet man of deep moral conviction who ended his days in Canada, impoverished and with Alzheimer's disease. He received the medal of 'Righteous Among the Nations', planted a Tree in the Avenue of the Righteous at Yad Vashem, was honoured by the Dutch and Canadian governments and, of course, the Canadian Council of Christians & Jews.

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Journey through the Old Testament
The Five Books of Moses:
A Family Story Book
with Masterpieces of Art
Suzanne E. Lier

Verlag Bibel und Kunst. 2013
ISBN: 978-3-9815308-1-0
(English Edition)

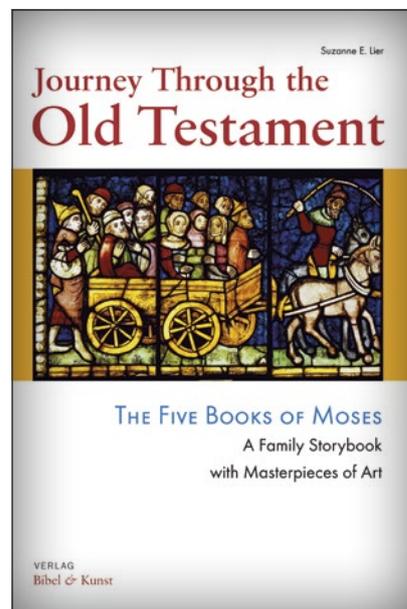
This is an amazing book, the likes of which we rarely see today. It is designed to be read by the parent with the child (ages 5+). Sturdy with a hardcover, there are over 300 pages of easy-to-read biblical text, full colour plates and commentary on the painting or sculpture. There are excellent column notes providing further information, possibly more suitable for older children or adults as it discusses Biblical concepts and imagery,

The paintings, photographs of ceilings, manuscripts, murals and sculptures chosen are interesting

but I had difficulty in finding a rationale for the choice which is predominantly, but not exclusively, pre 19th century. All the stories chosen will at least be familiar to some adults. One other criticism might be the choice of paper for the images. A gloss paper may have been preferable since often a level of sharpness and clarity of the painting was lost with the use of a matt finish.

However with Christians' knowledge of the Old Testament so sadly lacking, this is not only a helpful family book, but one which can be used in those sometimes challenging all-age church services and addresses, with wonderful opportunities to project the image on a screen. It will have 3 benefits: open the whole congregation to a new appreciation of religious art; familiarize everyone with major Hebrew Scripture stories; and finally offer an opportunity for exciting and creative exegesis with which all will be able to engage.

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