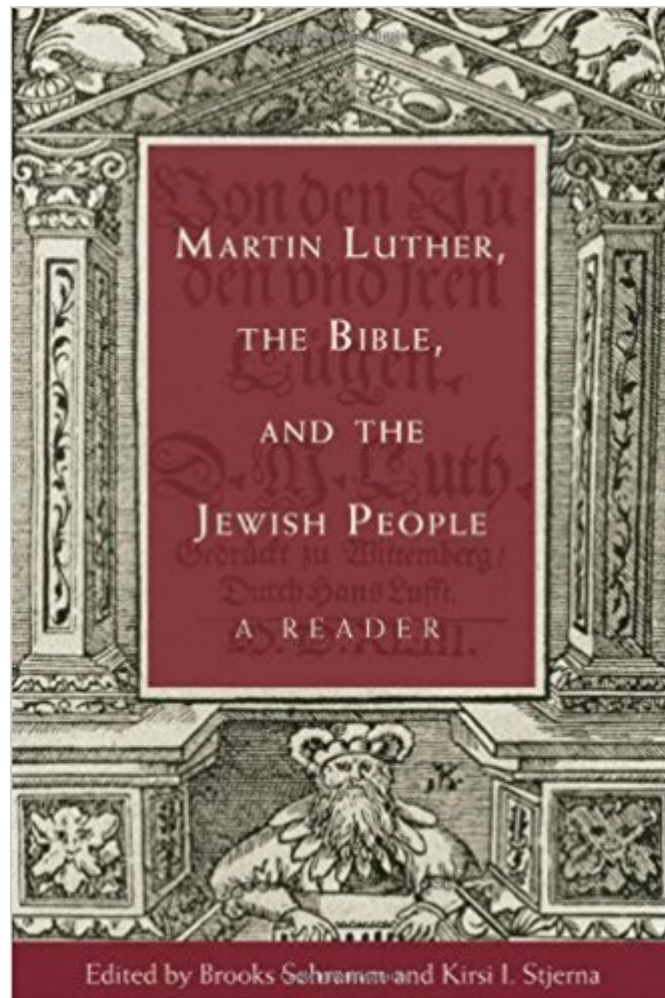




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# Martin Luther, The Bible, And The Jewish People: A Reader



## Synopsis

The place and significance of Martin Luther in the long history of Christian anti-Jewish polemic has been and continues to be a contested issue. The literature on the subject is substantial, and diverse. While efforts to exonerate Luther as "merely" a man of his times who "merely" perpetuated what he had received from his cultural and theological tradition have rightly been jettisoned, there still persists even among the educated public the perception that the truly problematic aspects of Luther's anti-Jewish attitudes are confined to the final stages of his career. It is true that Luther's anti-Jewish rhetoric intensified toward the end of his life, but reading Luther with a careful eye toward "the Jewish question," it becomes clear that Luther's theological presuppositions toward Judaism and the Jewish people are a central, core component of his thought throughout his career, not just at the end. It follows then that it is impossible to understand the heart and building blocks of Luther's theology (justification, faith, liberation, salvation, grace) without acknowledging the crucial role of "the Jews" in his fundamental thinking.

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## Customer Reviews

"With great precision and clarity, this reader re-opens and decisively advances the discussion of Luther's relationship to the Jews. Indispensable for all future study of this vexed question." --Denis R. Janz, Loyola University, New Orleans

Written by two distinguished Lutheran scholars, one an expert on the Hebrew Bible, the other an authority on the Reformation, this volume makes an invaluable contribution to our understanding of a central yet little understood dimension

of Luther's writings: the place of Jews and Judaism in the Reformer's thought. Quickly dismantling the accepted but false notion that this aspect of Luther was important to him only at the end of his life, Schramm and Stjerna prove that it was in fact an abiding theme in his writings. The texts they choose to translate and introduce demonstrate that this concern was one, in fact, that pervaded the entirety of his career. Beautifully contextualized socially and theologically, these documents are also expertly translated from the Latin and German. This superb and timely collection of texts will be of interest not only to Luther and Reformation specialists and teachers but to historians of Jewish-Christian relations and of the history of interpretation of the Bible." --Kevin Madigan, Harvard Divinity School

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But the engine in the development of Luther's theological thought as it relates to the Jews is his biblical hermeneutics. Just as "the Jewish question" is a central, core component of his thought, so biblical interpretation (and especially Old Testament interpretation) is the primary arena in which fundamental claims about the Jews and Judaism are formulated and developed.

Truly a horrid book. It's the intellectual equivalent of walking knee deep in mud. This book is a slow slog. Luther's writing are a muddle of nonsense in this book. Maybe it's the translation of his works? I highly recommend NOT getting this book. It will give you headache. Maybe even a toothache. The writing style is horrible. The translation style is terrible. There aren't ways to express how painful it is to read this book. Find something else. Don't waste your time. It's like the author went out of his way to avoid having a smooth flow of thought. Just terrible, horrid, mind numbingly dull.

Like new. It is in very good condition and has the material needed for a graduate course. It is also well indexed.

I purchased this for my son who is working on his Masters in Divinity. He used this book for one of his papers and received an A.

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