

By Jeffrey P. Garcia

First and foremost I must say how much I admire the Authorware taking it back to where it all started. There would be no bible without the Ancient Jewish influence. It was also quite informative in its reference to geography pertaining to the origin of the writings. Garcia goes even a step further by mentioning the connection to the Old Testament. There is no question that the books of Psalm, Isaiah, and Genesis are most often quoted. Even a person that is not consistently in the church likely knows verses from one of those books.

As we dig deeper we also are introduced to the fact that a lot of the books in the bible are based on interpretation. The fact that there are longer, and shorter versions

of certain stories makes that clear.

Pseudepigraph collections of writings are also important though they were falsely attributed to certain biblical figures.

Garcia also takes us to The Dead Sea Scrolls of Qumram. Personally I was not previously aware there were over 1000 scrolls found in caves between 1947 and 1956. When you look at those dates it is clear that writings are still being recently discovered about a time many centuries ago. It's also fascinating that no New Testament fragments were found. Though he does make us aware that parallels to the New Testament can be found in 5th Century AD and 8th Century AD.

One thing that definitely peaked my interest was Garcia's use of Graphics to express how important geography was to

the creation and writing of the Gospels. A clearer picture is definitely painted for the reader when actual pictures are used. Letting us know where Jesus' ministry took place is very enlightening.

The fact that Garcia's work explains the political climate surrounding the Gospels also helps us understand the climate Jesus was up against even past Herod and his dangerous ways. The piece would not be complete without mentioning what Jewish life was like during that time. Again Jeffrey Garcia and his writing leaves no stone unturned while discussing that topic as well.

The last thing I will touch on is how Garcia tackles the teaching of the Gospels written skillfully and with visual clarity. I could go on and on about this fascinating writing

but I will end by saying I would highly recommend it to any student of the Bible or anyone that wants a better understanding of how the Gospels came to be, and how to approach the reading of them successfully.

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