

David Flusser and R. Steven Notley, The sage from galilee. Intro by **James H. Charlesworth**. Pp. 191 Price \$ 23.27 ISBN:9780802825827.

David Flusser was a professor of early christianity and Second temple Judaism at the Hebrew university of Jerusalem. He is a member of the Israel academy of sciences and humanities , and a recipient of the national Israel prize in 1980 for his academic achievements. R. Steven Notley is a professor of bible studies at the New York City Campus of Nyack college. He is a member and past director of the Jerusalem School of school synoptic research.

In the first chapter of this book, it talks about how it is possible to write about the life of Jesus. The author explains that they have access to fuller records , they have records of contemporaneous emperors and Roman poets who lived during or around Jesus's time. It is explained that the documents and accounts about Jesus that come from non-believers can actually be beneficial for understanding more about His life.

The second chapter speaks about the Ancestry of Jesus. It touches on the history behind His name, His genealogy, His natural family, His childhood , education, upbringing and even family topics that He experienced. The books and accounts that are being used to help the reader understand Jesus' background are the books of Luke, Matthew, John, and mark. This chapter also includes an account of a Greek author named Lucian who lived from C.A 120 - A.D 180 giving his remarks on who Jesus is.

Chapter three speaks about Baptisms. The chapter starts out by quoting [Mark 1: 2-1] then goes on to briefly speak about John the Baptist. It talks about his influence and also about what led him to his death. But he is mentioned again in the middle of the chapter and is talked about for the rest of the chapter along with Jesus. This chapter also gives you a quick rundown on what Traditional Jewish baptismal are .Then the chapter takes a turn and shifts its attention towards Jesus getting baptized and how he lived his life after doing so. It also speaks about the true meaning of baptisms. In this chapter it also shows an interesting picture of the

earliest known depiction of Jesus being baptized by John the baptist, and under the picture it gives very interesting facts about the history of the picture.

Chapter four speaks about law and how Jesus went about abiding by it. Topics such as Jesus healing on the sabbath are brought forth, Jesus forgiving sins, Jesus healing gentiles and Jesus offering salvation to gentiles. Stories like the It also highlights the Pharisees' hypocrisy and even speaks about how Jesus handled his disciples when they broke the law. The chapter comes to a close talking about Jewish-christian sects being left lonely because of their own actions. More information about this topic of those sects are found in this chapter.

Chapter five speaks on love. It touches on topics like why we ought to show love and mercy to all people, whether good or bad, Forgiveness, loving our neighbors as ourselves, how the Law of Moses and its rigidity hindered jews during the Greek and Roman era from loving the way God intended. The books of Matthew and Luke were often used throughout the chapter to help the reader. This chapter gives us a deeper understanding on How Jesus viewed love and how His teachings on love were controversial to some The author also went into depth about some of Jesus' phrases conquering with love. He gave the original meaning or hebrew translation behind some phrases, to help us understand what Jesus is really saying about love.

The sixth chapter speaks on ethics. In this chapter the author does a lot of comparing and contrasting between the essence and Jesus. It gives a breakdown on the essence history and beliefs. Such as their economic ties, How they went about following the Law and their disagreements with Jesus. The authors compare and contrast topics like loving one's enemies, showing mercy, and views on the annihilation of evil. The chapter ends by speaking about Jesus' concept of the righteousness of God.

The seventh chapter of the books speaks about the kingdom of God. The Beginning of the chapter starts off by quoting [Luke 20:20-26]. After quoting this scripture the author starts to explain what Jesus' motive was for saying what he did, which gave a good foundation for the rest of the chapter. In the middle of the chapter multiple different sources are used and different topics are brought up like,

Realized eschatology, the pre- christian Assumption of Moses, the Temple scroll of Qumran, and more. From the middle of the chapter towards the end the focus shifts towards the end times and how God's kingdom is involved. There are multiple views on such topics in this chapter, some views line up with Jesus' view on the plan for God's kingdom in the end times and some views do not, but each view is very interesting to read about.

The eight chapter speaks on “The Son”. This chapter starts off by telling a brief story about a man named Hanina, he was a miracle worker and would often pray for God to send rain and would heal. After the story about Hanina is told then the author compares the traits that Jesus and Hanina share concerning calling God Abba[Father] and other matters concerning the teaching of children, and performing miracles. The chapter then transitions to speaking about Jesus addressing God as being His father and why Jesus' sayings were different from other people addressing God as Abba. The author used different illustrations from the bible to explain the difference. And to show how Jesus revealed that he was The Son in his living and in his speech.

Chapter Nine speaks on “The Son of Man” It begins by quoting [Luke 9:18-20] which was Jesus asking his disciples who people think He is and who His disciples think He is. Then it goes on to speak about what most people believed that Jesus was. In this chapter multiple examples are given of Jesus stating or indirectly saying that he is the son of man and the messiah. This chapter gives examples of Jesus' role as The Son of Man and also the messiah. It also gives an in depth explanation unto what the Son of Man really is and uses the old testament to help better understand who and what he is.

In the Last three chapters It speaks about Jerusalem[chapter 10] Jesus predicting its destruction, Jesus causing conflict and winning over crowds in the city, and Jesus death and life being connected with the city. The next chapter speaks about Jesus Death[chapter 11]. It touches on topics like pilates relationship with the Jews, pilates characteristics, other sources of the mocking of Jesus before the crucifixion and the last moments of Jesus life on the cross. The last chapter[chapter 12] is the epilogue. The author speaks about two revolutionary trends that brought a change in the christian faith. The first was cognitive Dissonance which arose in the wake

of the tragedy of the crucifixion and the second when Paul was actively preaching about a new faith to the gentiles which caused christianity's ties to Judaism to begin to unveil. Which seemed like a problem because Jesus in nature is a Jew. it also speaks about how he believes that no where in the first three gospels it shows For anyone to believe in Himself, he believes that Jesus spoke only about His relationship with the father. Towards the end of the chapter the author explains that he was able to use sound scholarship to help us understand the real historical Jesus.