

*Jews and Anti-Judaism in Esther and the Church*, by Tricia Miller. James Clarke & Co., 2015, 210 pp.

The author is an academic Bible scholar who is currently a senior research analyst at CAMERA (the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America), making this a unique work on Esther. The book traces the way Esther was interpreted through history; with particular emphasis on the anti-Jewish Christian approach that Esther demonstrates Jewish aggression. This is related to current anti-Zionist trends within Christianity that seek to negate the right of Israel to defend itself against those who seek its destruction.

*The Commentator's Bible: Deuteronomy*, Michael Carasik, editor. Jewish Publication Society, 2015, 296 pp.

The final volume of the new JPS "Mikraot Gedolot", where the Hebrew text is surrounded by both the new and old JPS translations and abridged (and sometimes revised) versions of the commentaries of Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Ramban and the questions of Abarbanel, along with some Additional Comments. A useful volume for those not fluent in Hebrew who want the experience of engaging with the Torah text and the traditional commentaries.

*The Bible on Location: Off the Beaten Path in Ancient and Modern Israel*, by Julie Baretz. Jewish Publication Society, 2015, 344 pp.

A guidebook to 21 Biblical sites in Israel by a veteran Israeli tour guide. The book is arranged in chronological order, covering the period of the books of the Prophets and Writings, beginning with Jericho (Joshua 2 and 6) and ending in Jerusalem (Ezra 8-10, Nehemiah 2 and 4), with an emphasis on places not normally visited on organized tours, such as Geshur (2 Samuel 13) and Shunem (2 Kings 4). Each site description contains the relevant verses from the Bible, historical and archaeological information, the author's lively commentary, maps and technical information regarding how to get to the sites. This paperback is ideal for visitors, and is also appropriate for those who want to learn about the places where the Biblical narratives took place from the comfort of their home.

## NEWS OF THE JEWISH BIBLE ASSOCIATION

### GREETINGS TO EDITOR EMERITUS DR SHIMON BAKON ON HIS 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



Dr. Shimon Bakon began his association with *The Jewish Bible Quarterly* in 1975 with Volume 4:2, when he joined the Editorial Board of the journal then known as *Dor leDor*. He was appointed Assistant Editor in 1976, starting with Volume 4:3, and Associate Editor in 1978, starting with Volume 7:1. He was appointed Editor in 1987, starting with Volume 16:2, and was Editor for 25 years until 2012. Born in Czechoslovakia, he attended the Jewish high school in Brno, received private tutoring in Talmud from his father, and in 1939 earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at Masaryk University. After reaching the United States, he studied for three years at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn. In January 1942, he joined the U.S. Army, served with distinction in North Africa and Italy, and received an Honorable Discharge in 1945. Thereafter, he took a post-doctoral fellowship in philosophy at Columbia University in New York, and went on to be director of Jewish education first in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and then in Springfield, Massachusetts. In Springfield, he was instrumental in establishing a branch of Boston Hebrew College, and for more than 10 years served as its administrator and lecturer in Jewish Philosophy. In 1974, he made aliya to Israel with his wife and children, and soon after began his association with this journal. The directors of the Jewish Bible Association and the Editorial Board of *The Jewish Bible Quarterly* extend their greetings and blessings Dr. Shimon Bakon.