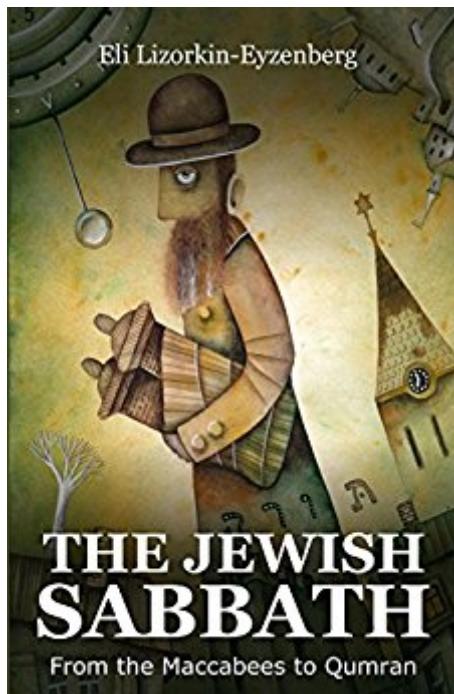


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# The Jewish Sabbath: From The Maccabees To Qumran



## **Synopsis**

This is a reading for serious students of Jewish history and the Hebrew Bible. It is based on my M.Phil. thesis at Stellenbosch University. It deals with the concept of the Sabbath held by Jews between the period of the so-called Old and New Testaments. Was there a major Jewish view of the Sabbath or were there varied views? Was the Sabbath one of the most important issues facing the Jewish Community, or was it rather a peripheral issue? What was the place of Covenant with YHWH in relation to the Sabbath? What was the impact of the historical events of the period on views of the Sabbath? Was the understanding(s) of the Sabbath legalistic, or was there a depth of heartfelt spirituality accompanying Sabbath observance? Were the rules with regard to the Sabbath actually carried out, or were they largely ignored? The author answers the above questions by looking at five books (Jubilees, 1 and 2 Maccabees, the Damascus Document and Josephus' Jewish Antiquities). These books, written between 200 B.C.E. and 100 C.E, are representative of the literature that deals with the issue of the Sabbath in significant ways.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is really an excellent study of the aspects of Sabbath experience and practice in the period between 200 B.C.E. and 100 C.E., and a preliminary study to provide background information to the question: Did the Jewish Christians of the first century change the day from Saturday to Sunday. The author queried the text of five books that deal with the issue of the Sabbath in a substantial and representing way and covering this period: Jubilees, 1 en 2 Maccabees, the Damascus Document and Josephus Jewish Antiquities. At the same time the author takes into account all the major historical research. In a very structured and systematic way he questioned the Sabbath periscopes within a short but complete study of the main topics of each individual book. So he shows more clearly how the Sabbath periscopes fit into the larger structure of each book and how they fit into the whole purpose of the authors. After this very solid for study the Sabbath be queried and conclusions drawn. This unique book provides all brevity in a great amount of information and after reading the book I was the owner of a very clear and complete picture regarding the Sabbath in the studied period. It is a must read for every scholar, student or the one who is interested in Judaism, is studying on the Sabbath or the question: Did the Jewish Christians of the first century change the day from Saturday to Sunday. In addition, this book is a good introduction to the study of the five books that mentioned the subject of study. Drs. Charles van den Berg

I have read "The Jewish Sabbath". For me it has been a very interesting reading, not only for the issue of Sabbath, but also because I am quite ignorant about all what happened in Israel after Nehemiah, so this work has helped me to put together various bits and pieces. The Sabbath was really a central matter for Jews in the time of the late second Temple; yet, it is still quite difficult, at least for me, to get the clear picture of how Sabbath was felt by the people who had disputes about it with Jesus. I'd tend to believe that they didn't have so extreme views as in the Jubilees or in the Damascus Code, but I think that further study on this subject would be very useful. This is an excellent start!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I am finally at peace with the word Sabbath. The teachings I typically have heard glossed over the word. This excluded my background (a form of Judaism) and I was unable to read my Bible. Worse yet I had to rely on somebody else's perspective to trust that I was right with God in the matter. Finally a proper vetting of the word and I know I am right with God.

I am in process of reading it. Profound & interesting; good, challenging read! I am very fond of this

author's works: thoughtful, well researched, original, worthwhile.

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