

Published in Association of Jewish Libraries Reviews, September/October, 2015, p. 14.

Morgan, Michael L. and Steven Weitzman (Eds.). *Rethinking the Messianic Idea in Judaism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2015. 454 pp. \$110.00. (9780253014696). Also available as an eBook.

This is a collection of fifteen papers given at a workshop at Princeton University. The contributors are scholars from a range of disciplines, though all but one are based in the United States. The topics are quite various; for example, there are two essays by Kenneth Seeskin and Menachem Kellner on the messianic thought of Maimonides, another by Shai Held on that of Zvi Yehudah Kook, and yet another by Michael L. Morgan on that of Emmanuel Levinas. Of great personal interest was Annette Yoshiko Reed's "Messianism between Judaism and Christianity" and "Messianic Religious Zionism and the Reintroduction of Sacrifice: The Case of the Temple Mount Institute" by Motti Inbari. The article "He That Cometh Out: On How to Disclose a Messianic Secret" by Steven Weitzman deals with the fascinating topic of the psychology of messianic claimants, but struck me as a bit disappointing because there seems so little solid information on which to theorize. At least two or three of the essays have explicit political agendas, basically to tame messianic activity and discourage its political manifestations. This book is probably most appropriate for academic collections that are either comprehensive or include a specialization on messianism.

Shmuel Ben-Gad, Gelman Library, George Washington University.