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Zakheim, Dov S. *Nehemiah: Statesman and Sage*. New Milford and Jerusalem: Maggid Books. 2016. \$27.95. (9781592643691). Also available as an eBook.

Dov Zakheim is ordained as an Orthodox rabbi, and he has served as Under Secretary of Defense and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense in the U.S. government. Thus his interest in the biblical figure of Nehemiah, governor of Judah under the Persian king Ataxerxes, arises both from his religious studies and experience in government. Zakheim analyzes Nehemiah's situation, character, and behavior, drawing primarily upon the Biblical book bearing his name and secondarily upon rabbinical and modern scholarly commentaries. While his engagement with the commentaries is not without interest, the strength of the book is in his bringing to bear his own experience and knowledge of politics and government as he deals directly with the Biblical book. Zakheim argues that Nehemiah was a very accomplished, even great, political leader: seriously religious nationalistic, compassionate towards the poor, and wise in the ways of politics. He revived the Jewish polity in Judah religiously, economically, socially, and militarily, and accomplished this not only against external enemies, but also in the face of opposition by some members of the Jewish elites who were content with the status quo of oppression of the poor and rife intermarriage. An insightful tome.

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