

Published in Association of Jewish Libraries Reviews, May/June, 2017, p. 18.

Berger, Yitzhak. *Jonah in the Shadows of Eden*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016. 172 pp. \$60.00. (9780253021298).

This relatively short book makes a complex, somewhat dense argument: namely, that the Biblical book of Jonah is constructed in a very sophisticated way and contains many, often subtle, connections and allusions to numerous other Biblical texts (e.g. the tales of the Garden of Eden and the Exodus, the book of Ezekiel). Further, the author (a professor at CUNY's Hunter College) argues that the book intentionally draws two contradictory portraits of the prophet. One is of a stern man who flees God's call to him because he does not want to see the sinful city of Nineveh repent and be saved from destruction. That is the traditional interpretation of the book. The second is that of a "dreamy idealist" who does not recognize the seriousness of sin. A man who flees from God because he thinks God means to destroy Nineveh. The book of Jonah, in Dr. Berger's interpretation, comes out against both extremes and asserts the beneficial nature of repentance and efforts at moral improvement. For collections of Biblical studies.

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