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Mittleman, Alan L. *A Short History of Jewish Ethics: Conduct and Character in the Context of Covenant*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. 201 pp. \$34.95. (9781405189415). Also available as an ebook.

This is a fine study and relatively accessible for an academic work. The author, a professor at Jewish Theological Seminary, acknowledges the complexity of the Jewish ethical tradition but concludes there are at least three major themes: a concern for both personal virtue and a just political order, encouragement for perfectionism, and a monotheistic grounding for ethics. In 201 pages, Dr. Mittleman provides enlightening discussions of many texts and thinkers. The biggest challenge, perhaps, is his chapter on rabbinic ethics given the vastness and unsystematic nature of those writings, characteristics he freely acknowledges. The book is mostly descriptive rather than evaluative. Dr. Mittleman does seem particularly concerned to show the value of Jewish ethics to those operating from mainstream secular philosophical schools of thought. Recommended.

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