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Attias, Jean-Christophe. *The Jews and the Bible*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015. 235 pp. \$75.00. (9780804789073). Also available as an eBook.

Dr. Attias of the Sorbonne has evidently thought long and deeply about the Bible's place in Judaism and Jewish culture. He thinks the "special link" between the Jewish people and the Tanakh is both ambiguous and unstable, varying, at least in part, according to the circumstances in which the Jewish people find themselves. One of his key notions is that the Tanakh is essential to, but not always sufficient as the basis of Jewish identity. Attias sees the Bible as a product of Jewish culture that always requires interpretation. Although traditionally revered, its practical role in the lives of even religious Jews has varied considerably. The book, in part, explores the relationship of many groups to the Tanakh such as the Talmud-centric Ashkenazi Charedim, the bibliophilic Oriental Sephardim, the Talmud-rejecting Karaites, maskilim, Zionists, and religious settlers—all (except the last) treated with at least some scholarly objectivity. At the same time, the author is not reticent about expressing his own views. An academic but accessible study, the subject of which is so fascinating that it could well justify a much longer book.

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