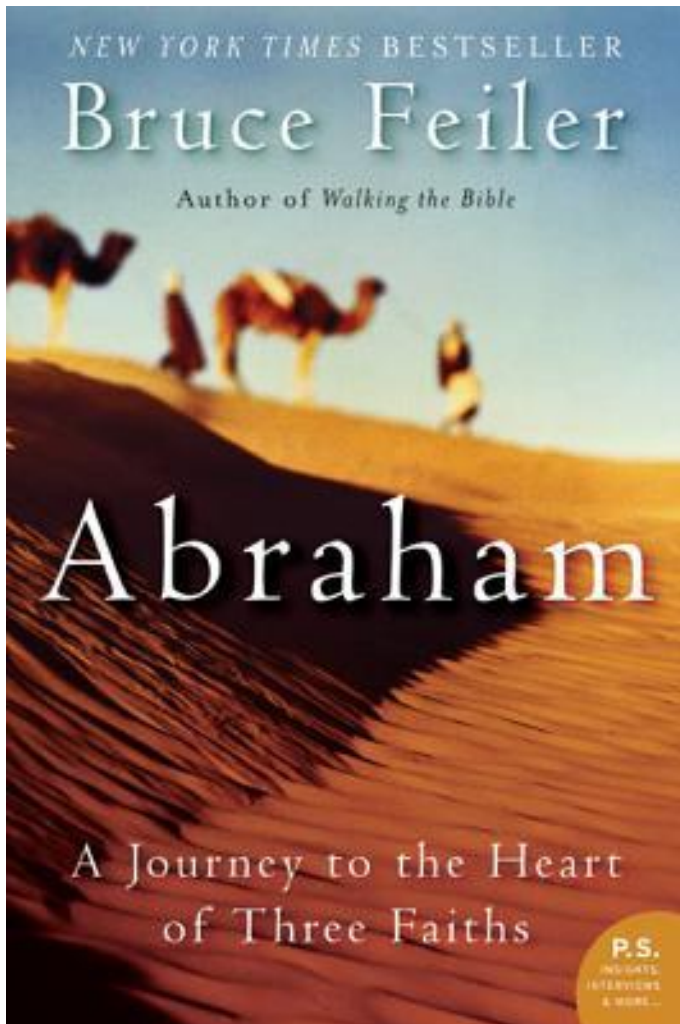

Bruce Feiler

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths



Title: Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths

Author: Bruce Feiler

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 272

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0060838663

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.8 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Both immediate and timeless, **Abraham** tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders, **Bruce Feiler** uncovers the defining yet divisive role that Abraham plays for half the world's believers. Provocative and uplifting, **Abraham** offers a thoughtful and inspiring vision of unity that redefines what we think about our neighbors, our future, and ourselves.

This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Insightful reviews

Georgia Herod: Because I have been a student and teacher of the Bible, I read with great interest Feiler's book, particularly because I knew I was limited in my understanding of the perceptions of Abraham by adherents of Judaism and Islam. Feiler goes in search of the real Abraham, history's first monotheist and the father of twelve million Jews, two billion Christians, and one billion Muslims. Feiler allows the reader to participate in his quest as he seeks out the documents related to the many legends about Abraham. Feiler expresses his surprise, shock, and disappointment in his findings. He expresses his confusion along the way. USA Today said, "Bruce Feiler went looking for proof. He learned that proof doesn't matter." (That could also be applied to the history and books of the LDS church.)

Separate chapters trace the necessity of each faith for Abraham in order to establish its legitimacy. Feiler uses interviews with experts, renowned scholars, theologians, and archaeologists (and others) to introduce each segment of his subject matter. That contributed a sense of immediacy for the reader. In addition, the reader journeys with Feiler as he walks the streets of Jerusalem, stands near the Wailing Wall, visits ancient shrines, climbs to the caves of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and enters Hebron under high security. Because I have traveled in Israel, these forays helped make Feiler's search even more personal to me.

Abraham's story stands at the root of the Middle Eastern conflict today. Can the religions co-exist? Perhaps, perhaps not. Historically, they have become geo-political.

As I read Feiler, I often turned to Genesis to verify his presentation. Because I've looked at Abraham from the Christian perspective, I was interested in the other vantage points, even differences in the narrative.

Feiler's conclusion: Abraham "represents the basic desire all people have to form a union with God." Abraham is a "physical manifestation of the fundamental yearning to be descended from a sacred source." Those are deductions that I've not made in my study of Abraham before.

Feiler provides an overview of Abraham in the three faiths. As a result, brevity and absence of more specific detail could be a weakness. Fluid, vivid prose.

Karen Powell: The world's three major religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - have many major differences that cause conflict all over the world. But the three are united in their devotion to Abraham, the folk hero of 4000 years ago who predates all the modern religions, but is claimed by each as their "father." [return][return]Feiler travels to the volatile Middle East to the land where Abraham once walked to get a better understanding of the influential figure. Along the way, he talks to followers of the three different religions in order to grasp a better understanding of Abraham, and ultimately to wonder if through their love of Abraham, can there ever be peace among dissenters?[return][return]There are some amazing revelations along the way. For one, Jews and Christians agree that Isaac was the son to be sacrificed by Abraham, while Muslims insist that it is Ishmael. Also, Abraham himself was largely forgotten after his time until a revival designed to reignite the Jewish faith after the destruction of the Second Temple. [return][return]The book confronts the animosity among the different religions, but in a gingerly way, pleading for peace and understanding. Flaws in each belief are exposed, but Muslims in particular come off particularly harsh when the chosen representative of Islam in an interview with the author gives a defense of suicide bombers. This is explained away as the unfortunate current representation of Islam today, saying that the hope for this religion lies in its Western believers, who live in more peaceful areas. I don't know if that's patronizing or naive. That the author, and many others, can maintain a positive hope for understanding is very heartening after being confronted with some disturbing views.

Karen McIntyre: This book was the first of the Feiler books I read. I read it in response to wanting a better understanding of the relationship among the three peoples of the Book. I had Muslim children in school for whom I worried after 9/11.

I found hope in this book written by a Jew that good could come from such monumental evil. As a result I attended a salon locally where a Rabbi, an Imam and a Christian Minister shared their experiences with the Abrahamic stories in the "old testament" -- there that shows my particular bias!

It is well worth reading --- as are his other books. But each is a call to change --- one person at a time. A change in our hearts toward one another and recognizing that God speaks to all!

Something missing from our discourse is Feiler's call -
"The message of Abraham is to be alone, to be quiet, and to listen. If you never hear the call in the first place, you will never know which way to go." p. 50

We need to spend time alone -- and listen -- not to T.V. newscastment -- but to the experience and pain of our hearts and those of other hearts.

LeeAnn: attention-grabbing book, learning the function of divergent roles and interpretations of Abraham within the 3 significant religions of the world. I got here away with a brand new appreciation of my very own faith and an realizing of why there's lots false impression among peoples in our world. whilst basic ideals are so different, they need to be revered or there'll be

progressively more bloodshed. one in all our middle beliefs, acknowledged within the Articles of religion of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is: "We declare the privilege of worshipping Almighty God in line with the dictates of our personal conscience, and make allowance all males a similar privilege, allow them to worship how, where, or what they may." merely whilst all peoples keep on with that mandate do we comprehend actual peace. i don't believe it's going to come till all assemble jointly in that figuring out and respect.

Jamie: This e-book is attention-grabbing from an cultural perspective, yet I definitely would not suggest it to somebody heavily drawn to studying extra concerning the ancient determine Abraham. even if Feiler interviews a number of specialists from assorted faiths, the e-book is by no means a scholarly method of the idea structures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Rather, it's the trip of 1 guy (who is very uncertain of his personal beliefs) asking questions of alternative humans approximately their trust systems, how they relate to a few of the perceptions of Abraham the patriarch, after which kind of piecing all of it jointly in a touch journalistic way. I picked it up awaiting a number of extra proof and numerous much less slanted interpretations, yet i'd besides have picked up a ebook which claims to offer rationalization and element to the actual features of the human heart, after which is just one person's interpretations of a person's 'heart' feelings. That a lot wasn't so bad... it was once fascinating to learn the viewpoint of a Jewish American on his personal faith and that of Islam and Christianity... yet I needed to placed the whole lot down for a number of weeks whereas interpreting his obnoxiously written point of view on Christianity. It used to be a bit of like gazing the inside track nowadays and seeing a five-minute optimistic document on Obama after which a thirty-second unfavourable document on McCain. i am not fairly partial to both one, yet it is nonetheless frustrating to monitor such biased journalism. Feiler's strategy was once similar, merely during this case, I do ensue to understand a piece extra concerning the historic and present views of Christianity on Abraham, in addition to on different Christian perspectives, and Feiler's interpretations have been infuriating. For example, here's what he writes in first introducing the guy from whom he derives his information regarding Christian beliefs: "We are sitting in his crowded kitchen within the outdated City, a couple of steps from the Holy Sepulcher, and he is fussing round like a talkative aunt... Bishop Theophanes is a kitchen-table conjurer or sorts, a short, hearty Nathan Lane look-alike with a beard who may perhaps function the magician at a yard birthday celebration yet who occurs to be the top of the Greek Orthodox Church within the holiest spot in Christendom." He supplies an image of a half-wit, then proceeds to quote resources as being exact to biblical Christianity yet with which I doubt many in even the extensive all over the world scope of Christianity may agree. Even extra aggravating, Feiler regards either Judaism and Islam with nice respect, even relating the Koran and Mohammad's revelations as if they're thoroughly accurate, yet then treats the hot testimony in a lot an identical approach as one may well deal with a fairy tale, with statements like, "[Jesus'] fans unfold observe that Jesus had no longer really died irreparably at the cross." So Mohammad certainly acquired revelations from Allah, yet Jesus could not in all probability have risen from the dead? the whole lot will be laughable if it were not so blatantly slanted opposed to lending any credence to the Christian faith. i might have anticipated that, yet i would not have anticipated him to painting either Judaism and Islam much more respectfully. There are many little issues which give a contribution to the disposability of this book... equivalent to the blanket assertion that "Muslim discrimination opposed to nonbelievers, whereas profound, by no means reached the degrees of Christian hostility to Jews." That interpretation is not anything just about accurate, but it and

others love it are constant all through Feiler's writing. it can be fascinating as a one-time read, yet to lend the writer any genuine authority on those issues - even that of Abraham, approximately whom he discusses many legends yet does not even come to a decision even if the guy really existed or now not - will be a crime. Overall, i would categorize this booklet extra as one man's questions and interpretations regarding the skills of the most 3 global religions to coexist peacefully than a real look for the old determine of Abraham.

Kerry Campbell: As a Christian i'm attracted to the phenomenon of Abraham because the progenitor of 3 of the most religions on earth. Of specific curiosity was once the portrayal of this personality in the course of the lenses of the 2 different trust platforms that i'm no longer so generic with. In a simple to learn structure this is often instantly a booklet for the curious with out the necessity for critical scholarship, and will consequently be attractive to a large readership. Coupled with this can be the present appetite through the international to appreciate greater the issues of the middle-east and likewise the clarion-call for spiritual tolerance and reconciliation. All of this can be present in this ebook so one can consequently warrantly its luck as a cash spinner. What i locate irritating is the tendency of the author no longer loads to discover the reality of Abraham, yet the right way to reconcile the several faiths. there's the overarching yet unwritten target to discover the typical flooring wherein those 3 religions can be reconciled. It jogs my memory of the announcing "peace at any cost is just too excessive a price" it sort of feels to me to beg the query "is the reconciling of adjustments well worth the sacrifice of truth?" It turns out by no means to go into the writers brain that truly one of many faiths illustration of Abraham may perhaps actually be real as an historic truth and accordingly is a legitimate foundation for faith. The ebook by no means heavily bargains Abraham because the embodiment of a existence lived by way of the truth, and that to consider a fabrication within the identify of tolerance is basically to undermine the foundation for residing in harmony. Abraham as understood in the course of the a variety of "manipulations" of every of the several faiths theologians over a protracted interval turns out so far as i'm acutely aware to be represented quite and with no bias by way of Feiler, yet to assert that Feiler does not have any presuppositions or is certainly a impartial seeker of fact is a miles various thing. after all i need to say that what's tacitly neglected during this booklet is the truth that fact by means of its very nature is exclusive, yet that isn't a well-liked inspiration in todays pluralistic and relativistic culture. to not discover the prospect that truly a type of perspectives of Abraham is right and the opposite fake is a significant flaw in his work, yet thoroughly understandable, given todays non secular climate. All in all worth the learn yet disapointing in seeing the pervasiveness of the fashionable maxims in yet one more author, circulation over Dan Brown :a) God is a build of theologians. b) There isn't any such factor as absolute truth. c) Tolerance is extra vital than truth. d) To defer to tolerance is a warrantly of neutrality. e) To be illiberal of misbeliefs is to be bigoted. f) History depends at the flavour of todays revisionists.

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