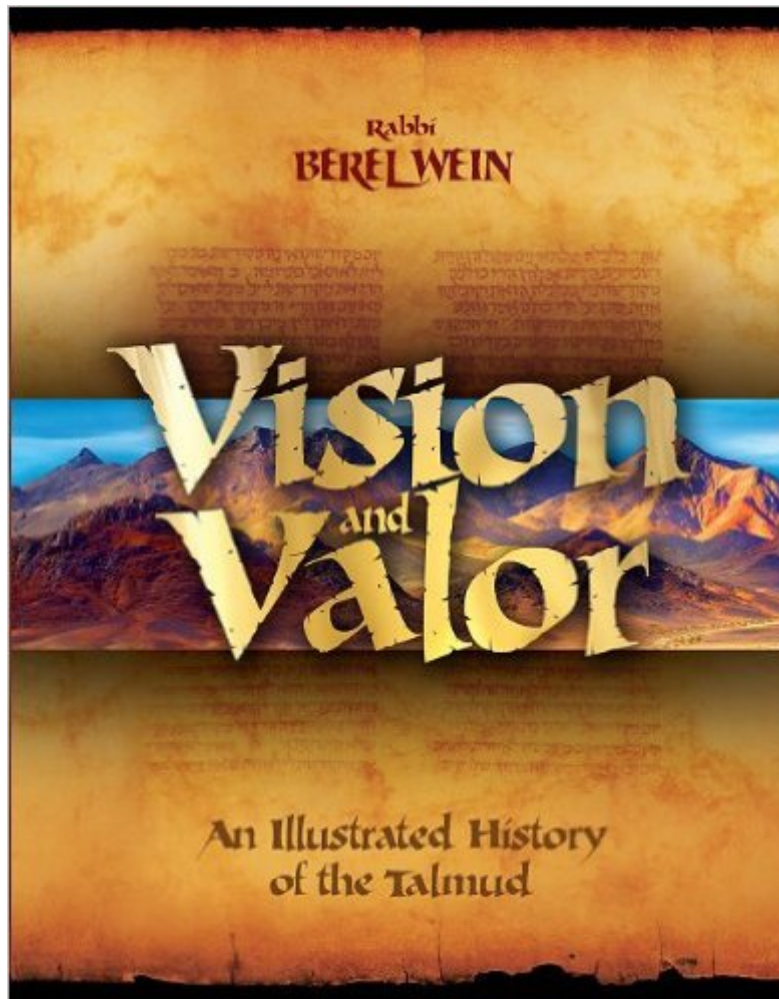


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Vision & Valor: An Illustrated History Of The Talmud



Synopsis

In *Vision & Valor*, Rabbi Berel Wein traces the development of the Talmud, the record of the Oral Law of Sinai as refined, debated, and discussed over four centuries in the great Torah academies of the Land of Israel and Babylonia. This beautifully illustrated, footnoted, oversized volume is a necessity for every Jewish home interested in the soul of Judaism, its rituals, values and practices.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rabbi Berel Wein, one of the leading and highly respected figures of Orthodox Jewry, a man with a large following, offers his readers his understanding of the Talmud and the history of the sages mentioned in it. The book is filled with beautiful pictures of artifacts that existed during the first millennium. The beginning of each chapter has a summary of the dates and relationships to teachers, colleagues, students, and relatives of the sage being discussed. Rabbi Wein teaches that God revealed the written Torah at Sinai with an Oral Torah that explains it. He writes that God kept the Oral Torah unwritten as a special gift to the Jewish people to differentiate them from non-Jews. He states that the Oral Torah was developed further after Sinai, but all of the developments are grounded in the words of the written Torah. Much of this Oral Torah is in the Talmud. He describes the lives of the seven generations of sages, called Amoraim, "interpreters," who are mentioned in the Talmud. He writes that these Amoraim lived from around 200 CE until the Talmud was completed about 500 CE. He tells the lives of the principle Amoraim, about their families, upbringing, social conditions, jobs, struggles, and ideas. He depicts the conditions of Israel, Babylonia, and nearby countries. He includes dozens of interesting tales that could be understood

as true facts or as legends, parables, and sermons. He informs us, for example, that when the third century sage Rav, the first of the Amoraim, came to Israel from Babylonia, the Israeli crops blossomed in his honor. He includes stories such as the talmudic depictions of what occurred in heaven after sages died. He gives the account of Rabbi Yochanan reviving a dead person.

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