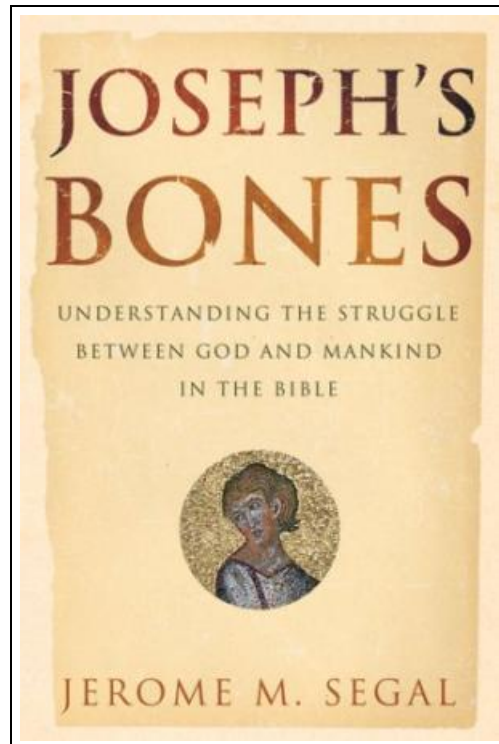


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JOSEPH S BONES: UNDERSTANDING THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOD AND MANKIND IN THE BIBLE (HARDBACK)

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Riverhead Books, United States, 2007. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. It s almost impossible to think of the Bible as anything other than the expression of the religious traditions that view it as Holy Scripture. Yet given that vital parts of it were written as much as a thousand years before the emergence of rabbinic Judaism and the birth of Christianity, there is no obvious reason why this should be true. In his groundbreaking new book, *Joseph s Bones: Understanding the Struggle Between God and Mankind in the Bible*, philosopher Jerome Segal offers a fresh and vigorous reexamination of the oldest part of the Bible. In *Joseph s Bones*, Segal asks you to imagine that you know nothing about Judaism or Christianity and one day pick up something called *The Hexateuch* (the first six books of the Bible). How would you understand the story it recounts? Who is God? And who are the Israelites? And perhaps most important, what is the relationship between God and humanity? Segal maintains that if we approach the Bible without preconceptions, we will find something unexpected: a brilliant, sophisticated, and highly cohesive account of the human condition. He argues that the Bible reads like an existential novel about the struggle between God and mankind, and is far more sympathetic to mankind than to God. Segal frames his analysis by considering the tale of *Joseph s bones*. In the closing words of *Genesis*, as Joseph lies dying in Egypt, Joseph has the sons of Israel swear that when God returns the Israelites to the Promised Land, they will take his bones with them. Some four hundred years later, as the *Book of Joshua* closes, the Israelites honor this commitment by returning and burying Joseph s bones in Canaan, as their ancestors had...

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