

## Israel: Suggested Pre-Trip Readings

Michener, James A. **The Source**: A Novel. New York: Random House, 1965.

A Novel. It's fiction but it's based on historical events in Israel. A very long book, but good.

Feiler, Bruce, **Walking the Bible**: A Journey by land through the five books of Moses. HarperCollins, 2001

This is a very accessible book by a guy who is not a biblical scholar but writes in a way that brings the land alive.

Shavit, Ari, **My Promised Land**: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel. Spiegel and Grau, 2013

This is an excellent book about the foundations of modern day Israel. It takes you through the beginnings of Zionism up to today.

Konner, Melvin **Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews**, Penguin Group, 2003

This is a great read about how Judaism has survived from its humble beginnings through today. It's exhaustive but fascinating.

Montefiore, Simon Sebag Jerusalem: **The Biography**, Vintage Books 2011  
Another exhaustive book- this one about the history of Jerusalem.

Gordis, Daniel **Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn**, HarperCollins 2016

A fascinating study of the history of Zionism and the struggle to decide what kind of "home" Israel should be.

Gordis, Daniel **Impossible Takes Longer**: 75 years after its creation, has Israel fulfilled its founders' dreams? HarperCollins 2023

Another excellent book by Daniel Gordis. He takes a look at Israel's successes and failures over the past 75.

Here are a couple I haven't read but they're on my reading list.

Ouaknin, Marc-Alain, and Laziz Hamani. **Symbols of Judaism**. New York: Assouline, 2000.

Sandgren, Leo Duprée. **The Shadow of God: Stories from Early Judaism**. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Vander Laan, Ray, and Judith E. Markham. **Echoes of His Presence: Stories of the Messiah from the People of His Day**. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family, 1996.

Zetterholm, Karin. **Jewish Interpretation of the Bible: Ancient and Contemporary**. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.