

The Five Books of Moses By Robert Alter

Book The Five Books of Moses summary

What had been for me just a quaint collection of odd little stories told in either a wildly anachronistic and culturally discordant language (KJV) or a sadistically boring translation that made it nearly impossible to believe that anyone would find it in any way compelling as anything more than a paperweight (NIV). **Book The Five Books of Moses pdf** Those are a nice starting point but to grow into adulthood thinking that you know about the Bible based on those tidbits will not prepare you for what's in there and it becomes pretty clear why certain parts are redacted from the version meant for kids. **EPub The Five Books of Moses** Things such as what Alter calls the universal impulse to homosexual gang rape that exists in the city of Sodom and the alarming frequency of children taking sexual advantage of aged parents. **The Five Books of Moses** He speaks from the bank of the Jordan River with the Promised Land in view.

Book The Five Books of Moses pdf

Robert Bernard Alter is an American professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California Berkeley where he has taught since 1967 and has published many acclaimed works on the Bible literary modernism and contemporary Hebrew literature. **The five books of Moses book** As Alan Jacobs puts it: It is a rare thing to find scholars willing not only to treat another text as a master work but also to devote all their skill to illuminating that master work revealing it in its best and clearest light. **EBook The Five Books of Moses** Robert Alter is a masterful scholar and a critic of exemplary sensitivity and tact who both as translator and as commentator has placed himself wholly in the service of the artfulness of the Torah. **The five books of Robert Moses** It is because he has been so attentive in his commenting that he can afford to be so daring in his translation so immune to the "heresy of explanation" so faithful to the literary details of the text that other translators either see as impediments or do not see at all. **The Five Books of Moses Kindle reader** And because Alter (unlike Kierkegaard's Christian scholars) has no interest in "protecting" us from the biblical text his work also however unwittingly provides devotional encouragement to one who would read this text "religiously. **The five books of Moses book** " Reading the edgy rhythmical prose of Alter's translation and consulting his tactful but richly woven commentary such a reader comes away with a deepened sense of the providential care of the Lord for his Israel the minute particularity of the covenantal relationship initiated by this God who allows not a sparrow to fall but by His will and numbers the very hairs of our heads. **The Five Books of Moses** Hardcover Robert Alter is the great Hebrew scholar who gets the reader as close to the ancient text as possible: no flinching no fussy over-interpretation no apologetics no softening harsh judgments. **The five books of Moses Robert Alter** Alter's explanatory notes are about the same length as the translation text and one gets the sense that he is keeping his comments to the absolute minimum necessary for a basic understanding. **When did Moses write the 5 books** For all the draconian commandments (a man who gathers wood on the Sabbath should be stoned to death) and all of the brutality (poor Dinah!) the reader still comes away with awe for the masterful narrative sweep and stately rhetoric. **The five books of Robert Moses** By carefully preserving word choice and rhetorical devices Alter's translation highlights the use of theme and variations echoes artful repetitions special effects and intensification of key scenes. **Book The Five Books of Moses summary** The reader can follow an evolving sense of monotheism with an increasingly accessible if unseen deity an evolving sense of human values within the Israelite nation (ok to smash all the other nations of course) an emerging concept of equality before the law (if you are an Israelite) and the monumental effort to establish nationhood and unity during a period of defeat and exile. **The Five Books of Moses Kindle cloud** For the tedious countdown passages where the exact same list of gifts is repeated for each of the twelve tribes he mentions the refrain in the 12 Days of Christmas

and then one can almost hear people chanting the lists for the pleasure of the sounds one silver bowl. **When did Moses write the 5 books** I do intend to return to this book sometime in the not distant future and I'm very grateful to Robert Alter for putting me on the right course with regard to my overall view of the Bible. **The Five Books of Moses pdf** He is informed by the documentary hypothesis but not in its thrall finding convincing explanations based on narrative intent for some of the features of the text others ascribe to careless splicing of sources. **The Five Books of Moses pdf** His sure-footed understanding of the Hebrew language reveals itself in his care in handling the word "nephesh" often and misleadingly translated "soul" and his distinguishing of three different terms for sexual relations with the nuances that each employs. **The Five Books of Moses** Alter's task in the book is huge: to make a meaningful translation of works that have been translated thousands of times and commented upon by hundreds of thousands of people from dozens of religious traditions. **The Five Books of Moses pdf** He does however consistently tag (in his commentary) the lengthy interruptions of the Priestly redactor--the clearly post-exilic representative(s) of the priestly caste who frequently interrupt(s) the narrative (sometimes with comically inappropriate results) to make sure that people remember to make their temple donations (Exodus 30) give the best sacrificial meat to the priests (Numbers 28-29) or remember the proper dimensions of the tabernacle (Exodus 25). **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses Malone** Deuteronomy is a soaring triad of rhetorically powerful speeches (and horrifying ones at that as their main point is kill everyone who is not like you and don't stop until all of them are dead). **EPub The Five Books of Moses book** It's been a long time since I read through the adventures of the Patriarchs and I was struck by the efforts of the ancient Hebrews to reconcile the dichotomy between the savage world in which they live and the moral framework which they desperately wish undergirded human reality. **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses Basket** Later generations found themselves appalled by the veneration of heroic figures who are often dishonest drunken leches but to my mind there's a courage in enshrining into the founding myths the essential facts of our own complex and often unsavory natures—this is what we sprung from this is what the very best of us look like. **The Five Books of Moses epub free** Quick postscript - probably someone has suggested that the point of God interrupting the Exodus narrative with an elaborate description of the Tabernacle is to inspire in the reader the same sort of boredom which will in part drive Aaron and the Israelites to build their infamous calf in the next section? Hardcover This whole text (Alter's that is!) is a remarkable accomplishment from the introduction--which is I think one of the best essays on translation I have ever read--to the footnotes which make even the dullest passages of Leviticus interesting. **The Five Books of Moses** Hardcover I have rated this book five stars based on the quality of the translation and the fact that this is the Torah (the first five books of the Christian Bible) upon which modern Western literature as we know it was built. **Book The Five Books of Moses pdf**) I still love the KJV but if you want to actually understand the text (and context) you need some guidance -- these stories were written in a dramatically different time and culture. **Book The Five Books of Moses and their** In addition to the well known historical/mythical narrative the book offers the Ten Commandments which underlie all Western systems of law with such critical injunctions covering having no other god carving no likenesses of god using god's name in vain remembering the Sabbath honoring your parents not coveting not committing adultery - hold it none of these are actually illegal in our country. **The five books of Moses book** But anyway the additional regulations/laws outlined in Exodus offer tips on beating your slaves (it's okay if they die a couple days after you beat them - but not if they die on the day you beat them) (21:20) selling your daughter in sex slavery (21:7) coveting your neighbor's donkey (21:17) and many other words of wisdom to guide us. **Book The Five Books of Moses pdf**) Others sins are of a more garden variety such as handling wayward sons (stoned to death 21:18) consensual premarital sex among a betrothed man and woman (both stoned to death [22:23]) rape in a field (man stoned to death [22:25]) rape in a city (woman stoned to death [22:23]) a woman who is not a virgin at her wedding (stoned to death [22:20]) and adultery (a married woman with a man - both stoned to death). **The Five Books of Moses pdf** There are some exhortations to be

compassionate to widows orphans and sojourners but more examples of god demanding that a town or city being put under a ban (in which every living thing - including men women children and animals - are to be killed). **The five books of robert moses** (12/13) Hardcover Masterful comprehensive witty and opinionated THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES is the Bible I've long-dreamed of reading: one that puts the literary and imaginative achievements of the writers of the Hebrew scriptures front and center to showcase the many ways these extraordinary creative voices shaped these remarkable texts. **The Five Books of mosesqua** I must also confess that I (along with everyone else I imagine) skipped some of the lists in Deuteronomy and Numbers—even as Alter argued for their internal coherence and the reasons for their placement in the larger story. **Book The Five Books of moses and their** I rarely give five stars for reviews: the fifth star is an expression of awe for the Herculean labor that Alter undertook and a deep bow of gratitude that I was able to read the results of at least some of that labor. **The five books of moses book** Alter's majestic translation recovers the mesmerizing effect of these ancient stories—the profound and haunting enigmas the ambiguities of motive and image and the distinctive cadences and lovely precision of the Hebrew text. **Literary Criticism The Five Books of moses cone** Other modern translations either recast these features for contemporary clarity thereby losing the character of the original or fail to give readers a suitably fluid English as a point of contact. **The Five Books of Moses kindle cloud** A minor note on the actual narrative: the real bulk of my previous knowledge of Genesis was limited to bible stories from a Children's Bible and some Little Golden Books: **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** That's a lot to take in at 5 in the morning which is when I would typically do my studying. **Book The Five Books of moses pdf**) There's a slightly entertaining story of Balaam and his talking mule. **The Five Books of mosesonia** (22:21) (One of the few - if not the only - attempts at humor in the Torah: **Book The Five Books of moses and their**) There is also a Biblical slaughter of the enemy which causes Moses to be outraged - outraged that they let every female and child live. **The Five Books of Moses kindle direct** (31:15) That could not be allowed to stand so they went back and killed every male child and any woman who may have "known lying with a man. **The five books of moses robert alter** " (31:18) (01/13)Deuteronomy: Deuteronomy is a broad summary of Exodus told mostly from the perspective of Moses before his death. **The five books of moses book** Robert Alter's is simply the best translation of any part of the Bible in English: **The Five Books of Moses religion pdf** Conversely it is his adherence to this specifically literary model of fidelity in representation that leads him into commentary that far exceeds the demands of mere annotation: **The five books of robert moses**]The result is a translation-and-commentary that indeed shows the unfamiliar and often unexpected literary excellence of the Pentateuch: **The five books of moses book** He draws on Masoretic cantillation Ugaritic parallels the Qumran fragments Septuagint Akkadian cognates medieval rabbinic interpretations modern archeological research. **The five books of moses book** He honestly flags the passages that are no longer intelligible, **The Five Books of mosesqua** He is honest about what he calls asymmetry in moral judgments, **EBook The Five Books of moses cone** He clarifies which practices are known to have been common in the ancient world and which are unique to the particular text, **EPub The Five Books of moses malone** From anaphora to wen he sent me to the dictionary and google on every page. **Five books of moses in hebrew** And the beauty still came through more clearly for all that: **EBook The Five Books of moses basket** The introductions to each book encourage readers to take in the Torah as one narrative brought together from multiple sources with attention to detail and arranged with great care, **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** The recurring theme of fraternal rivalry leads to a sense that the most capable man should rule rather than the first born son a major conceptual breakthrough: **The five books of robert moses** The abolition of human sacrifice is a well understood theme obvious in some passages but Alter indicates others where it's indirectly referenced, **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** Alter appreciates the comic effects that overly pious readers tend to miss. **The five books of moses robert alter** In the middle of the mind-numbing census data in Numbers there appears comic relief in the form of a talking donkey. **The Five Books of Moses epubublishing** Alter admires the King James translation for its use of the English language

but he makes it very clear the translators did not get the meaning of the Hebrew: **Book The Five Books of Moses and their** The famous commandment Thou shalt not kill is against murder not killing in general, **EBook The Five Books of Moses pdf** The ringing phrase Proclaim Liberty throughout the land actually means a moratorium on debts not our sense of liberty, **The five books of Moses alter** The KJV has its own beauty as a text with gorgeous language and a set of intentions. **Book The Five Books of Moses pdf** But the Torah is a different text with a different style and different intentions, **Kindle The Five Books of Moses book** Hardcover In the introduction Robert Alter critiques Bible translations that seek to explain theological concepts rather than translate the original Hebrew, **When did Moses write the 5 books** Interestingly he thinks the King James Version is the most faithful. **The five books of Moses Robert Alter pdf** However he seeks to write a translation that will maintain that faithfulness as well as consider a wider array of sources from medieval rabbis to more recent scholars. **The five books of Moses book** The information on Hebrew literary characteristics alone are fascinating, **The five books of Robert Moses** Alter has great respect and enthusiasm for these books which translates quickly to the reader, **The first 5 books of Moses** One of his points that struck me often was how creative the Hebrew is within limitations producing variety within repetition. **Book The Five Books of Moses pdf** Until I make it around to at least perusing the introduction to Hebrew on my bookshelf it's a great substitute. **The Five Books of Mosesque** As for Alter's commentary it is informed by Materialism and Humanism though not it seems Atheism. **When did Moses write the 5 books** Some of the points he makes about the text from this viewpoint are worth noting and some can be taken with a grain of salt, **The Five Books of Moses Literary criticism definition** He also holds to a form of the Documentary Hypothesis although not as firmly as say John Barton, **Book The Five Books of Moses and their** He recognizes scholarly critiques and refers to specific documents as "conjectured", **The first 5 books of Moses** In all it's a most interesting read and there is much to learn even if it is only learning a different viewpoint that disagrees with my own: **The five books of Robert Moses** Hardcover After a disastrous go at Genesis using the NIV Bible translation I arrived at Alter's translation. **The five books of Moses Lapinsky** Alter's footnotes are both humbling in their scholarship and hilarious in their phrasing, **Kindle The Five Books of Moses book list** If there are two ways to say something and one of them is simple and the other one is esoteric and unfamiliar Alter will always choose the latter. **The five books of Robert Moses** I don't often run into English words that I've NEVER seen before but I definitely ran into at least one on every page. **The Torah the five books of Moses pdf** Most of them were terms of philology or Hebraic scholarship but not all of them, **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses cone** If you chafe against the dumbing down of the universe this work will be a healing salve for those wounds, **The Five Books of Moses pdf** I wish I could move onto Exodus but my studies pull me in another direction for now: **The Five Books of Mosesot** Hardcover I purchased this book soon after it appeared and placed it on a shelf with other reference works, **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses cone** Over the years I would look something up in it from time to time, **When did Moses write the 5 books** When preparing a sermon I usually wait until I'm pretty far along in the process before checking commentaries; I like to struggle with the passage on my own first. **The Five Books of Moses epub** Recently after working with a passage I had some questions I couldn't resolve: **Book The Five Books of Moses summary** I looked up what Alter had to say and was struck by how judicious both his translation and his comments were, **The five books of Moses pdf** What is more there was no wasted verbiage on aspects of the text I had been able to figure out for myself: **Five books of Moses in Hebrew** Robert Alter combines the talents of a perspicuous student of modern literature with life-long exposure to the Hebrew scriptures: **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses pdf** This doesn't lead him to reject source criticism entirely though. **Literary Criticism The Five Books of Moses cone** He accepts that the text as we have it developed over a long period perhaps as much as nine centuries: **The Five Books of Moses epub free** "In addition to his dialogue with modern scholarship Alter makes use of the rich tradition of medieval Jewish exegesis: **The Five Books of Mosesqua** I also liked the way he consistently uses "keening" an English word of Irish

origin to translate the Hebrew “qinah, **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** ” It’s one of the few words in English that has both a similar sound and meaning to a Hebrew term, **Religion The Five Books of moses summary** Yet he nowhere explains his choice—this is a man who has no need to call attention to his erudition. **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** The translation successfully combines conveying a feel for the Hebrew text while still reading like literature in English, **The Five Books of mosesqua** It’s quite possibly the best English-language translation of the Torah today. **The five books of moses book** Soon after I began reading this Alter completed his translation of the entire corpus of the Hebrew scriptures and published it to great acclaim. **The Five Books of Moses kindle direct** Based on the evidence of this installment the praise seems justified, **The Five Books of Moses religion definition** Hardcover Robert Alter's translation of the Five Books of Moses is one of those rare books that really is as good as everybody says it is. **Kindle The Five Books of moses lake** How in the world can one do anything new with the Bible? Well as it turns out you can. **Book The Five Books of moses and their** Alter succeeds by sticking firmly to one core principle: to create a literary rather than a theological or a scholarly text. **The Five Books of mosesqua** He is not trying to use the translation to explain the theology of the Bible or (as most committee-driven translations tend to do) to avoid offending anybody's constituency. **Religion The Five Books of moses pdf free** Nor is he interested in the traditional scholar's game of dividing the text into original sources (variants of the J E D and P source texts): **Five books of moses in hebrew** The biases he as (and everybody has biases) are literary--he wants to present the first five books of the Bible as five unique coherent literary texts. **Who wrote the 5 books of moses** He argues cogently in his introduction to Genesis that the multiple streams of original source material do not stand in the way of coherence from a literary perspective, **The Five Books of mosesqua** He mentions the Documentary Hypothesis but makes no effort to tease out the Yahwest (J) and Elohist (E) strands of the text: **The five books of moses book** Tagging these Priestly interruptions is extremely helpful as it helps the reader factor them out of the narrative flow that they interrupt. **Book The Five Books of moses and their** What comes out of Alter's translation is a revelation for those of us who are fairly familiar with the text in other translations: **The Five Books of mosesqua** Instead of one undistinguished mass of one-paragraph proof texts we get five very different and remarkable literary creations: **EPub The Five Books of moses malone** Genesis is almost entirely folkloric narrative except for the story of Joseph which is more like a short story. **Book The Five Books of moses summary** Exodus 1-24 is a coherent historical narrative that Alter manages to make exciting even AFTER Cecil B, **The Five Books of Moses epubublishing** Numbers is part census part historical chronicle and one totally awesome parable (Balaam and the talking ass): **The five books of moses everett fox pdf** I know these texts reasonably well and have written peer-reviewed articles on several of them (Genesis 1 Samuel Ruth and the Psalms): **When did moses write the 5 books** But I have never through any other translation experienced these five books as five unique works of literature. **The five books of moses pdf** Hardcover Continuing my journey through Alter's translation of the Old Testament, **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** The endless contradictions of the Old Testament even down to character and place names reflect a world as chaotic tragic and unknowable as that which we find ourselves facing. **The five books of moses robert alter** I still get goosebumps every time I read Alter's translation of Genesis 1. **The five books of moses book)** The Alter translation and footnotes make what is obscure cryptic or downright confusing much clearer. **When did moses write the 5 books** (Though it seems no amount of scholarship can clear up some confusing passages, **Book The Five Books of moses and their** I typically read sections from Alter then go back to the KJV with a much better grasp of what is going on, **The Five Books of mosesqua** Overall if it were not for central role of the Bible in our culture I wouldn't rate this very highly as literature. **Book The Five Books of moses pdf)** Characters pop up out of nowhere and people (and god) start doing things without any explanation, **The Five Books of mosesus pdf** The Bible especially pales when compared to the Iliad or Odyssey “written” in approximately the same timeframe, **The Five Books of mosesqua** Both Greek works possess depths of characterization adventure comedy and romance that are completely lacking in the first five books of the Bible. **The**

five books of moses robert alter The Greek works feel like more fully formed works of art that consequently are more enjoyable to read: **The first 5 books of moses** Overall however I highly recommend the Alter translation for anyone who wants a better understanding of these books and an artful presentation of the text. **The five books of moses alter** Here are my comments on the individual books as I read them: Genesis: The first four books of Genesis are quite beautifully told as are the last books (focusing on Joseph), **Book The Five Books of moses and their** The whole Tower of Babel story appears out of nowhere goes about 10 sentences then is heard no more. **The Five Books of Moses epub** Abram suddenly appears in the narrative as the chosen one of god (with no explanation) with a weird trip to Egypt: **The five books of moses robert alter pdf** And what's up with all the incest?) The chapters about Joseph however present an overall coherent plot and flesh out an interesting character. **The five books of moses robert alter**) (05/11) Exodus: This book tells the story of Moses leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt and into the Wilderness to create the nation of Israel: **The five books of robert moses** The book itself is a mixture of this history interspersed with the Decalogue/Ten Commandments/ Ten Words the Book of the Covenant and the specifications for building the Tabernacle, **Five books of moses in hebrew** (10/11) Leviticus: This book primarily focuses on ritual matters such as animal sacrifices dietary laws and sanctuary purity: **The Five Books of Moses epub file** Here you'll find the philosophy of an eye for an eye (24:20) and modern Americans will know it's frequently cited proscription against homosexuality (18:18), **The five books of moses robert alter** As a ritual manual it consists of dry rules about what animals to sacrifice and how the blood should be daubed on the priest (8:23) or poured on the altar (4:18). **The five books of robert moses** There are also rules against wearing the skins of different animals at the same time: **EPub The Five Books of moses book** (19:19) Other rules preclude hunchbacks dwarves the blind the crippled and people with acne broken arms or broken legs from offering sacrifice: **The Five Books of Moses epub download** (21:18) (YHWH apparently is opposed to the People with Disabilities Act, **EBook The Five Books of moses pdf free**) As a glimpse into the morals of a late-bronze-age culture Leviticus is vaguely interesting. **The five books of robert moses** (01/13)Numbers: This book has a bit more of a story than Leviticus but it is mostly a mish-mash of rules and censuses of the Israelites (thus the title): **EBook The Five Books of moses malone** Chapter 7 is a particularly dismal list of offerings to the lord, **Book The Five Books of moses and their** In several places the lord gets upset with the Israelites and punishes them with diseases, **The five books of moses everett fox pdf** One guy is stoned to death for gathering wood on the Sabbath. **Book The Five Books of moses summary** (15:32) (You gotta have rules speaking directly to the Israelites as well as to future generations, **Book The Five Books of moses pdf** For his unfaithfulness Moses will die before they cross the river, **The five books of moses pdf** Either he struck a rock and made water flow for his thirsty people or he sent spies into the Promised Land to see what it was like. **The Five Books of Moses Literary criticism definition** Either way he ticked off god and wouldn't be allowed to enter the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering the wilderness, **Book The Five Books of moses and their**)The book summarizes some other stories and includes many many stern warnings against worshipping any other god than Yahweh and idols are right out: **The five books of robert moses** The rules about unclean food come up again as well as the Ten Commandments and other laws, **The Five Books of mosesqua** (If a wife in attempting to break up a fight between two brothers accidentally touches her brother-in-law's testicles her hand is to be cut off, **The Five Books of Moses kindle cloud** (22:11) I'm not sure if you're stoned to death for that: **The Five Books of Moses religion news** While more interesting than Numbers Deuteronomy is still a dreary sermon full of threats and insults: **The five books of moses pdf** I don't read Hebrew so I can only assume that the voluminous in-depth philological analyses are accurate and well-chosen: **The five books of moses lapinksky** I am writing a book about Balaam in the Book of Numbers and Alter's sense of humor and sheer love of these books come through in this passage as it does everywhere, **The five books of moses book** Hardcover Through a distinguished career of critical scholarship and translation Robert Alter has equipped us to read the Hebrew Bible as a powerful cohesive work of literature. **The five books of**

moses alter The culmination of this work Alter's masterly new translation and probing commentary combine to give contemporary readers the definitive edition of The Five Books. **Kindle The Five Books of moses book list** Alter's translation conveys the music and the meaning of the Hebrew text in a lyrical lucid English: **The Five Books of mosesqua** His accompanying commentary illuminates the text with learned insight and reflection on its literary and historical dimensions. Genesis is for real.

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You know.[. His vocabulary is stunning. and the text comes to life. Alter provides the keys to understanding it better. What a beautifully wrought work. The introduction alone is worth the cost of admission. Robert Alter transformed into a richly woven narrative man. So I decided to read the book from cover to cover. His image for the resulting composite text is "collage. There are a few exceptions to the coherent part. Leviticus is a very detailed Priestly instruction manual. Exodus and Numbers are more mixed books. DeMille. I am not by any means biblical novice. Robert Alter makes that happen. And amazingly he even makes it look easy. Good stuff though I'll admit I skimmed the genealogies. (Along with the ancient Greek classics. It is rarely artistically beautiful or morally uplifting. The style is cramped and cold. And the moral landscape is unusual to say the least. (Incest seems to be a reoccurring theme. The middle portions however seem arbitrary and terse. Again the morals presented are not very good. (Jacob appears to be a scoundrel. (Again why does god choose to favor him? Who knows. Pretty run of the mill stuff. As a literature it is dreadful. (His exact crime is not clear. Some are oddly specific. [25:11] Maybe that happened more than one would think. And by the way wearing linen and wool is also forbidden. Wonderful. The Five Books of Moses

