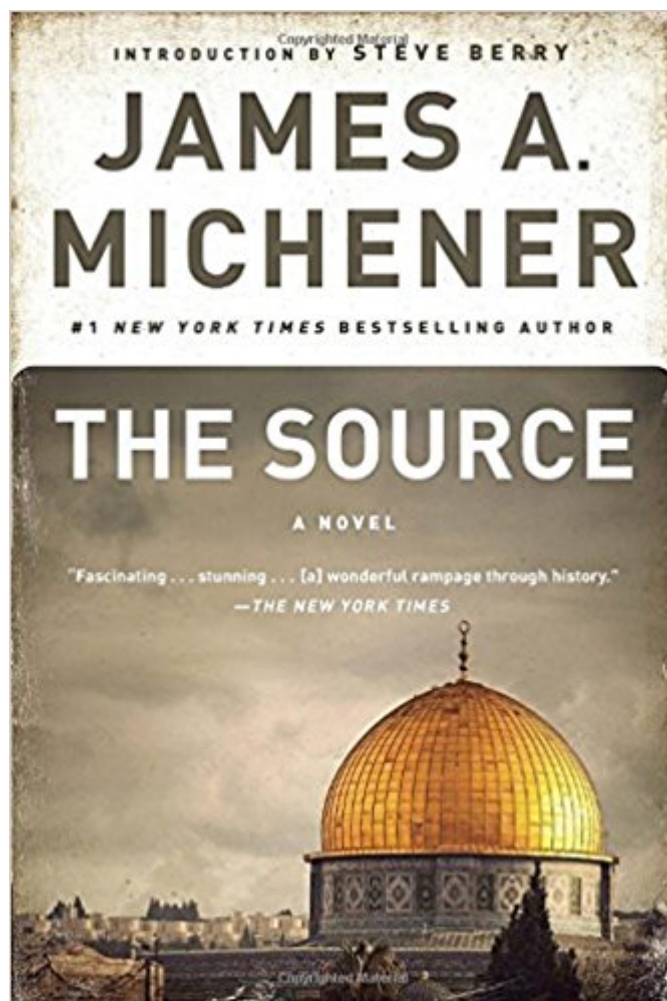


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The Source: A Novel



Synopsis

In his signature style of grand storytelling, James A. Michener transports us back thousands of years to the Holy Land. Through the discoveries of modern archaeologists excavating the site of Tell Makor, Michener vividly re-creates life in an ancient city and traces the profound history of the Jewish people—from the persecution of the early Hebrews, the rise of Christianity, and the Crusades to the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East. An epic tale of love, strength, and faith, *The Source* is a richly written saga that encompasses the history of Western civilization and the great religious and cultural ideas that have shaped our world. *—* Praise for *The Source* *—* “Fascinating . . . stunning . . . [a] wonderful rampage through history . . . Biblical history, as seen through the eyes of a professor who is puzzled, appalled, delighted, enriched and impoverished by the spectacle of a land where all men are archeologists.” *—* The New York Times *—* “A sweeping [novel] filled with excitement—pagan ritual, the clash of armies, ancient and modern: the evolving drama of man’s faith.” *—* The Philadelphia Inquirer *—* “Magnificent . . . a superlative piece of writing both in scope and technique . . . one of the great books of this generation.” *—* San Francisco Call Bulletin

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Customer Reviews

“Fascinating . . . stunning . . . [a] wonderful rampage through history . . . Biblical history, as seen through the eyes of a professor who is puzzled, appalled, delighted, enriched and impoverished by the spectacle of a land where all men are archeologists.” *—* The New

York Times "A sweeping [novel] filled with excitement—pagan ritual, the clash of armies, ancient and modern: the evolving drama of man's faith. The Philadelphia Inquirer "Magnificent . . . a superlative piece of writing both in scope and technique . . . one of the great books of this generation." San Francisco Call Bulletin

In his signature style of grand storytelling, James Michener sweeps us back through time to the Holy Land, thousands of years ago. By exploring the lives and discoveries of modern archaeologists excavating the site of Tell Makor, Michener vividly re-creates life in and around an ancient city during critical periods of its existence, and traces the profound history of the Jews, including that of the early Hebrews and their persecution, the impact of Christianity on the Jewish world, the Crusades, and the Spanish Inquisition. Michener weaves his epic tale of love, strength, and faith until at last he arrives at the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East. "The Source is not only a compelling history of the Holy Land and its people but a richly written saga that encompasses the development of Western civilization and the great religious and cultural ideas that have shaped our world.

My second reading after many years, and I am still in awe of Michener's genius!! This book is a true classic and will stand the test of time!! No other author can weave history with fiction as well as Michener! No other author educates and entertains so well!! I wish this book had won the Pulitzer Prize!! It definitely deserves it!!!

I loved this book when I read it 50 years ago and loved even more now . So interesting how Michener imagined life before Jesus , actually before anything! This book gave me an intimate picture of what is now the Middle East. Nothing has changed I am sorry to say Barbara Grauer

Okay, this one is a bit too long. I started reading it quite a while ago and first half flew, then I got really bored and still haven't finished it, it has been months. The amount of research that the author put in this book is amazing. It reads as a wonderful archeological novel, many familiar references, great beginning. But after a while it becomes somewhat repetitive, the main characters disappear somewhere in historical novellas about the city, and you find yourself just browsing thru looking for the finale. At least I found myself doing that. I read a lot, complex literature pieces don't scare me and overall I would recommend this book to anyone who likes history. Just be patient.

This is my favorite of the Michener novels. My original copy which I have had for over 30 years was damaged and unusable so I purchased a new copy. Think I have read this at least five times or more. Will re-read again soon.

One of the best books I've ever read, certainly one of the most touching ones! This marvel of a book is the great saga of the Jewish people ever since the beginning of civilization - describing how the nation that produced Jesus Christ has been following in His footsteps ever since - sacrificing itself over and over again just like Agnus Dei - the Lamb of God. Michener's style is versatile - he composes several plots in the most intricate ways - combining the search of several archeologists who unearth layer beyond layer of one single spot upon the globe, specifically in the Holy Land, with the many stories of its ancient roots, meanwhile telling the magnificent historic epic of the whole most-special nation of Israel, reviving the accounts of the very Bible. The flowing writing simply makes you feel as if you yourself were there in person, - experiencing for the first time the presence of God around you - through each flower and petal and bird - not as a stone-statue, but in spirit - invisible, and so, invincible - almighty - ever stronger... yet ever more compassionate... This author has done wonders using this same unique style describing the history of South Africa, Poland and other countries, and this very book was in its time a worldwide best-seller - one of the most popular books ever. And for good reasons... It's simply a Must!! You just have to start reading, and you'll be led into the unfathomable depths of the birth of the entire humanity, as well as of your own soul, reminded of everything moral you've ever imbibed - at least as a child - at school, in church, and at home. In short, - most warmly recommended!!!

Only about half way through and it has not really bitten me yet, which is unusual for a Michener novel. I was hoping to get a clearer overview of the history of Israel. Perhaps it's there and I am just dense.

As usual Michener's novel takes the reader on a historical journey that is both entertaining and informative. The novel starts when people of the Holy Land region discover a source of water and become sedentary. It traces the evolution of religions becoming monotheistic, while some remained polytheistic. It traces the interrelationship of Judaism, Christianity and Islam... sometimes harmonious. Michener tells the story by shifting between historical times and the 20th century as archeologists dig the area where the story is centered. The shift to "modern" times helps explain the significance of the findings, and the reader gets insight into how archeologists apply their

knowledge in several areas to make educated pronouncements. The best part were the shifts to historical times. The reader can't help but get immersed in the story of the different religious groups. I particularly enjoyed the debates that took place among the archeologists regarding the shift to monotheism, the strength and reason of the beliefs of Judaism and the importance for the creation of a Jewish state. It was interesting to read the debate of religious philosophy between two of the main characters...the Jew and the Muslim. If the reader loves historical novels then I recommend this one.

This made the third time I read this book. The first time (when it first came out) I was so enthralled by Michener's epic stories that I felt this one was the best I had ever read. About 15 (or more) years later it still had that feel of wonder but not as much. This time I thoroughly enjoyed the third reading and getting re-acquainted with some of the (fictional) characters who almost made me believe they were part of my personal Christian heritage. Even though I feel that my reading choices have changed a lot over these many years, this one still keep me reading until the end....but not staying up all night like before. Anyone who enjoys fictionalized-history will love this book. It's long but well worth it. If you have read other Michener books you will understand what I mean...if you have not? Do so!

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