



# Religion in the Roman Empire

By James B. Rives

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**Religion in the Roman Empire** By James B. Rives

This book provides an engaging, systematic introduction to religion in the Roman empire.

- Covers both mainstream Graeco-Roman religion and regional religious traditions, from Egypt to Western Europe
- Examines the shared assumptions and underlying dynamics that characterized religious life as a whole
- Draws on a wide range of primary material, both textual and visual, from literary works, inscriptions and monuments
- Offers insight into the religious world in which contemporary rabbinic Judaism and Christianity both had their origin

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This is just what Rives's volume does best: to show us where we stand in a thought-provoking manner that invites further questions about "religion" in the Roman empire." (Phoenix, 2011)

"The section openings are often carefully and helpfully linked to preceding arguments, within and across chapters." (*Journal of Religion*, 2009) "...the book is important as an attempt to create a textbook in an area normally...left to an appendix because the problems are all too forbidding..." (*Greece and Rome*, Vol 55 No. 2 2008)

"This is the best available introduction to religion in the Roman world, and will be indispensable for classroom use and in library collections." (*Choice* — A *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for 2007)

"A dense and stimulating overview of Roman religion." (*Bryn Mawr Reviews*)

"A concise, readable, stimulating, and adroitly organised introduction to a vast cumbersome topic." (*Scholia Reviews*)

#### Review

"Rives deftly engages the reader with the Roman world, and succeeds magnificently in making sense of its seemingly baffling variety of religious life."

—**Simon Price**, University of Oxford

#### From the Back Cover

This book provides an engaging, systematic introduction to religion in the Roman Empire. It explores mainstream Graeco-Roman religion, as well as the diverse regional religions within the empire, from the millennia-old traditions of Egypt to the Celtic traditions of Western Europe.

The author describes the distinctive features of religion in the Roman world and examines the shared assumptions and underlying dynamics that characterized religious life as a whole. By drawing on a wide range of primary material, including literary works, inscriptions, and monuments, he allows readers to engage with original sources directly and provides unique insight into the religious world in which contemporary rabbinic Judaism and Christianity both had their origins.

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