The Prophets Abraham Joshua Heschel

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Abraham Joshua Heschel was the towering religious figure of American Jewry in the twentieth century. In Interfaith Activism, Harold Kasimow, who is known for his work on Heschel and on interfaith dialogue between Jews and members of other faiths, presents a selection of his essays on Heschel's thought. Topics include Heschel's perspective on the different religious traditions, Heschel's three pathways to God, his deep friendship with Maurice Friedman and Martin Luther King Jr., and his surprising affinity to the great Hindu Vedantist Swami Vivekananda and to Pope Francis. A new essay examines Heschel's struggle with the Holocaust. The book is a scholarly conference held in 2007 at the University of Warsaw, in Heschel's native city, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. Given the depth and scope of his thinking, the papers gathered in the volume will be of interest not only to philosophers, theologians, and scholars of Heschel, but also to those who know little about Heschel but are interested in the fundamental problems that appear at the borders between philosophy and theology, religion and modernity, Judaism and Christianity, and, more broadly, problems of interfaith relations and their future. Among the contributors to the volume are many of the foremost Heschel scholars from the United States and Israel, as well as authors from Poland and other European countries. The authors believe that the influence of Heschel will continue to grow worldwide.


Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the great religious teachers and moral prophets of our time. This title provides selections from the writings of the leading Jewish theologian and philosopher, edited by his daughter. American Prophets sheds critical new light on the lives and thought of seven major prophetic figures in twentieth-century America whose social activism was motivated by a deeply felt compassion for those suffering injustice. In this compelling and provocative book, acclaimed religious scholar Albert Raboteau tells the remarkable stories of Abraham Joshua Heschel, A. J. Muste, Dorothy Day, Howard Thurman, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King Jr., and Fannie Lou Hamer—inspired individuals who succeeded in conveying their vision to a broader public through writing, speaking, demonstrating, and organizing. Raboteau traces how their paths crossed and their lives intertwined, creating a network of committed activists who significantly changed the attitudes of several generations of Americans about contentious political issues such as war, racism, and poverty. Raboteau examines the influences that shaped their ideas and the surprising connections that linked them together. He discusses their theological and ethical positions, and describes the rhetorical and strategic methods used by these modern prophets in their efforts to persuade the fellow citizens to share their commitment to social change. A momentous scholarly achievement as well as a moving testimony to the human spirit, American Prophets represents a major contribution to the history of religion in America. This book is essential reading for anyone who is concerned about social justice, or who wants to know what prophetic thought and action can mean in today's world.

A collection of writings in Hebrew and English on the theme of justice from the Prophets in the Hebrew Bible (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos) for adult study. Great for Bible study and discussion groups. Published at cost. All texts are taken from Sefaria.org and are in the public domain. Some questions the reader might ask while reading are: What motivates the prophets (spiritual, political, economic, cultural, etc.)? To whom is each prophet speaking (kings, priests, the people, future generations)? What is the content of each prophet's message? Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said that the prophet related God's path and feelings, what is God's emotions as related by the prophet? What challenges does the prophet have to overcome or endure? What personalities can be discerned? What problems in the world does each prophet name? What role does justice play in the path of the Prophets? What is justice? In addition to justice, what general theses or overarching message, motifs (recurring images), and symbols do you see used in the Prophets? What kind of world does the prophet ultimately envision? What conflicts arise in your personally as you read the Prophets? What resonates with you personally as you read the Prophets? How would you relate any of the above to today? Can you think of contemporary or recent prophets?
This book examines the liberation journey that is the heart of the Hebrew Scriptures. The work begins with a careful reading of narrative, prophetic and legal texts from the Hebrew Scriptures. All of these texts reveal exodus, the journey from constriction, as a fundamental biblical concern. After showing how the message of the Hebrew Prophets represents a consistent theme throughout Scripture, the author traces the further refinement of these liberation themes in contemporary writers and prophets such as Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, Paulo Freire, Gustavo Gutiérrez, Erich Fromm, Martin Luther King, Beverly Harrison, Maya Angelou, Robin Wall Kimmerer and bell hooks. The book shows how the insights of these prophets, ancient and modern, offer guidance for confronting current challenges for readers of all faiths and backgrounds. —Provided by publisher.

This volume explores the myriad ways in which African American religions have encountered Jewish traditions, beliefs, and spaces. In contrast to previous works, which have typically focused on the social and political relationship between blacks and Jews, Black Zion places religion at the center of its discussion, thereby illuminating a critically important but little explored aspect of black-Jewish relations in America. The essays gathered here examine groups such as the Nation of Islam and the Hebrew Israelites, individuals such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel, and topics such as the transformation of synagogue space into African American churches and the symbolic role of the Jew in the Haitian religious imagination. This collection draws on sacred texts, interviews, and ethnographic and archival research to discuss the shared messages in black and Jewish sacred life, as well as the development and elaboration of new religious identities by African Americans. Featuring contributions from a group of renowned scholars and writers, this groundbreaking volume reveals a great deal about both African American religions and the meaning of Judaism in the contemporary world. It is essential reading for students of religion, history, cultural studies, black studies, and American studies.

The prophets remain figures of enduring interest and importance in contemporary Judaism, Christianity, and even secular society. The Prophets introduces students to the rise of prophecy in ancient Israel, possible ancient Near Eastern parallels, the messages of individual prophets, and the significance of the compositional and editorial history of the prophetic writings. The book guides students into leading questions and issues in contemporary scholarship, and surveys different contemporary approaches to the messages of the prophets. Part 1 introduces the prophets and prophecy in context. The role of the prophet and the role of the prophet, key themes, and the fate of prophecy are explored. Part 2 profiles Israel’s prophets during the eighth century, the exile, and the postexilic period. This section will also look at each book of the prophets and how the prophetic writings fit within the complete Hebrew Bible and the Old Testament. These chapters also provide insights into interpreting the prophetic writings today, including Jewish and Christian interpretation, prophecy and prediction, and the secular legacy of Israelite prophecy. This textbook includes numerous images, charts, and maps to enhance the experience of the students.

This book elaborates on Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel’s contribution to religion in general and Judaism in particular. Examines his concern with ‘leap of action’ vs ‘leap of faith’. The central thoughts of this text revolve around fifteen ideas, including such concepts as Heschel’s approach to freedom, peace, racism, justice, prayer, brotherhood, faith, education, man, Israel, the sabbath, the prophets, Mitzvah, philosophy, and the Bible. Prime sources for these ideas are found in Heschel’s major works: God in Search of Man, Man is Not Alone, and The Prophets, as well as in his other publications. Includes photographs.

Donald Gowan offers a unified reading of the prophetic books, showing that each has a distinctive contribution to make to a central theme. These books—Isaiah through Malachi—respond to three key moments in Israel’s history: the end of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BCE, the end of the Southern Kingdom in 587 BCE, and the beginning of the restoration from the Babylonian exile in 538 BCE. Gowan traces the theme of death and resurrection throughout these accounts, finding a symbolic message of particular significance to Christian interpreters of the Bible.

Conventional wisdom suggests that theology is necessarily unfriendly to the liberal state, but neither philosophical analysis nor empirical argument has convincingly established that conclusion. Examining the problem from a variety of perspectives, including law, philosophy, history, political theory, and religious studies, the essays in Theology and the Soul of the Liberal State suggest the possibilities for and limits on what theological reflection might contribute to liberal politics across the globe.

Illuminating the ethical legacy of the biblical prophets, Path in the popcorn identifies the prophetic message in the lives of the Hebrew Bible, and demonstrates their compelling relevance to us today. While the Bible almost exclusively names men as prophets, Rabbi Barry L. Schwartz celebrates heroically, largely unknown biblical women such as Shiphrah, Tirzah, and Hannah. He also deepens readers’ interpretations of more familiar biblical figures not generally thought of as prophets, such as Joseph, Judah, and Caleb. Schwartz introduces the prophets with creative, first-person retellings of their decisive experiences, followed by key biblical narratives, context, and analysis. He weighs our heroes’ and heroines’ legacies—their obstacles and triumphs—and considers how their ethical examples live on; he guides us on how to integrate biblical-ethical values into our lives; and he challenges each of us to walk the prophetic path today.

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The Hebrew prophets of ancient Israel strove to convey God’s point of view to the people and the powers at a time when injustice, deceit, malfeasance, and crushing the poor and the oppressed was prominent—much like today! The prophets spoke courageously and emphatically about God’s profound and unrelenting concern and compassion for human beings. Much influenced by the theology of prophecy developed by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, this book discusses the nature, meaning, and relevance of ethical prophecy at a time when democracy—in the United States of America and elsewhere—is under vicious assault from the right and authoritarian politicians who openly flirt with and support murderous dictators, sexism, homophobia, racial bigotry, anti-Semitism, and hatred of Muslims both in word and practice. An examination of the contributions of eight Jewish prophets from the period of American slavery through the post-civil rights era—Angelina Grimke, Ida B. Wells, Abraham J. Heschel, prophecy at a time when democracy—in the United States of America and elsewhere—is under vicious assault from the right and authoritarian politicians who openly flirt with and support murderous dictators, sexism, homophobia, racial bigotry, anti-Semitism, and hatred of Muslims both in word and practice. An examination of the contributions of eight Jewish prophets from the period of American slavery through the post-civil rights era—Angelina Grimke, Ida B. Wells, Abraham J. Heschel,(
Israelite prophets is well known, his studies of prophetic inspiration among Jewish scholars of the Middle Ages is not, in part because it exists in article form and in part because these articles were written in Hebrew. The standard Jewish view is that prophecy ended with the ancient prophets, somewhere early in the Second Temple era. Heschel demonstrated that this view is not altogether accurate. Belief in the possibility of continued prophetic inspiration, and in its.

Coherent Judaism begins by excavating the theologies within the Torah and tracing their careers through the Jewish Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. Any compelling, contemporary Judaism must cohere as much as possible with traditional Judaism and everything else we believe to be true about our world. The challenge is that over the past two centuries, our understandings of both the Torah and nature have radically changed. Nevertheless, much Jewish wisdom can be translated into a contemporary idiom that both coheres with all that we believe and enriches our lives as individuals and within our communities. Coherent Judaism explains why pre-modern Judaism opted to privilege consensus around Jewish behavior (halakhah) over belief. The stresses of modernity have conspired to reveal the incoherence of that traditional approach. In our post-Darwinian and post-Holocaust world, theology must be able to withstand the challenges of science and history. Traditional Jewish theologies have the resources to meet those challenges. Coherent Judaism concludes by presenting a philosophy of halakhah that is faithful to the covenantal aspiration to live long on the land that the Lord, our God, has given us.

Heschel attempts to understand the thoughts, feelings, and impressions of each of the prophets, presenting the reader with a sense of their very being. He effectively achieves a balance between the objective supernatural and the subjective human situation, and presents a discussion of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk and their particular challenges and journeys. In the second part of the book, Heschel addresses such subjects as pathos, wrath, sympathy, ecstasy, psychosis, and prophetic and poetic inspiration, and in so doing offers a contribution to the philosophy of religion.

A biography of the rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who became a symbol of the marriage between religion and social justice "When I marched in Selma, I felt my legs were praying." So said Polish-born American rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972) of his involvement in the 1965 Selma civil rights march alongside Martin Luther King Jr. Heschel, who spoke with a fiery moralistic fervor, dedicated his career to the struggle to improve the human condition through faith. In this new biography, author Julian Zelizer tracks Heschel’s early years and foundational influences—his childhood in Warsaw and early education in Hasidism, his studies in late 1920s and early 1930s Berlin, and the fortuitous opportunity, which brought him to the United States and saved him from the Holocaust, to teach at Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. This deep and complex portrait places Heschel at the crucial intersection between religion and progressive politics in mid-twentieth-century America. To this day Heschel remains a symbol of the fight to make progressive Jewish values relevant in the secular world.

"Now you can experience the empowering words of the Hebrew prophets, even if you have no previous knowledge of the Hebrew Bible or Judaism. This Skylight Illuminations edition presents selections from the Hebrew prophets, with insightful yet unobtrusive commentary that conveys the prophetic call for humankind to fulfill the promise to renew harmony and unity, and to engage life with a sense of holiness and wholeness."—BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved