

Professor Robert Gordis

Lecture: "National Catastrophe and Biblical Faith"

Selected Reading List

I. ORIENTAL SOURCES

A. Egyptian Wisdom

"Dispute of the Soul of the Man Tired of Life" - ANET 405-7

"Admonition of A Prophet" - ANET 441-44

"Complaint of Peasant" - ANET 407-10

B. Babylonian Wisdom

"I Will Praise the Lord of Wisdom" - 434-7

"Complaint of Sage Over Injustice of the World" - 438-40

(ANET = Pritchard, Ancient Near Eastern Texts)

II. BIBLICAL SOURCES

A. The Classical Doctrine of Retribution

Gen. 18:23-33; Ex. 20; Lev. 26

Deut. 11:13-17, chap. 28

Jos. chap. 7 ; II Sam. chap. 24

Amos 3:1-2

Hosea 8:7; 10:12, 13

Isa. 1:19, 20

Jer. 31:29; Ezek. chap. 18

Ps. 30 and 37

Job 4:7 - 5:7

Lam. chaps. 3-5

B. The Day of the Lord

Amos 5:18-20; Isa. 2:12-22; Zeph. 1:14; Mal. 3:19

C. The End-Time

Hos. 2:20-25; 3:1-5; Am. 9:11-15

Isa. 2:1-4; 9:1-16; 1:1-16; 21:23-25

Micah 4:1-5; 6:14

Ezek. 37:1-14; 15:28; Zeph. 3:9; Zec. 14:1-21

D. The Rod of God's Anger

Isa. 5:26-30; 10:5-15

Hab. chaps 1-2

E. The Saving Remnant

Am. 5:15; 9:7-12
 Isa. chap. 6; 7:3; 10:16-27; 10:20-22; ~~11:7-6~~; 11:11; 28:5; 37:32; 46:3
 Mi. 2:12; 5:6, 7
 Jer. 6:9; 23:3; 42:15-19; 44:12
 Zeph. 2:9; 3:13
 Ezek. 9:8; 11:13

F. The Servant of the Lord

The Songs, Isa. 42:14; 44:1-5; 49:1-13; 52:13 - 53:12
The Oracles, 41:8-13; 42:18-25; 43:1-10

III MODERN SOURCES

- W. Eichrodt: Theology of the Old Testament, Vol. 1, 457-511
- L. Jacobs: Principles of the Jewish Faith, Chap. XII, 350-367
- K. Kohler: Jewish Theology, Chap. XLV, pp. 290-309
- H.H. Rowley: The Faith of Israel, Chap. VII
 : The Servant of the Lord and Other Essays, Chaps. I, II
- X P. Heinisch: Theology of the Old Testament, pp. 90-95, 281-91.
- G. von Rad: The Message of the Prophets, pp. 77-99
- R.B.Y. Scott; The Relevance of the Prophets, pp. 114-170.
- Y. Kaufmann: Toledot Ha'emunah Hayisreelit
- R. Gordis: Commentary on Lamentations (Translation and Commentary,
 chaps. 3-5, and pp. 124-6).
- : A Faith For Moderns
 Chap. VII, "God and the Historic Process"
 Chap. X, "Evil in God's World"
- : The Book of God and Man
 Chap. XI, "Job and the Mystery of Suffering"
- : Poets, Prophets and Sages
 Chap. 11 - "Micah's Vision of the End-Time"
- : "A Cruel God or None -Is There No Other Choice?" in
 JUDAISM, vol. 21, Summer 1972, pp. 277-284.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

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Dr. Edward L. Greenstein "Biblical Myth and Biblical Morality"

Selected Readings

Note: The following selected texts and readings are meant to provide background and partial bibliography for the lecture on Biblical literature responding to the experience of catastrophe. Since the lecture will consider the larger part of the Bible as a literary response to catastrophe (at least in the Bible's canonical form), the biblical texts chosen are necessarily somewhat idiosyncratically selected and suggestive, rather than comprehensive or even representative.

The secondary readings are arranged by topic and number. It is hoped that students will proceed by reading at least one selection from each topic and by beginning with the first selection in each group and going on in order.

Biblical texts

Gen. 1-4; 6; 18-19; 22; Exod. 32; Num. 11:1-3; 21:4-9; Deut. 27-30; Jud. 1-3; 13-16; Isa. 1; Amos.

Unity of theme in biblical narrative

Torah

- 1) B. Spinoza, Theologico-Political Treatise, chap. 8. B 3958 E5
- 2) Alan W. Miller, "Claude Levi-Strauss and Genesis 37-Exodus 20," in Ronald A. Brauner, ed., Shiv'im BM 42 A2 E36
- 3) James A. Sanders, Torah and Canon, 1-25. BS 1135 S25
- 4) Robert C. Culley, "Themes and Variations in Three Groups of OT Narratives," Semeia 3 (1975), 3-13.
- 5) Idem, Studies in the Structure of Hebrew Narrative, esp. 69-115. BS 1205.2 C87

Nevi'im Rishonim

- 1) Kenneth R. R. Goff's Louis, "The Book of Judges," in Gros Louis et al., eds., Literary Interpretations of Biblical Narratives, 141-62. BS 535 G76
- 2) Zvi Adar, Humanistic Values in the Bible, 53-66. BS 1193 A313
- 3) Gerhard von Rad, The Problem of the Hexateuch and Other Essays, 205-21. BS 1188 R313
- 4) Idem, Old Testament Theology, vol. 1: 334-54. BS 1192.5 R312
- 5) James L. Crenshaw, Samson, 130-35. BS 1305.2 C73

Nevi'im 'aharonim

- 1) Brevard S. Childs, "The Canonical Shape of the Prophetic Literature," Interpretation 32 (1978), 46-55.
- 2) Eichrodt, Theology of the Old Testament, vol. 1: 457-71. BS 1192.5 E353
- 3) J. Lindblom, Prophecy in Ancient Israel, 311-403. BS 1505.2 L5

Greenstein "Biblical Myth and Biblical Morality" (2)

On Job

S. R. Driver, Introduction to the Literature of the OT, 408-35,
esp. 408-12. **BS 1140 D8**

On Lamentations

- 1) Delbert R. Hillers, Lamentations (Anchor Bible), xv-xxiii.
- 2) H. L. Ginsberg, Introduction to Lamentations, The Five Megilloth and Jonah (Jewish Publication Society).

On Myth as applied to Biblical literature

- 1) Northrop Frye, "History and Myth in the Bible," in Angus Fletcher, ed., Literature of Fact, 1-29 (copy on reserve at Circulation Desk).
- 2) Ian G. Barbour, Myths, Models, and Paradigms, esp. 12-28. **BL 240.2 B36**
- 3) Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," Structral Anthropology (Anchor ed., 202-28). ^u
- 4) Idem, Myth and Meaning, esp. 34-54. _↑

Ancient Near Eastern parallel to biblical theology

The Inscription of King Mesha of Moab, in James Pritchard, ed.,
Ancient Near Eastern Texts, 320-21 (or in Ancient Near East I, 209-10).

See further:

Morton Cogan, Imperialism and Religion: Assyria, Judah, and Israel in the Eighth and Seventh Centuries B.C.E., 9-21.

BM 536 A8 C63 1974

Secondary Readings:

1. Rowley, H.H., The Relevance of Apocayptic³, 1963
2. Mowinckel, S., He That Cometh, trans. G.W.Anderson, 1959
3. Schmidt, J., Die jüdische Apokalyptik, 1969
4. Von Rad, G., Old Testament Theology, trans. D.M.G.Stalker, 1965
5. Ginsberg, H.L., Studies in Daniel, 1948
6. Koch, K., The Rediscovery of Apocalyptic, trans. M. Kohl, 1972
7. Cross, F.M., The Ancient Library of Qumran², 1961
8. Kaufmann, Y., Toledot ha-emunah ha-yisre'elit, esp. Vol.3, Part 2 and Appendix 3 (pp.626-656)
9. Kaufmann, Y., The Babylonian Captivity and Deutero-Isaiah, trans. C.W.Efroymsen, 1970
10. Plöger, O., Theocracy and Eschatology, trans. S. Rudman, 1968
11. Cross, F.M., Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic 1973, pp.326ff.
12. Scholem, G., Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, 1961
13. Scholem, G., Jewish Gnosticism, Merkabah Mysticism, and Talmudic Tradition, 1965
14. Jonas, H., The Gnostic Religion², 1963
15. Cumont, F., Oriental Religions in Roman Paganism, 1911 (1956)

Lecture: Halachic Response to Catastrophe
David Weiss Halivni

חובה

1. מגילת תענית. פרשיות בתולדות בית חשמונאי לאור משנה קדומה. מאת בן-ציון לוריא (ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, 1964).

2. משנה תענית. ערך חנוך אלבק.

3. רמב"ם, משנה תורה: הלכות תענית.

רשות

ספר המועדים: סדר התעניות, מאת יום-טוב לוינסקי.

For textual variants and a critical commentary on Megillat Ta'anit, students may consult H. Lichtenstein, HUCA, 1931-32, pp. 257-351.

Lecture: From Lamentations to Lamentations Rabbah: The Bible as Paradigm
Shaye Cohen

Readings: The text of Lamentations Rabbah (excluding the proems), either in the edition of S. Buber, folios 21a-81a, or in the Soncino translation, pp. 66-245.

Jewish Literature 7153x

On November 4, Prof. Weiss Halivni will return to define, if possible, an halachic response to catastrophe and to compare the Mishnah with Rambam's version of it. Review this before class and be prepared to match wits with the master.

Written Assignment (8-10 pp.)

The three main forms of Jewish literary response to catastrophe -- the lament, the consolation, and the factual chronicle -- appeared in the wake of חורבן בית ראשון . Each form had its own conventions, message(s) and source of authority. Discuss Midrash Eicha Rabba in terms of this earlier literature.

Where did the rabbis lay the emphasis? How did they reinterpret Scriptures and why? Which prophetic concepts did they develop? Was their thinking horizontal or vertical? Consider this a textual exercise, not an exhaustive study. Be prepared to summarize your findings in class.

Please don't ask for extensions.

1. The literary structure of chap one.
2. The royal parables
3. Quietism
4. Deutero-Isaiah's historical typology and system of *דברים/אירועים* and the rabbis' application thereof. Which biblical events have now become most compelling?
5. The concept of Torah in Eicha Rabba.

LECTURE: Jewish Historiography and Jewish Martyrology

Dr. Gerson D. Cohen

Readings:

1. A.M. Habermann, ed., Sefer Gezeirot Ashkenaz we-Sarfat, one chronicle from 1096. (Jerusalem, 1946) pp. 24-60, or 72-88, or 93-104.
2. Adolf Jellinek, ed., Beit ha-Midrash, "Midrash Eileh Ezkerah," vol. II, 64-72.
3. Maimon ben Joseph Ha-Dayyan, Iggeret ha-Nehamah (Trans. into Hebrew by B. Klar. Jerusalem, 1944-45).
"The Letter of Consolation of Maimon ben Joseph", JQR, II (1890), 66-101 (English translation).
4. Moses b. Maimon, "Iggeret ha-Shemad" Iggerot ha-Rambam (edited by Mordecai Dov Rabinovitz. Jerusalem, 1943-44 = Rambam la'am, vol. XX, pp. 29-68).
"Iggarot" (Edited and translated by Joseph Kafih. Jerusalem, 1972), pp. 107-120.
5. Moses b. Maimon, Epistle to Yemen (Edited by A.S. Halkin, New York, 1952 with an English translation by Boaz Cohen).
Also available in Hebrew in Rabinovitz ed. (see item no. 2) pp. 103-190 and Kafih ed. (see item no. 2), pp. 15-60.

Lecture: "Pietism as Surrogate Martyrdom? The Quest for Religious Perfection in Early Ashkenaz"
Ivan G. Marcus

Readings

Y. Baer, "Ha-Megamah ha-Datit-Hevratit shel Sefer Hasidim." Zion 3 (1938): 1-50.

Gershom Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism. ch. 3.

Haym Soloveitchik, "Three Themes in the Sefer Hasidim." AJS Review 1 (1976): 311-357.

Sources

- A. Samuel b. Qalonymos, Sefer ha-Yir'ah in Sefer Hasidim, ed. Wistinetzki-Freimann (SHW), pars. 1-6; 13.
- B. R. Judah b. Samuel the hasid (d. 1217)
SHW, pars. 228, 1006, 985, 1017.
- C. R. Eleazar b. Judah (d. ca. 1230)
"Hilkhoh Hasidut: in Sefer ha-Roqeah: "Shoresh Rosh ha-Hasidut", "Shoresh Zekhiyot"; Haqdamah to Sefer ha-Hokhmah in Zion 29 (1964): 169-172.
- D. Job and Akedah
SHW, pars. 361, 13 (p. 12), 238, 1013, 1017, 1513, 1517.

February 10

The Catastrophe of 1648/9: History and Memory

Gershon Bacon

חובה:

1. נתן נטע הנובר, יון המצולה (תל-אביב, 1966) עמ' 15-17, 37-46.
2. מאיר בן שמואל, צוק העתים, בתוך י. גורלאנד, לקורות הגזירות על ישראל (הוצאת צילום, ירושלים, 1972), חלק ג' עמ' 7-15.
3. שבתי הכהן, מגילת עיפה, בתוך ישראל היילפרין, בית ישראל בפולין (ירושלים, 1953), חלק ב' עמ' 252-255.
4. יעקב כץ, בין תתנ"ו לת"ח-ח"ט, ספר היובל ליצחק בער (ירושלים, 1960), עמ' 318-337.

רשות:

5. ישראל היילפרין, שבייה ופדות בגזירות אוקראינה וליטא שמשנת ת"ח ועד שנת ת"ך, יהודים ויהדות במיזרח-אירופה (ירושלים, 1968), עמ' 212-249; או בתוך ציון כה (1960).

Feb. 17 RESPONSES TO CATASTROPHE IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION:
SOME EXAMPLES

Prof. Roger Shinn (UTS)

1. The Early Church

Mark 15-16

The Library of Christian Classics, Vol. I, Early Christian Fathers, ed. by Cyril C. Richardson:

"The Letters of Ignatius," pp. 74-80, 102-111

"The Martyrdom of Polycarp," pp. 141-44, 149-58

2. The 16th Century

The Library of Christian Classics, Vol. XXV,
Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers, ed. by George
H. Williams and Angel M. Mergal:

"Trial and Martyrdom of Michael Sattler," pp. 136-44.

Hans J. Hillerbrand, ed., The Protestant Reformation:

"Elizabeth, A Duthh Anabaptist Martyr: A Letter," pp. 146-52

reserve Ethelbert Stauffer, "The Anabaptist Theology of
Martyrdom," Mennonite Quarterly Review, XIX (1945):179-214.

3. The 19th-20th Centuries

Fyodor Dostoevsky, The Brothers Karamazov, Book V,
Chapters IV, "Rebellion," and V, "The Grand Inquisitor."
(Titles are from translation by Constance Garnett.)

reserve Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship, Introduction
and Part I, "Grace and Discipleship."

Martin Luther King, Jr., Where Do We Go From Here?,
Ch. IV, "The Dilemma of Negro Americans."

Reinhold Niebuhr, Discerning the Signs of the Times,
Ch. VIII, "The Power and the Weakness of God."

Paul Tillich, The Shaking of the Foundations, Ch. XX,
"Born in the Grave."

Feb. 24

~~January 20~~

Lurianic Kabbala As a Response to the Spanish Exile

Seymour Siegel

Primary sources

- 1 זמירות ליל שבת מאת הא"י הקדוש
- 4 ספר תולדות הא"י, עיקר מאי בנייהו
- 32 מסכת שבועות מתוך פש"ה
4. הקדמות מונינו הוב ז' ח"ט וויטאל
- 34 א' שדו ההקדמות (מתוך ספרי א"י ח"ט)
- 44 ספרי א"י ח"ט, היכל א"ק, שדו א, ענף ב'
- 45 תומי צבורה מאת כ' אשר קונצברו, פירק א'

Secondary sources

7. 'תשבי' תורת הרב ופקל'מה בקבלת הא"י

March 31

Jewish Behavior During the Holocaust

Isaiah Trunk

Primary Sources:

1. Lucy S. Dawidowicz, ed., A Holocaust Reader (N.Y., 1976), pp. 196 - 207, 213 - 218.
2. Shimon Huberbrand, Kiddush Hashem, (Tel Aviv, 1969), pp. 85, 89 - 91, 103, 110 - 111.
3. Herman Kruk, "Diary of the Vilna Ghetto," YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Science, XIII (1965), 9 - 78.
4. Mordechai Tenenbaum-Tamarof, Dappim min hadleikah (Tel Aviv, 1948).

Secondary Sources:

5. Conference on Manifestations of Jewish Resistance, Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust (Jerusalem, 1970).
6. Nathan Eck, Hatoim bedarkhei hamavet (Jerusalem, 1960) pp. 37 - 38
7. Commandant of Auschwitz. The Autobiography of Rudolf Hoess (, 1959), pp. 165 - 167.
8. Isaiah Trunk, "Mikhtavim mishnot hashoah," Yediot beit lohamei hagetaot, No. 1/2 (April, 1957), 22 - 29.

March 3

LITURGICAL REACTIONS TO CATASTROPHE
J. Harlow

Reading List

From any prayerbook: tachanun, av harachamim, tzidduk hadin

Authorised Kinot for the Ninth of Av, edited by Rabbi Abraham Rosenfeld,
London, 1970. Pages 28-39, 91-172, 173ff.

High Holyday Prayerbook, edited by Philip Birnbaum
Pages 827-836, 837-844

High Holiday Prayerbook, edited by Rabbi Morris Silverman
Pages 376-377, 381-389

High Holiday Prayerbook, Volume II, Yom Kippur, published by
the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation. Pages 386-405

Gates of Prayer (The New Union Prayer Book). ~~Pages~~
Pages 573-589

Mahzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, edited by Rabbi Jules Harlow,
Published by The Rabbinical Assembly. Pages 614-617, 554-569

March 10

The Theological Implications of the Holocaust

Neil Gillman

Required Reading:

1. A.J. Heschel - The Prophets - Chapters 12, 16 & 17
2. Seymour Siegel - "Theological Reflections on the Destruction of European Jewry" - Conservative Judaism, Summer 1964
3. M. Buber - Eclipse of G-d - Chapter 8
4. Richard Rubenstein - After Auschwitz - Chapter 14
5. Eliezer Berkovits - Faith after the Holocaust - Chapters 3 & 5
6. Eva Fleischner (ed.) - Auschwitz: Beginning of a New Era? - Chapter I
7. Robert Alan Hammer - "The G-d of Suffering" - Conservative Judaism XXXI: 1 & 2 (Fall-Winter 1976-77)
8. Elie Wiesel - "To a Young Jew of Today" - One Generation After.

Jewish Literature 7153X Responses to Catastrophe in Jewish Tradition

Assignment for Oct. 7

A. For oral presentation:

1. Prepare a prophetic or biblical denunciation of Communism using both an individual and collective point of view.
2. Respond apocalyptically to nuclear proliferation invoking ancient myths and symbols.

(Each presentation should take no longer than 5 minutes)

B. Written assignment:

List all the sources you can think of (poems, novels, philosophical tractates, historical works, comic books, movies, television programs) that might be considered a response to catastrophe.

Jewish Literature 7153x : Responses to Catastrophe in Jewish Tradition

Oral Assignment for December 9th

1. What major themes can you see running through the course until now?
2. Were the hypotheses formulated in the first lecture borne out by the subsequent speakers?
3. Compare the treatment of the Crusader Chronicles by Gerson Cohen, Raymond Scheindlin and Ivan Marcus.
4. On a scale, how would you rate the destruction of Herod's temple, the First Crusade, the Almohade invasion and the Spanish Exile?
5. What were the most fruitful comparative frameworks used by the various lecturers?
6. What paradigms/ archetypes did you find most compelling?
7. To what extent is Judaism grounded in history?
8. How would you evaluate the first semester?

Please take out an hour or two before class to think these questions through.