

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA
SEMINARY COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES

Fall 1984

Jewish Lit. 3153x
Jewish Responses to Catastrophe

Prof. David G. Roskies

Sept. 12

Liturgy and the Life Cycle

Psalm 137

Mishna Ta'anit 2:1-5

דברים / 2 אהרן קליר
Eleazar ben Kallir - kinot for Tisha b'Av
Av haraḥamim

Uri Zvi Greenberg - Hazkarat neshamot (1928)

Abraham Sutzkever - I Feel Like Making a Prayer (1942)

Jules Harlow - Yom Kippur Mahzor, martyrology

Defense Dept. of the Israeli Army - sourcebook for Yom
Hazikaron

Sept. 19

Lamentation

Eicha (JPS translation)

Zishe Landau - For All That Ever Has Been Ours (1916)

Yizḥak Katzenelson - The Song of the Murdered Jewish People
(1943)

Alan Mintz, Hurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew
Literature (NY: Columbia UP, 1984), pp. 22-41 - on reserve

Noah H. Rosenbloom, "The Threnodist and the Threnody of
the Holocaust", in Katzenelson's The Song - on reserve

*David G. Roskies, Against the Apocalypse: Responses to
Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture (Harvard, \$20) chap.
I, pp. 15-27, 92-94.

Oct. 3

Prophecy

Isaiah 40-43 (JPS translation)

Ezekiel 36-39

✓ Haim Nahman Bialik - B'ir haharegah (1904)

✓ Uri Zvi Greenberg - from Masa el Eropah (1926)

Le'elohim be'Eropah (1951)

A. Avital, ed. - Shirat Bialik vehatanah, pp. 265-77 - on reserve
PJ 5053 B5 A16 A8

Mintz - pp. 41-46, 141-54, chap. 5

Roskies - pp. 79-92, 263-74.

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Oct. 10

Apocalypse

Isaiah 24

Daniel 7-12

The War of the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness (Gaster ed. of The Dead Sea Scriptures)

Revelation of John

✓ Moyshe-Leyb Halpern - A Night (1916-1919)

✓ Lamed Shapiro - White Chalah (1919)

✓ Piotr Rawicz - Blood from the Sky, Part I (1964)

The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, s.v. Apocalypticism
- REF BS 440 163 vol. I

Roskies - pp. 92-97, 147-55, 225-27

Oct. 24

Martyrdom

2 Maccabees 6-7

* Tractate Mourning (Semahot) chap. 8 (trans. Dov Zlotnick)

* B. Berakhot 61b

B. Sanhedrin 74 a-b

✓ Church Fathers - Letters of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch,
Martyrdom of St. Polycarp

✓ Crusade chronicle of Solomon bar Simson

* Martyr's prayer

* Shivhei haBesht, tale 137

* Shimon Huberband - from Kiddush Hashem (1939-1943)

Roskies - pp. 27-45, 54-57

* Shalom Spiegel, The Last Trial: On the Legends and Lore
of the Command to Abraham to Offer Isaac as a Sacrifice
- The Akedah, trans. Judah Goldin (Behrman House, \$7.95)

Oct. 31

Theodicy

Midrash Eicha Rabba - excerpts (A. Cohen, trans.)

* Midrash Eileh ezkerah

Kalonymus Shapiro - from Esh kodesh (1939-1942)

~~Yitahak Katzenelson - The Song about the Radziner (1942-43)~~

Mintz - chap. 2

Roskies - pp. 208-20

~~Nehemia Polen, "Esh kodesh: The Teachings of Rabbi
Kalonymus Shapiro in the Warsaw Ghetto" (diss., 1983) - on
reserve~~

Nov. 7

Parody

Meir of Rothenburg - Sha'li serufah ve'esh

Isaac bar Shalom - Ani hu hakkonen kinah

Barukh ben Yehiel - Ein kamokha ba'ilminim

S.Y. Abramovitsh - Hanisrafim (1897)

* H.N. Bialik - 'Al hashhitah (1904)

* Peretz Markish - from The heap (1921)

Ghetto songs

Roskies - pp. 62-70, 73-78, 97-101, 185-89.

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Nov. 14 Consolation

S.Y. Abramovitsh - Shem ve Yefet ba'agalah (1890)
Sholem Aleichem - A Wedding Without Musicians (1909)
Jacob Glatstein - Good Night, Wide World (1938)
Yitzhak Katzenelson - On Bialik's Yortsayt (1940)
Dror - Intro. to Suffering and Heroism in the Jewish Past in the Light of the Present (1940)
Leyb Rosental - Yisro'lik (1942)
Shmerke Kaczerginski - Shtiler, shtiler (1942)
Zelig Kalmanovits h - Passover sermon 1943 ✓
Abraham Sutzkever - To the Child (1943) ✓ Under Your White Stars (1942), The Lead Plates of the Rom's Press (1943-45), Frozen Jews (1944), Green Aquarium (1954-55)

Roskies - pp. 70-72, 163-65, 172-76, chaps. 8-9.

Nov. 21 Ani hagever: Personal Testimony

× Avigdor Hameiri - from The Great Madness (1925)
David Bergelson - Among Refugees (1924)
*Isaac Babel - from Red Cavalry (1925) - in Collected Stories, ed. Walter Morison (NAL, \$7.95)
*Chaim Kaplan - from The Scroll of Agony, ed. Abraham I. Katsch (Macmillan, \$6.95)
*Elie Wiesel - Night (1956)

Roskies - chap. 6

Nov. 28 Group Therapy

Avraham Shapira, ed. - Siah lohamim/The Seventh Day (1967)
Helen Epstein - from Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors (1979) - on reserve
Breaking the Silence (1984)

Mortimer Ostow, "The Jewish Response to Crisis", in Judaism and Psychoanalysis (NY, 1982) - on reserve BM 538 P73 J83

Dec. 5 Iconography

Marc Chagall - Crucifixion Series (1938-1944) - on reserve
Marcel Janco - Kay hakets (drawings of the Bucharest pogrom of 1940) - on reserve
*Mendel Grossman - With a Camera in the Ghetto (Schocken pb)
Gerald Green, ed. - The Artists of Terezin (NY 1969) - on reserve

Roskies - pp. 276 - 310.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Oct. 10
- 1) Rewrite Shapiro or Rawicz into poetic form - preferably in Hebrew
 - 2) Describe the stylistic elements of apocalypse
 - 3) Explain how the apocalyptic vision treats earlier sources
 - 4) Explain how it incorporates historical data.
 - 5) Describe its implicit view of freedom and fate, the individual and the collective, nature and society.
- Nov. 14
- The Myths of Group Survival in the Nazi Ghettos *
- Dec. 5
- Paint a picture, create a collage, take a photograph or describe an existing work of graphic art that expresses your personal view of Jewish or universal catastrophe. *Must append rationale; how the icon is coherent w/ personal view*

* Explain the selection process in terms of Abram / SA ; define myths for them
Take the 2 most contrasting myths