

Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.

Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

Folder Reel Box 10 131

Case Western Reserve University, Adjunct Professor of Religion, "Classical Jewish Religious Thought," notes, 1980.

American Jewish Archives

Fall Semester 1980

Religion 330

Classical Jewish Religious Thought

Required Text: The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version, Annotated, Nelson

The Essential Philo, ed. Nahum N. Glatzer, Schocken (P. B.)

The Passover Haggadah, ed. Nathan Goldberg, Ktav (P. B.)

A Maimonides Reader, ed. Isadore Twersky, Behrman

Copies of A History of Judaism by Daniel Silver and Bernard Martin are on reserve in the library and should be read in conjunction with the course material.

This course provides an opportunity to read in translation some of the classic works of the Jewish tradition. Emphasis will be placed on how to read a Jewish book and the unique nature of the Jewish outlook and output. The first semester will deal with the pre-European experience.

Weeks 1-5 (A) Biblical Thought as Jewish Thought

Readings: Deuteronomy, Jonah, selected Psalms, Job.

Weeks 6-9 (B) Hellenistic Thought as Jewish Thought
Readings: Philo: The Life of Moses

Weeks 10-13 (C) Rabbinic Thought

Readings: The Passover Haggadah and Maimonides' Mishneh
Torah and Guide To The Perplexed.

Suggested Supplemental Readings:

(A) Biblical Thought As Jewish Thought

Historical Background: H. N. Orlinsky, Ancient Israel, Cornell 1956

M. Noth, The Old Testament World, Fortress 1966

General Bible Manuals: J. A. Brewer-E. G. Kraeling, The Literature of the Old
Testament, 3rd edition, Columbia 1962

O. Eissfeldt, The Old Testament, An Introduction, Harper and Row 1965

Deuteronomy:

G. von Rad, Deuteronomy, A Commentary, Westminster 1966
J. Reider, Deuteronomy With Commentary, Jewish Publication

Society, 1937

Jonah:

A. J. Heschel, The Prophets, Harper and Row 1962

M. Buber, The Prophetic Faith

J. Lindblom, Prophecy In Ancient Israel

Job:

R. Gordis, The Book of God and Man, Chicago 1965 N. M. Glatzer, The Dimensions of Job, Beacon 1969

Psalms:

S. Mowinckel, The Psalms In Israel's Worship

(B) Hellenistic Thought As Jewish Thought

Historical Background:

V. Tcherikover, Hellenistic Civilization of the Jews, Philadelphia Jewish Publication Society 1959

M. Hadas, Hellenistic Culture, Fusion and Diffusion, New York, Columbia 1959

S. Zeitlin, The Rise and Fall of the Jewish State, Jewish Pub. Soc., 1967

Philo:

H. A. Wolfson, Philo, 2-vol. Cambridge-Harvard University Press, 1947

S. Lieberman, Greek in Jewish Palestine, New York, Jewish Theological Seminary 1942

S. Lieberman, Hellenism in Jewish Palestine, New York, J. T. S. 1950

(C) Rabbinic Thought

General Background:

A. H. Silver, Where Judaism Differed, N. Y. MacMillan 1958

A. Millgram, Jewish Worship, Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, 1971

A. Urbach, The Sages, Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, 1974

The Talmud:

M. Adler, The World of the Talmud, Washington Hillel Foundation 1958

J. Neusner, Invitation to the Talmud, pub. 1974

Maimonides:

S. Zeitlin, Maimonides Biography, N. Y. Bloch 1935

S. Pines Trans. The Guide To The Perplexed, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1963

J. Guttmann, Philosophies of Judaism, N. Y., Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964

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1.1-5. Preface, indicating the place and time of the following discourses of Moses.

1.6-4.40. Introductory discourse, hortatory in character, containing a historical retrospect of the wanderings of the Israelites from the mountain of Horeb or Sinai to the land of Moab, facing the promised land. Allusion is made to the various incidents attending this perilous journey

through the desert and past the territory of hostile neighbors, and emphasis is laid upon the circumstance that the preservation of the Israelites in their hours of tribulation was due entirely to divine providence. In conclusion an appeal is made to the people to observe the statutes and ordinances of God, their sole Savior and Benefactor.

4.41-43. A brief statement about setting aside three cities of refuge on the other side of the Jordan.

4.44-49. The following exposition of the Law by Moses is announced under the triple heading of testimonies, statutes, and ordinances.

Chapters 5-26. Chief discourse, opening with an exposition of the Ten Commandments and developing particularly the first commandment at great length (ch. 5-11). This section, hortatory in character and interspersed with a historical retrospect, is followed by the Deuteronomic Code of Laws, containing the special laws or statutes and ordinances which supplement the Ten Commandments (ch. 12-26). These statutes and ordinances are of a triple character, ceremonial, civil, and criminal.

I. CEREMONIAL OBSERVANCES:

- 1. Law of a central place of worship (12.1-28).
- 2. Injunction against idolatry (12.29-13.19; 16.21-17.7).
- 3. Holiness of the people: clean and unclean food (14.1-21).
 - 4. Tithes (14.22-29).
 - 5. Remittance or Release (15.1-18).
 - 6. Setting aside firstlings as holy (15.19-23).
 - 7. Holy seasons (16.1-17).

II. CIVIL ORDINANCES:

- 1. Appointment of judges and a supreme central tribunal (16.18-20; 17.8-13).
 - 2. Election of a king (17.14-20).
- 3. Regulations concerning the rights and revenues of priests and Levites (18.1-8).
 - 4. Rules concerning prophets (18.9-22).

III. CRIMINAL LAWS:

- 1. Cities of refuge for the manslayer (19.1-13).
- 2. Encroachment on property (19.14).
- 3. False testimony (19.15-21).
- 4. Conduct of war (20.1-20).
- 5. Expiation of an undetected murder (21.1-9).
- 6. Crime punishable by hanging (21.22-23).

IV. MISCELLANEOUS LAWS PERTAINING TO FAMILY AND PROPERTY:

- 1. Marriage with a female captive (21.10-14).
- 2. Right of primogeniture (21.15-17).
- 3. Disobedient son (21.18-21).
- 4. Kindness to animals, etc. (22.1-4,6-8).
- 5. Prohibition of various mixtures (22.5, 9-11).
- 6. Twisted cords on garments (22.12).
- 7. Punishment of unchastity (22.13-29).
- 8. Exclusion from the congregation (23.1-9).
- 9. Ritual cleanness in the camp (23.10-15).

- 10. Runaway slaves (23.16-17).
- 11. Against temple-prostitutes (23.18-19).
- 12. Exaction of interest (23.20-21).
- 13. Concerning vows (23.22-24).
- 14. Use of a neighbor's fruit and corn (23.25-26).
- 15. Remarriage after divorce (24.1-4). .
- 16. Exemption of newly-married men from war-service (24.5).
- 17. The necessaries of life should not be taken in pledge (24.6, 10-13, 17-18).
 - 18. Man-stealing (24.7).
 - 19. Leprosy (24.8-9).
 - 20. Payment of wages (24.14-15).
- 21. Responsibility of parents for children and vice versa (24.16).
- 22. Justice and charity to strangers, orphans and widows (24.17-22).
 - 23. Against excessive punishment (25.1-3).
 - 24. Against muzzling the laboring ox (25.4).
 - 25. Levirate marriage (25.5-10).
 - 26. Indecent assault (25.11-12).
 - 27. Divers weights and measures (25.13-16).
 - 28. Extermination of Amalek (25.17-19).

Chapter 26 constitutes a parenetic conclusion to the special laws.

Chapter 27. Injunctions concerning the acceptance of these statutes and ordinances by the people on their arrival in Canaan.

Chapter 28. Declaration of blessings and curses which will overtake the people if they observe or neglect the prescribed statutes and ordinances.

29.1-30.20. Supplementary discourse, exhorting the people to accept the terms of the new covenant and promising them forgiveness in case of sin, if attended by whole-hearted repentance.

31.1-8. Moses' farewell to the people and Joshua.

31.9-13. Moses' delivery of the Law to the Levitical priests, with instructions to have it recited publicly every seven years.

31.14-15. Commission of Joshua.

31.16-30. Introductory remarks to the Song of Moses.

32.1-43. Song of Moses.

32.44-47. Concluding remarks to the Song of Moses.

32.48-52. Moses is ordered by God to ascend mount Nebo and die there.

Chapter 33. Blessing of Moses.

Chapter 34. Death of Moses on mount Nebo in the land of Moab and Joshua's accession as leader of Israel.

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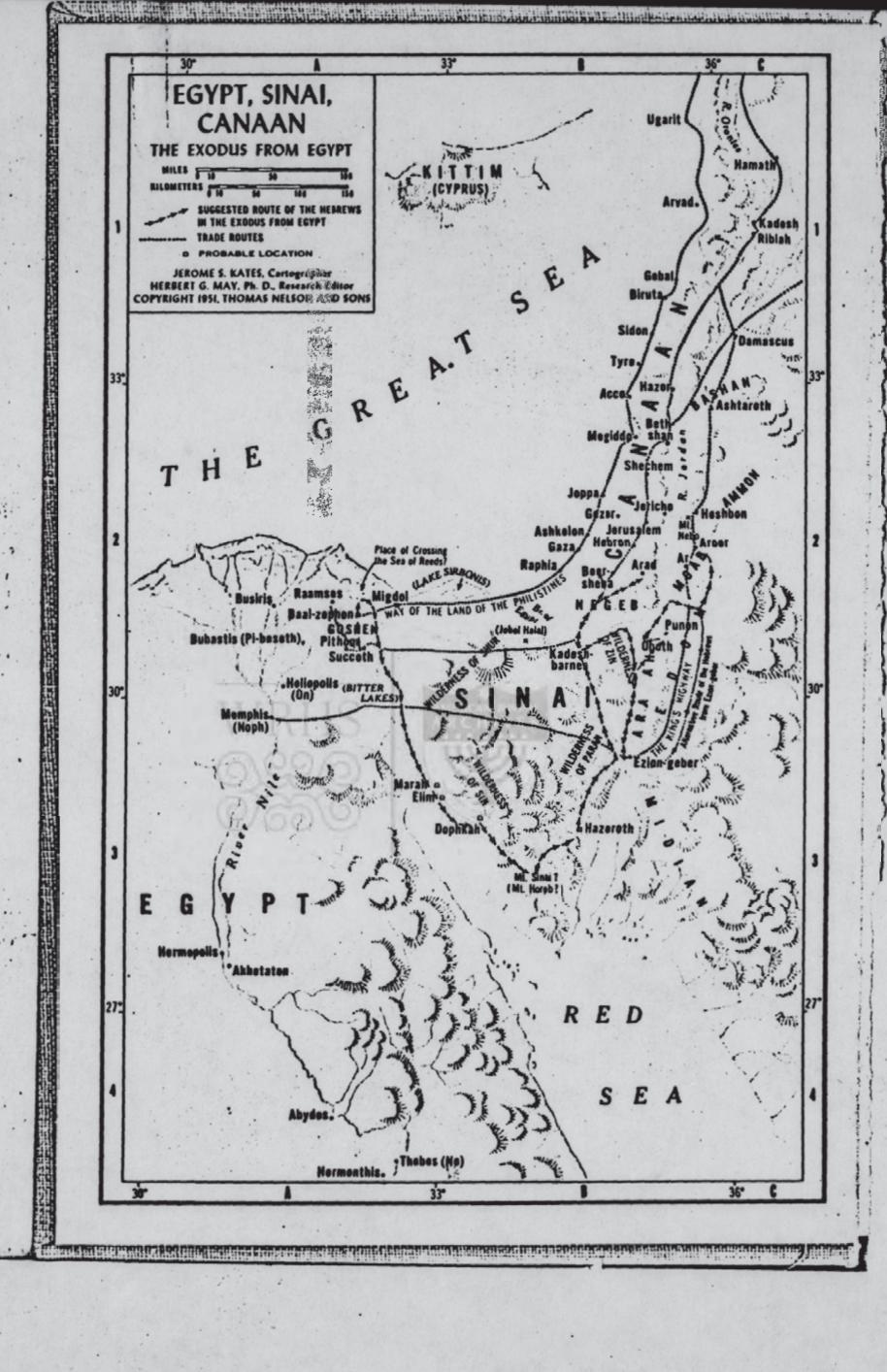
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