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The Story of Scripture, draft, preface, chapter outline, and notes, 1989.

DEDICATION:

HAVE BEEN FINISHED.

TO ADELE WITHOUT WHOSE LOVE AND HELP THIS WORK MIGHT NEVER

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HELP OF MARIE PLUTH, MY MOST COMPETENT SECRETARY; CLAUDIA FECHTER, LIBRARIAN OF THE TEMPLE AND INDEFATIGABLE RESEARCHER; JEAN LETTOFSKY AND MERRILY HART, LIBRARIANS OF THE CLEVELAND COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES; ALICE LORANTH, DIRECTOR OF THE JOHN G. WHITE COLLECTION OF THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY; DR. MOSHE BERGER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CLEVELAND COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES; AND DR. LEONARD KRAVITZ, PROFESSOR OF MIDRASH AND HOMILETICS AT HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION, NEW YORK, N.Y. INSTITUTIONS I HAVE RELIED ON ARE THE TEMPLE, CLEVELAND, OHIO, AND THE POSTGRADUATE CENTRE FOR HEBREW STUDIES AND THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD, ENGLAND,

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PREFACE

Nietzsche had little use for what he called civilization.

Its main purpose, he complained, was to turn man who is by nature a beast of prey into a domestic animal. There have always been those who romanticized the supposedly simple and untrammeled life of that mythic human, the noble savage; and who took delight in contrasting what they call the soul-destroying pretensions and hypocrisies of bourgeois culture to the supposedly soul-liberating existence enjoyed by those who free themselves of society's chains. Twain had Huckleberry light out for the Territory because "Aunt Sally is going to adopt me and civilize me and I can't stand it. I've been there before."

Civilization has its full measure of discontents and every so-called civilized society has had a dark side; but there is an instinctive human drive to improve the human condition.

Civilization derives from our collective attempt to tame the jungle and build security into our lives. Dreams of heaven on earth, blessed isles, and cities on the hill are as common in primitive societies as in our own. Something within the human spirit reaches out for a life endowed with security and grace rather than existence as a hunted animal in a jungle of predators.

None of us requested the gift of life and some become bitter when they realize that they were not born into Eden; but most of us recognize that life is capable of affording satisfactions as well as hurt. For all its many failures, organized society has provided sufficient food, clothing, and shelter to billions of earthlings and freed them from back-breaking, mind-numbing labor.

WO

War apart, life has become more secure, health more reliable, and at least the more fortunate have had available to them a rich menu of music, literature, art, dance, sport, and theater to lighten the passage from cradle to grave.



Prologue: The Word of God as Unchanged and Unchanging

The prologue has been made up largely of sections of chapter 1 which deal with scripture in a general way. Chapter 1 should, on the other hand, deal with scripture, both oral and written, and the second scripture at some length.

Needed still in the prologue is a forecast of what is to come in the book: this is essential, as many readers won't have much idea what to expect. The forecast need not be long and can make use of some of the old prologue. It should appear toward the end of the prologue.

Though the prologue, as I have ordered these paragraphs, hangs together pretty well, something should be said here about the oral tradition and its importance, the importance of scripture for education, some allusion to the fact that Moses and other early prophets were probably illiterate, and the link with literacy. Probably these details can be touched on in the forecast of the book.

Incorporate toward the start of the prologue some of first two paragraphs of old prologue, which seem a bit stronger than what is there. Indeed, any strengthening of the necessity for our understanding the real evolution of scripture would be desirable.

Though I have cut and pasted, I have marked in red the number of the original page a paragraph came from, so it's possible to tell where it was originally.

Acknowledgments will

From west to task - defining scripture, applianing & interpreting may there is all keyon and why & how it developed.

In fully detail, secret aqued - "writings" (?) before the Exile. The penny mayor character (Woodon Literature) and after.

The many terrores Manuscript: the years of Eitle The senall tradition, the priest-senites largely suppressable for it, promphito provided some material futernallop The change planguage, to Aramies. Eyer is small a the small tradition after Egra.

The Tiest Skripture is the Nellementic and Arameie - Speaking woulder The beginnings of literagy and hash learning.

The Meand Seripture and hash learning.

The Meand Seripture would vasilisin: mishod, medorah and the Robbus. Preference further opported ment, and mashine authority on a guide for community life. The tries Toronto.

The medical syntheses: Talmuly portey, seeming, mystical search for meany Epilogue - the authority of scarpfure a the madean would

original - before editing

PROLOGUE

I WAS DRAWN TO THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE BY THE RESURGENCE OF SCRIPTURAL INNOCENCE IN OUR TIMES. POWERFUL FORCES ARE AT WORK IN THE JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND ISLAMIC WORLDS: BLACK-HAT ORTHODOXY, EVANGELICAL CHURCHES, AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, EACH OUT TO COERCE ITS COMMUNITY TO ORGANIZE AROUND RULES AND PRACTICES WHICH EACH INSISTS ITS SCRIPTURE PRESCRIBES. AMERICANS HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH TELEVANGELICALS WHO INSIST THAT WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS LITERALLY SO, THAT THE LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CREATION STORY AND OTHER BIBLICAL EPISODES IS, IN FACT, FACT.

The rise of fundamentalist scriptural religion is one of the surprises of the late 20th century. Those of us who received a liberal education in mid-century believed that fundamentalism was a relic of the past. Not so, as the successful activities of the Ayatollah Khomeini, Rabbi Schneerson, and Jerry Falwell make clear. The literal understanding of scripture is not dead.

IN RETELLING THE HISTORY OF SCRIPTURE WE DISCOVER THAT A TRULY CREATIVE ERA OCCURRED IN EACH OF THE THREE MAJOR WESTERN RELIGIONS BEFORE THEY DEVELOPED A WRITTEN SCRIPTURE, AND THAT THE HISTORY OF SCRIPTURE TENDS TO REVOLVE AROUND THE QUESTION OF WHO CONTROLS THE APPARATUS OF INTERPRETATION AND WHAT READINGS THEY AUTHORIZE. The DEVIL CAN QUOTE SCRIPTURE AND SO CAN A ZEALOT. NO SCRIPTURE IS INTERNALLY CONSISTENT BUT IS MADE CONSISTENT BY BELIEVERS WHO ASCRIBE TRUTH TO THE TEXT, USUALLY OUT OF FEAR THAT THEY CANNOT MANAGE THEIR LIVES ON CONVICTIONS THAT ARE LESS THAN ABSOLUTE ABOUT GOALS, VALUES, AND DUTIES.

In the oldest of these three Western Faiths, the Rise of scripture tends to parallel the spread of literacy. Judaism existed for 1200 years or so without an authorized scripture, and during that era enjoyed perhaps its most creative period. Its religious leaders emphasized a living tradition rather than a fixed text.

THE EMERGENCE OF SCRIPTURE ALLOWED EACH OF THESE TRADITIONS
TO DEFINE FAITH'S TEACHING WITH GREATER PRECISION AND TO
GUARANTEE A MORE UNIFORM SET OF DOGMAS AND PRACTICES. AT THE
SAME TIME, IT RESTRICTED THE FAITH'S DEVELOPMENT BY INSISTING IT
CONFORM TO THE WRITTEN WORD. THE STORY OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN
DEFINITION AND RESTRICTION, AND THE STORY OF A SECOND SCRIPTURE
WHICH WAS DEVELOPED LATER IN EACH TRADITION TO JUSTIFY POSITIONS
THAT WERE NOT SELF-EVIDENT FROM THE SCRIPTURAL TEXT, IS THE STORY
OF THE WESTERN FAITHS IN THEIR MEDIEVAL DEVELOPMENT.

Today the traditional understanding of scripture as the word of God has tended to be vitiated by the growing impact of secular thought. Traditional scriptures are recognized as important as classic texts, but they are no longer seen as infallible. What happens to a faith when large segments of its community no longer trust or believe its scripture? Can a religious tradition exist without the confidence that it is teaching the word of God? Yes and no. In a strictly logical sense, the answer is no. Once scripture is reduced to a great books course, it is no longer

SCRIPTURE. BUT THAT IS NOT ITS ONLY FATE. THE POWER OF THESE SCRIPTURAL WORKS TENDS TO TRANSCEND THEIR CLAIM TO DIVINE AUTHORITY. NOTHER ANSWER IS YES, IT CAN EXIST AS IT EXISTS TODAY, IF MEN AND WOMEN MAKE INDIVIDUAL INTELLECTUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROBLEM. EACH OF THE FAITHS EXISTED BEFORE THERE WAS A SCRIPTURE AND I BELIEVE CAN EXIST TODAY WITHOUT A SCRIPTURE. BUT SCRIPTURE IS THERE AND NEEDS TO BE ASSIMILATED INTO A COMMUNITY'S THOUGHT.

I AM INDEBTED TO MY WIFE FOR THE HELP SHE GAVE ME IN PREPARING THIS BOOK. SHE HAS BEEN A BULWARK OF STRENGTH DURING A PROTRACTED ILLNESS AND THIS BOOK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHOUT HER HELP. I AM ALSO INDEBTED TO MY SECRETARY, MARIE PLUTH, AND TO DR. MOSHE BERGER OF THE CLEVELAND COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES FOR HIS HELP IN RUNNING DOWN CITATIONS. THE BURDEN OF THE TEXT REMAINS MINE.

Chapter 1. From Word to Book: The Defining of Scripture

The First Words pp 5-10

Holy Words, Holy Book Pero - 34

Explaining the Word of God: A Second Scripture 37-41

The Old Words in a Changing World

The Question of Language

The Question of Choice

The Question of Interpretation

This chapter was not only very long but had no clear direction, rambling back and forth from one notion re scripture to another and only in the end introducting Judaism as the main focus -- an intention that belongs in the prologue. Much here belongs in the prologue as well. I have reorganized the chapter opening and the last section. This, on interpretation, should incorporate pages 273-78 from chapter 5 on the second scripture: it's essential to have this in mind from the beginning.

This chapter can be general about the other religions but focus on Judaism and should, I think, be rethought so that connections between sections are clear. Not only Midrash but Talmud should be mentioned, and the medieval rabbils as well; there is too much vagueness here where should be specificity.



Chapter 1 From Ward to Bank: Defining Louptine

Epigraph?

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fotraduction 4
 The First Words
Haly Wards, Holy Back
      33-35 (One page)
       13, thru 91 1
16, 92 (footnote, p. 14)
       194 - 19B-19C
       24, 11 1-11
           (as edited)
Explaining Dado Words: a Leurd Scripture
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Chapter 1 (9.2) 744 (netyped) The Question of Language 45 The Question y Choice 40, last 3 lines 47, ll 1-18 The Questin of Interpretation

53 (also labeled 10 in red & 50 in penci 1!!) 44,9112 Conclusion ? Conclumin 45 + 35/38 ste . Il 1-5 39/38/37/38 - one page

First helf of quote in 92 lused by Liberal Synagogues in Torch service) is from Psalm 19: 8-9. The second half of the gude

The second half of the gode of

CHAPTER 1

(Lenny KRAVITZ)

p.10 the rabbinic position ascribed to Maimonides — if the precise source cannot be located, it must be called "The medieval formulation..." and be used without a citation; if the source can be so located, it should be in quotes and cital.

p. 22 the encoming from Pooling 19 where does the second half come from? Only from the Reform lithray? & Remove from Behold..."

P. 23 Revelations (New Testament) is put forward as source of passage - what is exact citation?

p. 78 Date of Second Votices Conseil of exact citation from Dei Verbum.

pp. 38-39 Source for rebbince story about slaves' uses of gifts (LENNY KRAVUZ)

p. 54 Exact estation for Maimonides quote (Lenny KRAVITZ)

Chapter 2. Sacred Speech: Writings before the Exile

The Spoken Word

The Written Word

⁶ Education and the Power of Memory [to incorporate pp.92-95, also on memory]

8 Scribes and Record Keeping

A The Beginnings of Scripture

& The Tongues of the Prophets

& The Royal Chronicles 9 The Wisdom Literature

The Oral Tradition of God's Instructions

6 Moses and the Covenant at Sinai

6 Joshua

8 Samuel

6 Josiah's Scroll

@ Conclusion

Chapter 2 Complete 1/13/89

Chapter I - Comments 49 plint thewart (es in the the constant who cold)

17 omit A marked for (ch I)

18 - qualifornia marked (ch I)

18 - es in the marked for sold of the (1) 28 - 911 - dware (again) 130 912, ll 4-5 Unm of Tumen (ck ap. ch?) ? By Bulaam, again of again! (#-9, II-31) ? 65 - ll 1-3 could this @ Joseph I serall to hetter, more clearly worded? ? Ul. 22. illiterate rather than conditionte? confessate last of cornery to I - 8

V = to Shaker Sec V = corrected without netyping Chapter 2 Typing errow Page 2. t for N 111 - bank not deleted 11- bank not deleted

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92" (defently belong nafn)

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Outline Chapter 2 - Sacked Speech Introduction 63/04/45 The Spoken Word The Written Word 73-74 Education of the Paner of memory 930 - 93C Early Sember , Record Keeping 79A-79B 81 85 A 858

Chapter 2 3 Tanques & Rosphets (cont) 914-918 The Ragal Chroneles The Window Libertone 29-1018 then bagin of p. 100 The Oral Tradetion y Dod's frakrustione 101A - 101B Theres and the Covenant at Serie 115 114 117 1184 -1180 121A-1210

Chapter 2 3 Samuel
122
Jasual V perall
123
124
125 Conclusion

124 (also number)

127 (130) (Unused fasknakes)

Chapter 3. Memory Becomes Manuscript: The Years of Exile

The Scroll Tradition pp. 133-137

The Priest-Scribes and the Torah pp. 138-149

The Prophete Exile and Prophecy pp. 150-154

The Religious Life of Exile The Shrines pp. 154-143

A Change of Language: Aramaic pp. 143-147

Ezra's Scroll pp. 161-181

The Scroll Tradition after Ezra pp. 181-190

There was in this chapter much redundance and, especially on pages 187-92, confusion of chronology; hence, I reorganized Xeroxes of these pages to make for a more direct presentation.



Chapter 4. Defining Scripture: The

The Greek Diaspora The Editorial Process Torah in Greek: The Septuagint? The Language of Scripture The Use of Greek and Aramaic

The Use Of Hebrew

The Beginnings of Liturgy Torah Readings and the Synagogue Torah Readings and Temple Practice

5 | The Continuing Oral Tradition: Midrash Two Forms of Midrash

The Persistence of Oracles and Prophets

add: Liturgy & Torch Scroke

The Mishnaic Language The Aggadah LIterature

Book Learning and Ben Sirah Conclusion

[This is the outline of this chapter as it stands. A glance at the outline for chapter 5, however, will show that there is some overlap; moreover, there is confusion of organization -- I think because there was in these two chapters an effort to stick to the chronological story. Both these chapters would be improved by some transposition. The section here on the "Continuing Oral Tradtion" should go in the next chapter, which is concerned largely with that tradition, and this is necessary background. Here belong pages 263-72 from chapter 5, on Liturgy and the Torah Scrolls, which would be combined with the Liturgy section above.

This outline reflects, too, some transposition within it, with the Septuagint section moved up front to precede Language, Liturgy, and Oral Tradition. With the further transpositions between the two chapters, chapter 4 will focus more on text and chapter 5 on oral.]

This chapter also needs an opening paragraph or two: see page 195. The attitude of the rabbinical Jews should come at the end of the chapter; it is very confusing where it is (pages 199-201) but could be recast to conclude chapter.

DEFINING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE - THE TORAH

"Unveil my eyes that I may behold wonderous things from out of your Torah" (Pp 119:18)

194A

THE GREEK DIASPORA (IV-1) 195/196/197/197A/198/199

THE EDITORIAL PROCESS (IV-5) 201/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17

THE TORAH IN GREEK: THE SEPTUAGINT (IV-20) 246/47/48/49/50/51

THE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE (IV-26) 218/219

THE USE OF GREEK AND ARAMAIC (IV-27) 219

THE USE OF HEBREW (IV-28) 220/21/222

THE BEGINNINGS OF LITURGY (IV-30) NEW INSERT

TORAH READING AND TEMPLE PRACTICE (IV-30) 222A/256/257/58/58A/ 59/60/61/61A
TORAH READING AND THE SYNAGOGUE (IV-37) 261A/255/255A/252/3/4

← LITURGY AND THE TORAH SCROLLS (IV-41) 263/4/5

INSCRIBING A SEFER TORAH (IV-43) 265 EDUCATION AND RITUAL (IV-44) 266/67 READING FROM THE TORAH (IV-45) 268/69 THE HOLY SCROLL (IV-48) 270/271/72

BOOK LEARNING AND BEN SIRAH (IV-50) 236/37/38/39/240/41/42/43/44/45/45A CONCLUSION (IV-57) 245A/B/CD/E

Jag plesse Chapter 3. Israel's Second Scripture: The Talmud Liturgy and the Torah Scrolls Inscribing a Sefer Torah Education and Ritual Reading from the Torah The Holy Scroll [This set of headings really belongs in chapter 4, and should be combined with Liturgy heading there, with the "Reading" section here and the "Readings" sections there combined. In this case, chapter 6 would begin on p.272, but actually starting off with lines from pp. 327-28, as follows.] paragraphs The Continuing Oral Tradition: Midrash [This would come, with its four subheadings from chapter 5, and would require some introduction in the preliminary pages of the chapter.] The Mishnah The Resistence of The Resistence of Oracles & highet The Mishraic Mishnah and Midrash The Authority of the Rabbis Education in Torah and Hidrash Much The Preference for the Spoken Word A Guide for Community Life The Two Torahs The Discipline of Talmud Torah The Authority of the MIshnah Memorizing the Oral Torah Learning and Character: The Rabbis The Absence of Books Conclusion

Chapter 5. Servel's Second Scripture: The Talmud Intro 262/327-8/272-3/243/295/223/220/224 The Centinuing and Foodston: Medral 243/295/223/2224 Two Forms mednul The Resistence of Iracles , Prophets ? The mishraic Larguest The Aggadie Literature The mishad will. muchant & midrest The authority of the Cathin ? Education in Torok & Medrul ? The Preference for the Spoken Whole a guide for Community Life The Ino loroha The Descapline of Ialmust Toral The authority the meshral memory the book Torol Conchesion Character: The Rothis

CHAPTER 6. THE MEDIEVAL SYNTHESIS

THE TALMUDIC PERIOD

THE AUTHORITY OF THE TALMUD
THE AUTHORITY OF THE RABBIS
THE CONTINUING AUTHORITY OF TORAH
SERMONS AND MIDRASH
MIDRASH AND THE TWO TORAHS
HEBREW POETRY
TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY

THE GAONIC PERIOD

THE CHALLENGE TO SCRIPTURE the Aral Law
THE ACADEMIES AND THEIR WORK
NEW ACADEMIC APPROACHES
THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

THE KARRALAN

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

-CONCLUSION

This chapter covers a lot of ground and very much needs a sense of direction, as I have suggested on its first page. The headings also are attempts to grasp the main intent of particular passages, and may well be improved on.

Epilogue: The Authority of Scripture in the Modern World

The Coming of Modernity
Non-Orthodox Believers
Orthodox Believers
The People of the Book Today

[I suggested that a passage from chapter 2, pages 65-66, be moved to conclusion: it is generally redundant with the epilogue, yet is eloquent and could start it off with out much revision.]





