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The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture München: K.G. Saur The paucity of material, which has limited the study of Aramaic for too long, is gradually being alleviated. An ever growing body of well-edited texts is being made available to the scholarly world. These publications have provoked a number of important and penetrating linguistical and grammatical studies. Generally, however, corresponding literary studies of these texts are still lacking. The present work is an attempt to add a literary approach to the earlier analyses. The study deals with Aramaic poetry of the period between c. 100 B.C.E. and c. 600 C.E. The discussion of the textual material is organized in a number of levels, one superimposed upon the other. The basis is formed by a close exegetical and literary reading of the poems to elucidate essential elements of content, style and form. Particular attention is paid to structure and composi tion as a function of the content of the poems, and to the use made by the poets of stylistic devices as structural elements.

Moses and Abraham Maimonides Xlibris Corporation

The Book of Deuteronomy, the last of the Five Books of Moses or Pentateuch, consists in the main of Moses' final discourses delivered to the children of Israel as they stood poised to begin the conquest and settlement of the land upon which they were to build a national society. The central concern of Moses, as reflected in these discourses, is with the challenge of nation building, creating an Israelite nation out of a mélange of ethnically related tribes and clans that were just liberated from centuries of subjugation and servitude in a relatively sophisticated pagan environment. That which is to bind them together is not a compact between them but rather a common covenant with God to which all would be equal parties. Many of the terms of the covenant were revealed incrementally in the earlier books of the Pentateuch. However, it is only here in Deuteronomy that Moses begins to give them the clearly discernible shape of a constitution for the covenantal society to be established as a nation-state in its divinely assigned territory. Within the constitutional framework set forth in the work is a range of precepts, rules, and regulations governing both those matters that are between man and God and those between man and man, understood as the two sides of a common coin, the covenant. In the effort to comprehend and explain the highly complex biblical text, the author has consulted and cited a wide range of commentaries and studies written over a period of some two millennia that have sought to understand the biblical texts from a variety of perspectives, many of which are virtually inaccessible to those without a good working knowledge of Hebrew. The Dual Truth, Volumes I & II Academic Studies PRess

The stories in the book of Genesis have been studied intensely for more than two millennia, providing a virtual mountain of commentary on every aspect of the narratives contained therein. Viewed from a traditional perspective, the stories related in Genesis are essentially graphic philosophical and theological narratives designed to convey profound ideas and insights that would otherwise be found only in tomes designed for students of philosophy and theology. A close substantive examination of these narratives, as presented in the Masoretic text but often lost in translation where the subtleties of the Hebrew wording are glossed over, will reveal a treasure trove of insights into the fundamental issues of religious belief, the divine-human relationship, freewill and determinism, the complex nature of humankind, and theodicy, to name a few of the issues dealt with in the narratives. The present work contains four " deep dive " studies of key interrelated narratives in the first twenty-two chapters of Genesis that address the questions of the nature of man and his relationship to God and, most critically, the distinction between divine justice and human justice. It is the hope and expectation of the author of these studies that the reader will come away from them with even more questions about the biblical texts than they had before. As will be seen, there has always been little consensus over the centuries about the meanings of these essentially right-brained texts, primarily because they are constructed and written in a manner that tends to challenge left-brained analysis. Nonetheless, they remain intellectually important because the topics they deal with are of great pertinence to contemporary society. Studies in Aramaic Poetry (c. 100 B.C.E.-c. 600 C.E.) Yale University Press

Containing the proceedings of the convention...

Israel Pocket Library: Jewish values iUniverse The fundamental basis of Judaism, as is well known, is the Torah, the teachings contained in

the Pentateuch, the five biblical books the composition of which is traditionally attributed to Moses. These teachings may be grouped in two basic categories, matters between man and man, individually as well as societally, and matters between man and God. The basic guidelines that apply in matters between man and man are referred to as mishpatim or ordinances, 'whereas those applying to matters between man and God are referred to as 'statutes.' The fundamental distinction between the two categories is that the 'ordinances isaac Bernays to Yeshayau Leibowitz; and biblical commentators such as Samuel David are subject to human judgment, whereas the 'statutes' are not; the divine reason for them a Luzzatto and Rabbi Umberto Cassuto. Running like a thread through their philosophies is the mystery, about which people may speculate but cannot know for certain. The present work is primarily concerned with four 'statutes' that have direct and significant impact on the lives of those committed to compliance with them. Since simply rejecting any of them is not an acceptable option, over the millennia since their codification in the Torah efforts have been made to deal with them under conditions that are significantly different from those that prevailed at the beginning of their revelation. Given that the 'statutes' as set forth in the Torah cannot be tampered with, issues have been raised regarding how they are to be

applied in the contemporary Jewish world. These reflections are not intended to propose

answers to those issues, but only to clarify their significance and their present treatment in

The Theopolitical Discourses of Moses Xlibris Corporation

the various schools of Judaic thought.

The studies in this volume discuss some of the issues implicit but not resolved in the Hebrew Scriptures including the problems inherent in the topics of theology and religious philosophy as discussed and argued by scholars for more than two millennia. The studies address the problem of philosophy, the troublesome issues of moral autonomy and divine omniscience and theodicy, from a Judaic perspective. In addition, it includes a study of the biblical story of the Golden Calf and it religious implications that are more complex than a cursory reading of the biblical text will suggest. Finally, it includes a discussion of the often misunderstood concepts of the prophet and prophecy as set forth in the biblical texts. Although this book does not and cannot resolve the philosophical and theological issues that have persisted through the millennia, it hopes to make clear how these issues have been wrestled with from a Judaic perspectives, which will have relevance with regard to the perspectives on these matters of other monotheistic faiths.

A Divinely Given Torah in Our Day and Age BRILL

Compiled from materials originally pub. in Encyclopedia Judaica

Esther in Medieval Garb Xlibris Corporation

The five studies in this volume focus on aspects of the narratives in the Five Books of Moses (The Pentateuch) that have frequently been glossed over by commentators, ancient and modern, and remain contentious to this very day. These studies address issues such as the complex triangular relationships between Sarah, Abraham, and Hagar as depicted in the book of Genesis; the 'bridegroom of blood' episode in the story of Moses and his Midianite wife Zipporah as related in the book of Exodus; the meaning and implications of the Golden Rule of biblical ethics as set forth in the book of Leviticus; the zealotry of Phinehas as seen from different perspectives in the book of Numbers; and the differences between the episodes of the Israelite spies as depicted in the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy. Although these studies do not claim to resolve the issues they examine, it is their purpose to stimulate further interest in the complexities of the ancient biblical narratives and the hidden insights about human nature they provide.

Pomegranates and Golden Bells Xlibris Corporation

The Seventeenth Century Hebrew Book covers the gamut of Hebrew literature in that century. Each entry has a descriptive text page and an accompaning reproduction. There is an extensive introduction with an overview of Hebrew printing in the seventeenth century. Between Faith and Reason Oxford University Press

Winner of the Jewish Book Council Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award in Scholarship This book explores the reception history of the most important Jewish Bible commentary ever composed, the Commentary on the Torah of Rashi (Shlomo Yitzhaki; 1040-1105). Though the Commentary has benefited from enormous scholarly attention, analysis of diverse reactions to it has been surprisingly scant. Viewing its path to preeminence through a diverse array of religious, intellectual, literary, and sociocultural lenses, Eric Lawee focuses on processes of the Commentary's canonization and on a hitherto unexamined--and wholly unexpected--feature of its reception: critical, and at times astonishingly harsh, resistance to it. Lawee shows how and why, despite such resistance, Rashi's interpretation of the Torah became an exegetical classic, a staple in the curriculum, a source of shared religious vocabulary for Jews across time and place, and a foundational text that shaped the Jewish nation's collective identity. The book takes as its larger integrating perspective processes of canonicity as they shape how traditions flourish, disintegrate, or evolve. Rashi's scriptural magnum opus, the foremost work of Franco-German (Ashkenazic) biblical scholarship, faced stiff competition for canonical supremacy in the form of rationalist reconfigurations of Judaism as they developed in Mediterranean seats of learning. It nevertheless emerged triumphant in an intense battle for Judaism's future that unfolded in late medieval and early modern times. Investigation of the reception of the Commentary throws light on issues in Jewish scholarship and spirituality that continue to stir reflection, and even passionate debate, in the Jewish world today.

The Seventeenth Century Hebrew Book (2 vols.) Brill Archive

This comprehensive history, the first to appear in English, gives a vivid portrayal of the Book of Esther's role in the intellectual and cultural life of Jews in the Middle Ages. Much of the study is based on material that exists only in manuscripts, and it introduces many exegetes hitherto unknown or unstudied. Hebrew Books from the Harvard College Library iUniverse

Colleagues, students, and friends honor Professor Milgrom by celebrating his contributions to biblical and Near Eastern scholarship with special emphasis on his primary areas of expertise. The first section of the book, Ritual, Law, and Their Sources, contains thirty-five essays on cultic and legal issues found in the Hebrew Bible, the Septuagint, and texts from Qumran. The second section, Other Literary, Historical, and Linguistic Studies, includes twenty-four essays, primarily dealing with

interpretive issues in the Hebrew Bible. Journal of Biblical Literature BRILL

This book explores three schools of fascinating, talented, and gifted scholars whose philosophies assimilated the Jewish and secular cultures of their respective homelands: they include halakhists from Rabbi Ettlinger to Rabbi Eliezer Berkowitz; Jewish philosophers from attempt to reconcile the Jewish belief in revelation with Western culture, Western philosophy, and the conclusions of scientific research. Among these attempts is Luzzatto 's "dual truth" approach. The Dual Truth is the sequel to the Ephraim Chamiel's previous book The Middle Way, which focused on the challenges faced by members of the "Middle Trend" in nineteenth-century Jewish thought.

A Guide to the Hebrew Manuscript Collection of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America Oxford University Press

The Geonic period from about the late sixth to mid-eleventh centuries is of crucial importance in the history of Judaism. The Geonim, for whom this era is named, were the heads of the ancient talmudic academies of Babylonia. They gained ascendancy over the older Palestinian center of Judaism and were recognized as the leading religious and spiritual authorities by most of the world's Jewish population. The Geonim and their circles enshrined the Babylonian Talmud as the central canonical work of rabbinic literature and the leading guide to religious practice, and it was a predominantly Babylonian version of Judaism that was transplanted to newer centers of Judaism in North Africa and Europe. Robert Brody's book -- the first survey in English of the Geonic period in almost a century -focuses on the cultural milieu of the Geonim and on their intellectual and literary creativity. Brody describes the cultural spheres in which the Geonim were active and the historical and cultural settings within which they functioned. He emphasizes the challenges presented by other Jewish institutions and individuals, ranging from those within the Babylonian Jewish setting -specially the political leadership represented by the Exilarch -- to the competing Palestinian Jewish center and to sectarian movements and freethinkers who rejected rabbinic authority altogether. He also describes the variety of ways in which the development of Geonic tradition was affected by the surrounding non-Jewish cultures, both Muslim and Christian. "This book is a fresh and thorough examination of the period in question, a masterpiece of

scholarship and erudition". -- Neil Danzig, Jewish Theological Seminary <u>Poets, Prophets, and Sages</u> iUniverse Includes entries for maps and atlases.

The Book of the Covenant Springer

The biblical narrative of the revelatory events at Mount Sinai, and the covenant with God entered into by the children of Israel, deals with the critical formative event in the religious and cultural history of ancient Israel. However, the narrative also contains a number of enigmatic passages that have long troubled readers of Scripture. In this book, the author undertakes to unravel some of these enigmas and to show how they contribute to a fuller understanding of the narrative. The focus in The Convocation at Sinai is on what the biblical text is telling us, explicitly as well as implicitly, about the world in which the ancient Israelites became transformed from a mass of ethnically related people into a nation bound by a divine covenant, and the extraordinary role that the covenant between God and Israel played in the creation of the religious civilization known as Judaism. In the effort to comprehend and explain the highly complex biblical text, the author has consulted a wide range of commentaries and studies written over a period of some two millennia that have sought to understand the biblical texts from a wide variety of perspectives, many of which are presented for the reader's consideration, including many sources inaccessible to those without a working knowledge of Hebrew. Hasdai Crescas on Codification, Cosmology and Creation iUniverse Index to microfiche collection of 4,934 titles filmed on 11,453 microfiche. It is

divided into three sections: Author/Title, Subject and Imprint.

'Now I Know': Five Centuries of Aqedah ExegesixIibris Corporation
Moses Maimonides—a proud heir to the Andalusian tradition of Aristotelian
philosophy—crafted a bold and original philosophical interpretation of Torah and
Judaism. His son Abraham Maimonides is a fascinating maverick whose Torah
commentary mediates between the philosophical interpretations of his father, the
contextual approach of Biblical exegetes such as Saadya, and the Sufi-flavored
illuminative mysticism of his Egyptian Pietist circle. This pioneering study explores
the intersecting approaches of Moses and Abraham Maimonides to the spark of divine
illumination and revelation of the divine name Ehyeh asher Ehyeh, "I am that I am / I
will be who I will be."

Further Studies in the Five Books of Moses Xlibris Corporation
The eight studies in this volume focus on additional aspects of the narratives in the Five Books of Moses that have frequently been glossed over by commentators, ancient and modern, and remain contentious to this very day. These studies address subjects such as the primal mission of man in the creation narrative, the 'covenant between the pieces,' the symbolism of circumcision, the story of Jacob and his four wives, and the rape of Dinah, as depicted in the book of Genesis; the story of the exodus from Egypt as related in the book of Exodus; the reason for the premature death of the sons of Aaron, Nadav and Avihu, and the reason for the dietary laws, as set forth in the book of Leviticus. Although these studies do not claim to resolve the issues they examine, it is their purpose to stimulate further interest in the complexities of the ancient biblical narratives and the hidden insights about human nature they provide.

Reflections on Issues in Judaic Law and Lore iUniverse
This work focuses on the conception of God of the medieval Jewish philosopher
and legal scholar, Hasdai Crescas (1340-1410/11). It demonstrates that
Crescas 'God is infinitely creative and good and explores the parallel that
Crescas implicitly draws between God as creator and legislator.