

Prof. David Berger

The Maimonidean Controversies and Jewish Responses to Other Cultures

1. The Issue of Philosophy and General Culture in Christianity, Islam and Judaism before Maimonides

Readings: Harry A. Wolfson, *Philo*, vol. 1, pp. 143-63.

Saul Lieberman, *Hellenism in Jewish Palestine*, pp. 100-114.

Gerald J. Blidstein, "Rabbinic Judaism and General Culture: Normative Discussion and Attitudes," in G.J. Blidstein, D. Berger, S.Z. Leiman, and A. Lichtenstein, *Judaism's Encounter with Other Cultures: Rejection or Integration?*, ed. by J.J. Schacter, pp. 1-56.

Norman F. Cantor, ed., *The Medieval World, 300-1300*, pp. 28-30.

Cantor, *Medieval History* (first edition), pp. 68-79.

R. Saadia Gaon, *The Book of Beliefs and Opinions*, trans. by S. Rosenblatt, pp. 3-37 (Introductory Treatise).

Bahya ibn Pakuda, *The Book of Direction to the Duties of the Heart*, trans. by M. Mansour, pp. 85-108 (Introduction).

Judah Halevi, *Kuzari* I: 11-13, 62-67.

Herbert Davidson, "The Study of Philosophy as a Religious Obligation," in *Religion in a Religious Age*, ed. by S.D. Goitein, pp. 53-68.

David Berger, "Judaism and General Culture in Medieval and Early Modern Times," in *Judaism's Encounter*, pp. 60-72.

2. Maimonides

Readings: Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*: Letter of Dedication, Introduction, I:2, II:25, 32, III: 17, 26, 51.

I. Twersky, *A Maimonides Reader*, pp. 1-29.

Joseph Sarachek, *Faith and Reason*, pp. 14-26.

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3. The Mishneh Torah Controversy

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I. Twersky, "The Beginnings of Mishneh Torah Criticism," in *Biblical and Other Studies*, ed. by A. Altmann, pp. 161-82.

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Twersky, *Introduction to the Code of Maimonides*, pp. 24-47.

Twersky, *Rabad of Posquieres*, pp. 175-197, 258-273.

Daniel J. Silver, *Maimonidean Criticism and the Maimonidean Controversy, 1180-1240*, pp. 69-97.

4. The Resurrection Controversy

Readings: Maimonides, *Mishneh Torah*, *Hilkhot Teshuvah* 8:2.

Maimonides, *Treatise on the Resurrection*

Maimonides' Commentary on Sanhedrin, trans. by Fred Rosner, pp.134-159 (introd. to chapter 10).

Bernard Septimus, *Hispano-Jewish Culture in Transition*, pp. 39-60.

5. The Great Controversy of the 1230s

Readings: Twersky, "Aspects of the Social and Cultural History of Provençal Jewry," in *Jewish Society through the Ages*, ed. by H.H. Ben-Sasson and S. Ettinger, pp. 185-207.

Berger, pp. 85-100, 117-122 (top).

Septimus, pp. 61-115.

Nahmanides, *Commentary on the Torah*, Gen. 18:1, Lev. 1:9.

Nahmanides, *Kitvei Ramban*, ed. by C. Chavel, pp. 336-351 (= *Writings and Discourses*, trans. by Chavel, pp. 361-417).

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6. The Renewal of the Controversy in the Early Fourteenth Century

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7. Late Medieval Spain and Renaissance Italy

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David Ruderman, "The Italian Renaissance and Jewish Thought," in *Renaissance Humanism, vol. 1: Humanism in Italy*, ed. by A. Rabil Jr., pp. 382-433.

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8. Late Medieval Ashkenaz, Sixteenth-Century Poland, and the Transition to Modern Times

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