

Judaism – Further Reading

H. Shanks, W. Dever. B. Halpern, K. McCarter, *The Rise of Ancient Israel*

Norman Solomon, *Judaism: A Very Short Introduction*

Jacob Neusner, *Rabbinic Literature: An Essential Guide*

_____, *Judaism When Christianity Began: A Survey of Belief and Practice*

_____, *A Rabbi Talks with Jesus*

W. Harrelson and R. Falk, *Jews and Christians: A Troubled Family*

Michael Meyer, *Jewish Identity in the Modern World*

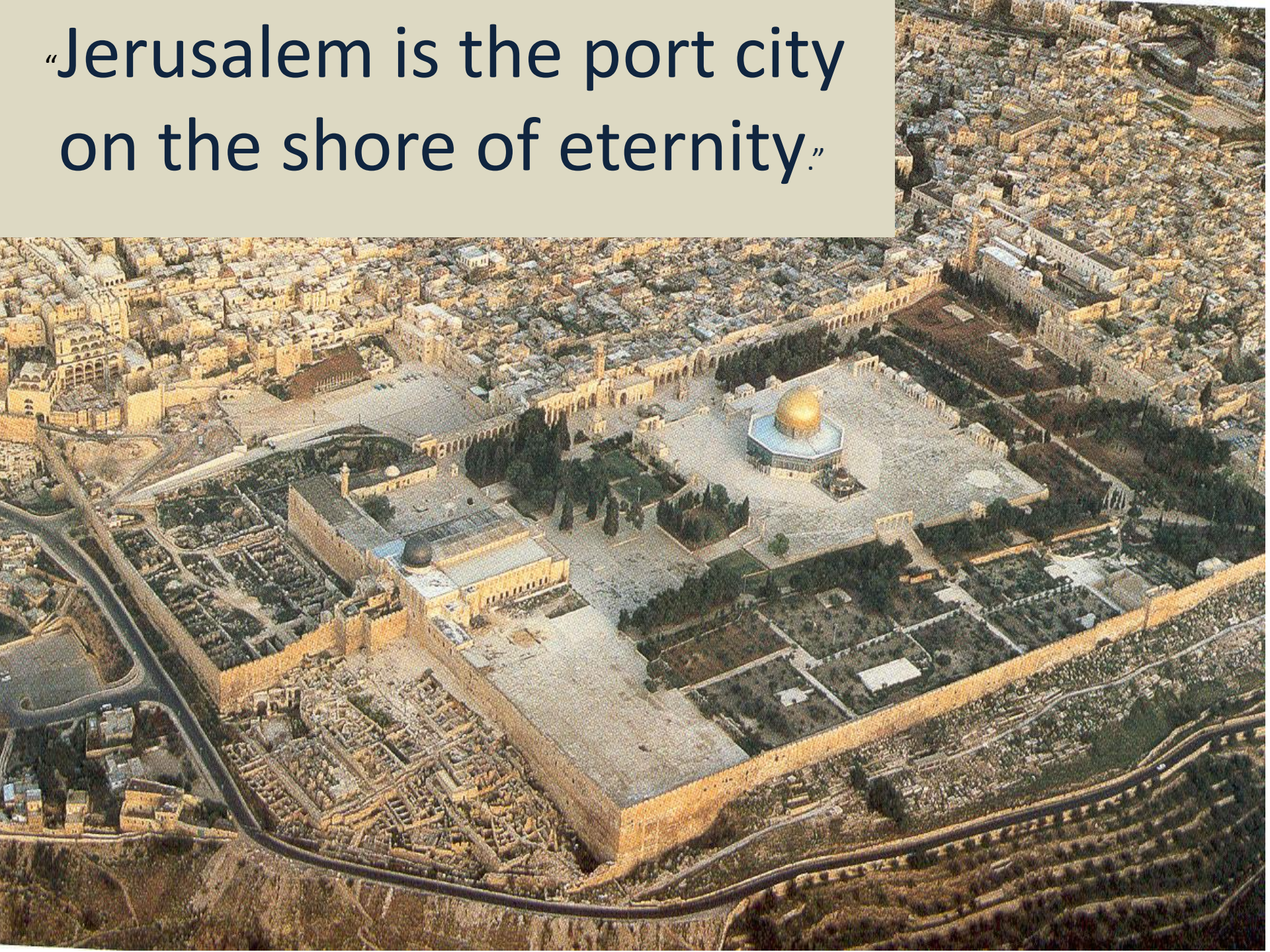
_____, *Response to Modernity: A History of the Reform Movement*

Hain, Shmeul, *The Next Generation of Modern Orthodoxy*

Daniel Eleazar and Rela Geffen, *The Conservative Movement*

Simon Montefiore, *Jerusalem. The Biography*

“Jerusalem is the port city
on the shore of eternity.”



Western Religious Traditions

- The Central Role of the Bible
- A God of Creation and A Linear View Of Time
- God's Self-Limiting - Human Responsibility and Free Ascent with Consequences
- The separation of religion and state? Gregorian Reforms (1073-1085)? Peace of Westphalia (1648)?
- Coming to terms with the Enlightenment (exception = Islam)

Jews/Judaism – The Identity Question – Shaped in Crucible of History

Judaism and Jews – the Difficult task of Definition – Between Ethnicity and Religion

- Judaism as the Religion = The word “Jew” from Yehuda – The Surviving Tribe (of 12) after the Babylonian Exile – If Judaism is equated with Ancient Israelite Religion (an error?), then in fact it is the Religious Traditions of One Tribe, the Tribe of Judah (South)
- Remaking of the Religion after the Fall of the Second Temple in 70 CE/AD – From Religion of Hebrew Scriptures (emphasis on sacrifice and Priest/Temple to:
- Central Role of:
 - Torah
 - Mitzva
 - Prayer
 - Teshuva
 - Rabbi and Synagogue

Beyond Religion – Defined and Defining in

Response to Historical Realities

- Christianization of Roman Empire and Medieval Europe
 - Jews as Demonic Other – Killers of Christ – Growing Isolation and Rise of Ghettos
 - Acceptance of ‘Special Status’ – as Set Apart
 - The Enlightenment and Emancipation – Transformation of Identity – The collapse of the wall of separation To Be first of all French – religion as a private matter
 - Judaism splinters in seeking the best response to Enlightenment Forces;
 - Assimilate
 - Retrench – The Orthodox Trajectory
 - Conservative Movement
 - Adapt – The Reform Movement

- Anti-Semitism – Emancipation and the Paradox of Persistent anti-Semitism
- The Dreyfus Affair (1896-1904) and the Rise of Zionism (Theodore Herzl)
- Nazism (defining Jews in ‘biological terms) and the Holocaust – The Creation of the State of Israel
 - Particularism in Terms of Nationalism - The Struggle over Defining the State – Secular or Religious? And the Consequence – No Constitution

From the Religion of Judah to Judaism

Canaanite Refugees to Israelite Identity – Iron Age –
1200 BCE

Absence of Textual Traditions

Using Text to Shape Identity – Babylonia Exile to the
Judean Kingdom – 537 BCE

Temple and Sacrifice

Rise of Scribal Class (Ezra – Proto-Pharisees?)

“Ezra went up from Babylon...He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses...Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach the statutes and ordinances of the Lord.” Ezra 7.6,10

The Religion of Ancient Israel – Shaping Belief – The Place of the Hebrew Scriptures (OT)

- In the Beginning – Shaping Ancient Israel’s Religion
 - Biblical Roots
 - Genesis 2 – The Collapse of Harmony Between Creator and Creation – Death as Punishment?
 - Genesis 12 – The Recovery of Harmony Through a Unique Bond with Abraham and Descendants
 - Exodus 34.5-6 – Yahweh’s Core Nature
 - Deuteronomy 5-6 – Covenant and The Law
 - The Rise of a Sacrificial – Temple Based Religion
 - Exodus 22 and II Samuel 7

- In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a mist^[a] went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being....⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” To the woman he said,
“I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.”
¹⁷ And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ In the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread
till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.”

• **12** Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”

- And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, “The LORD (YAHWEH), the LORD (YAHWEH), a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...

- “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your hearing this day, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb... He said:
- ⁶“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- ⁷“You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.
- ⁸“You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁹ you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ¹¹“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
- ¹²“Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your manservant, or your maidservant, or your ox, or your ass, or any of your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out thence with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.
- ¹⁶“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you; that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you, in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
- ¹⁷“You shall not kill.
- ¹⁸“Neither shall you commit adultery.
- ¹⁹“Neither shall you steal.
- ²⁰“Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ²¹“Neither shall you covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’

“You shall not delay to make offerings from the fullness of your harvest and from the outflow of your presses. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to me. You shall do the same with your oxen and your sheep: seven days it shall remain with its mother and; on the eighth day you shall give it to me.” Exodus 22:29-30

“Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle...When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house in my name...” 2 Samuel 7:5-6, 12-13







