

# Varieties of Modern Orthodoxy

Dr. Brill  
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Introduction

## Unit 1 Traditionalism

- 1) Shadal
  - i. Genesis
  - ii. M. Hartom, *Peraqim be-mishnato shel ShaDa"L*
- 2) Chief Rabbi Herman Adler, *Anglo Jewish Memoirs*
- 3) Hertz, *Pentateutch*, essays at the end of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus
- 4) Rabbi Isaac Leiser, *Discourses of the Jewish Religion*
- 5) Rabbi Leo Jung,
  - i. What Is Orthodoxy?
  - ii. Selected sermons
  - iii. Modern Marriage Problems
- 6) Herman Wouk, *This is My God*, chapter 3
- 7) R. Joseph Lookstein,
  - i. *Sources of Courage* (selections)
  - ii. *Practical Rabbinics- Guide*
- 8) Trude Weiss-Rosmarin, "Is Judaism Old-Fashioned?"
- 9) Morris Lichtenstein, (selections)
- 10) Rabbi de Sola Pool, *Thanksgiving Service*
- 11) Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Dignity of Difference* (suggested-not required-not on web)

## Unit 2 Religious Zionism

- 1) R. Elhanan Spector, Letter against secular studies
- 2) Rabbi Isaac Reines,
  - i. *Or Hadash al Zion* (selections)
  - ii. The Mission of the Holy Yeshiva of Lida (handout- not on Web\*)
  - iii. Selections in Exponants and Philosophy of Religious Zionism ed, Avraham Bick, pp. 23-32.
- 3) Zev Yaavetz *Leket Ketavim*
- 4) R. Wolf Gold, *Emet veEmunah*
- 5) Rabbi S. K. Mirsky, Intro to first issue of Talpiot
- 6) R. Pinhas Churgin,
  - i. "Hellenism and Hebraism" *Masmid* 1932
  - ii. Pinhas Churgin, *An oral history of the early years of the Teachers Institute and Yeshiva University*, (Yeshiva University, 1994) selections
- 7) R. Bernard Revel, "The Yeshiva College"
- 8) R. Leon Gellman, be-shevilei ha-yahadut (not required)
- 9) *Sefer Yovel Mizrachi* (1936) (not required)

## Unit 2.5 Other Eastern European Rabbis

R. Hayyim Hirschensohn – Malki baKodesh (selections)  
(Hebrewbooks.org for much more)

## Unit 3 Torah-True Polemical Traditionalism

- 1) Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch
  - i. *Judaism Eternal* volume II- “Judaism allied to Progress”
  - ii. Ibid, “How Can We Carry Jewish Learning Into Practical life”
  - iii. Psalms – chapter 1
  - iv. Horeb pp. 64, 86-90 (Not on the Web)
- 2) Dayan Grunfeld Introduction to Horeb xl- cxl (Not on the Web)
- 3) Isaac Breuer, *Concepts of Judaism* “The law and the individual” “The concept of Miracle” “Revelation” 37-52, 11-125, 168-180. (not on web)
- 4) Rabbi D. Z. Hoffman
  - i. Introduction to Leviticus
  - ii. “On Torah and Wissenschaft” (In Torah uMadda Journal-volume 6)
- 5) Rabbi Nechemias Nobel – sermons
- 6) Rabbi Yehiel Weinberg, eulogy and articles
- 7) Rabbi Jakob Barth, Introduction to Isaiah
- 8) R. Aron Barth, *The Eternal Jew Faces Modern Problems* chapters 1, 17, 20-21 (not on the web)
- 9) Mordechai Breuer, *Modernity within Tradition: the social history of orthodox Jewry in imperial Germany* pages 1-120, 162-166, 209-214, 312-315, 355-366, 376-377, 395-404 (not on the web)

## Unit 4 Modern Orthodoxy

Readings:

- 1) Rabbi Samuel Belkin,
  - i. *Essays in Traditional Jewish Thought* (selections)
  - ii. “*Philosophy of Purpose*” in *Studies in Torah Judaism*
- 2) R. Hayyim Halevi Donin, *To Be a Jew* Introduction
- 3) Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits, *Essential Essays of Eliezer Berkovits*, chapters 1-5, 10, 11 (not on the web)
- 4) Rabbi Emmanuel Rackman, “*Dialectic of The Halakhah*” “*Future of Jewish Law*” both in *Treasury of Tradition*
- 5) Rabbi Walter Wurzberger
  - i. “Covenantal Imperatives” “Darkhei Shalom”
  - ii. “Alienation and Exile” Pluralism and the halakhah” Oral Law and the Conservative Dilemma” in *Treasury of Tradition*
  - iii. *Sermons*
  - iv. “*Metahalakhic prepositions*”  
<http://www.rabbiwurzburger.org/PDF/Meta-Halakhic Propositions.PDF>

- 6) Rabbi Shubert Spero, "Is Judaism Optimistic?" in *Treasury of Tradition*
- 7) *RCA Sermon Manual* – [hebrewbooks.org](http://hebrewbooks.org)
- 8) Rabbi Sol Roth,
  - i. *Religion and Science* 564-573 [527-542] in *Studies in Torah Judaism*
  - ii. "Idea of Synthesis" *The Jewish Idea of Community*
- 9) R. Norman Lamm, *Faith and Doubt "Two Versions of Synthesis"*  
"Intro To Extraterrestrial life"
- 10) R. Maurice Lamm, *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning* (selected pages)
- 11) Jewish Life – assorted articles
  - i. Critique of Conservative Judaism
  - ii. The New RIETS and its products
  - iii. Goals and vision for modern orthodox Jews

#### Secondary Literature:

- 1) Jonah Steinberg, "From a Pot of Filth to a Hedge of Roses (and Back Again)"
- 2) Martin Marty, *Modern American religion* volume III selections
- 3) James Hudnut-Beumler, *Looking for God in the Suburbs: The Religion of the American Dream and its Critics, 1945-1965*.

#### Unit 4.5 **The 1960's and 70's**

##### Readings:

- 1) Rabbi Yitz Greenberg and R. Aharon Lichtenstein in *Commentator*
- 2) R. Yitz Greenberg and R. Danziger in *Jewish Observer*
- 3) *Jewish Observer* criticisms of modern Orthodoxy
- 4) Shlomo Riskin, articles
- 5) Robert Wuthnow, *After Heaven* chapters 1, 3, 4, 7 (also relevant for early Centrism)
- 6) Meir Kahane, (I will give you articles to look at on their own website)
- 7) Yitta Halberstam Mandelbaum, *Holy Brother* chapters 1, 2, 9 (not on web)

#### Unit 5 **Centrism**

##### Readings

- 1) Rav H. Schachter,
  - i. *Nefesh Harav* be-inyane mesorah, pp. 34-58, skim 59-71 (not on web)
  - ii. Torah web selections
  - iii. Mitzvah of Yishuv Eretz Yisrael in *Religious Zionism* ed. Shubert Spero
- 2) Rav Lichtenstein (not on the web)
  - i. *By His Light* – chapters 1
  - ii. *Leaves of Faith*- volume 1 chapters 1-4, volume 2 chapters 1, 12, 14, 15
- 3) R. Norman Lamm, *Seventy Faces* chapters 4, 5, 13

- 4) R. Bleich, *Contemporary Halakhic Problems* (selections)
- 5) Rav Mayer Twersky – articles from Torah web
- 6) *Torah uMadda Journal* volumes 1 and 2 Rabbis Parnes, Willig, Blau, Rosensweig, and Carmy.
- 7) R. Shalom Carmy, article in *Academe* (online) (and others)

#### Secondary Literature

- 8) Christian Smith, *American Evangelicalism* (handout)
- 9) Alan Wolf, “The Opening of the Evangelical Mind” (handout)
- 10) Rachael Adler, “Innovation and Authority”

#### Unit 6 **Open Orthodoxy**

- 1) Rabbi Avi Weiss “Open Orthodoxy”
- 2) JOFA Journal – selections (online)

## Reading list Part 2

### Unit 7 Mizrahi Workers

#### Readings:

- 1) Shnuel Hayyim Landau, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 432-439 (not on web)
- 2) Shnuel Hayyim Landau, selections (web)
- 3) R. Benjamin Lau, "A Reflection of Truth: Rabbinate and Academe in the Writings of Rabbi A.S. Rosenthal on Violating the Sabbath to save a Gentiles life" *Akdamot* –forthcoming in English in the *Edah* journal
- 4) Rabbi S. Z. Shragai, *Hagut vehagshamah*, *BeSugiot Hador* (web)
- 5) Isaiah Leibowitz, "Yes, Let Them dance" (web)
- 6) Selections from *Amudim*- Zuriel Admanit, Eliezer Goldman, and others (web)

### Unit 8 State Religion

#### Readings:

- 1) Rav Isaac Herzog, prayer for the state of Israel
- 2) Rav Waldenberg, Tzitz Eliezer, introduction to volume 10 (web)
- 3) *Religious Zionism* edited by Yosef Tirosh, read Moshe Unna 259-297; Tirosh 11-34
- 4) Rav Shaul Yisraeli or Rav David Hayyim Halevi *Aseh Lekha Rav* (selections-handout)
- 5) Rinat Yisrael (Yom HaAtzmaut ) or Nusah Yahid siddur (intro)
- 6) Dov Schwartz, *HaZiyonut Hadatit* (MOD press) chapters 6, 7, 8, ,10 (not on web)
- 7) Charles Liebman and Asher Cohen "The Struggle among Religious Zionists on the issue of a Religious State"

### Unit 9 Merkaz Harav

#### Readings:

- 1) Rav Zvei Yehudah Kook, *Torat Eretz Yisrael*, Faith, Settling Eretz Yisrael (not on web)
- 2) Rav Neriah – selections from the debate in *Deot* (web)
- 3) Rav Aviner- *Pirkei Ahavah* (skim)
- 4) Rav Katz, *Kedoshim Tiheyu* (on the web)
- 5) Rav Tau- bans on teacher's colleges, and literary approaches to Bible (web)

### Unit 10 –New Religious Zionism

#### Readings

- 1) Rav Yuval Cherlow, *Torat Eretz Yisrael* (selections)
- 2) Rav Shagar, *Kelim Shevurim* , Introduction, chapters 1, 2.
- 3) *Amudim- Deot* – Selected articles from Rav Yehudah Gilad, Rav Yuval Cherlow, Rav Ronan Lubit, Meir Roth (web)
- 4) *Akdamot*, Yitzhak Geiger on the new orthodox, Rav Cherlow, Yoav Sorek and others.(web)