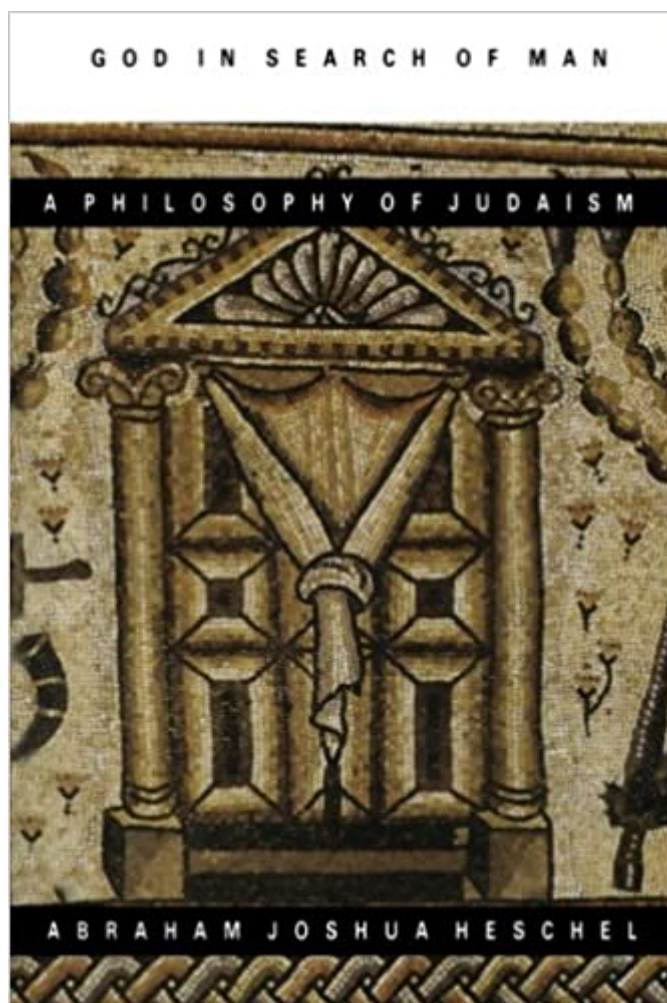


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God In Search Of Man : A Philosophy Of Judaism



Synopsis

Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most revered religious leaders of the 20th century, and *God in Search of Man* and its companion volume, *Man Is Not Alone*, two of his most important books, are classics of modern Jewish theology. *God in Search of Man* combines scholarship with lucidity, reverence, and compassion as Dr. Heschel discusses not man's search for God but God's for man--the notion of a Chosen People, an idea which, he writes, "signifies not a quality inherent in the people but a relationship between the people and God." It is an extraordinary description of the nature of Biblical thought, and how that thought becomes faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism is among Abraham Joshua Heschel's most comprehensive studies of the Jewish religion. It is a work of impeccable scholarship conveyed with absolute clarity, in a spirit of utmost reverence and compassion. "Religion is an answer to man's ultimate questions," Heschel declares on the book's first page. Religion that forgets its roots in humanity's lived experience, religion that inadequately addresses the earthly realities of life, Heschel says, is false religion. And yet, Heschel asserts that religion is not a vehicle by which humanity draws closer to God; it is always God who reaches out to humanity through religion. "Judaism is God's quest for man. The Bible is a record of God's approach to His people. More statements are found in the Bible about God's love for Israel than about Israel's love for God." *God in Search of Man* is almost as exhausting as it is exhaustive. Detailed analyses of "Awe," "Wonder," and "Glory" stand alongside discourses on religion and time, the nature of prophesy, and the

problem of evil. Heschel's encyclopedic knowledge of and omnivorous interest in the nature of Judaism is, for most readers, more productively taken in small doses than swallowed whole. The book's table of contents, however, will get a considerable workout over the years, as readers return again and again to find Heschel's opinions about various aspects of spiritual life. --Michael Joseph Gross

• One of the most compelling books about being human that has been written in this century. •
• The Boston Globe • Prose that sings and soars in the warm, intuitive tradition of the great 18th-century Hasidic leaders from whom [Heschel] is descended . . . God in Search of Man is subtitled 'A Philosophy of Judaism,' but it speaks to all those for whom the Bible is a holy book. •
• Time

This was my first experience with Heschel and Jewish philosophy...kind of like diving into the deep end before learning to swim...but I thoroughly enjoyed his insights and greatly appreciated his facility to condense profound ideas into understandable, pithy sound bites. As a Christ follower, I think I came away with a deeper respect for the Jewish way of looking at God's word, life and history. Perhaps more importantly, I have a more informed empathy for their complex spiritual journey. Completing God in Search of Man will take endurance. It is not only lengthy but thought-provoking. Don't rush through it but savor it's wisdom and allow it to enrich your personal perspective.

Abraham Heschel's writing reminds us of the mistake Christians made when they totally separated from Jewish tradition; the Talmud, Mishnah, etc. I am a Christian believer in my core, and I experience this writing on God, Revelation, and Human Response inspiring spiritual reading. It not only shows me what I have lost in my separation from the Jewish tradition, but it connects me with its deep spiritual base. I highly recommend this to all descendants of Abraham. Donald Conroy

Abraham Joshua Heschel emerges as man whose every thought or action is viewed as it affects his relation to God and his view of God's commandments. While it is not my view, but it is interesting to see how a man of faith and justice is guided by that view and leads to a life of exemplary service to all humanity.

A book worth reading several times. Reading it is a means of drawing close to God. That is my

experience. It is also a book that teaches one how to become alert to the divine presence.

A rabbi told his students at Torah study about this book that changed his life. This book is exceptional, and is a must read for anyone who desires to see God in most thought provoking ways. Absolutely beautiful. I am so thankful to have this book and it is one you will want to pick up and read over and over.

This book is a beautiful poem to our awe of God. It awakens our awareness and appreciation of a loving God. Reading and meditating on the words here lifted my spirit and connection with God. What could be more important than that?

Rabbi Heschel was a friend of Martin Luther King Jr. and an activist as well as an outstanding teacher and Judaic philosopher. This book is excellent and I recommend it to anyone who wants to learn about Judaism, learn more about Judaism, or is interested in philosophy in general.

I'm really only about 80 pages in, but already I'm surprised to learn about the passion, joy and depth of the Jewish faith ... and it's renewing my sense of wonder, joy and the sublime. Heschel is a deep fellow, so this isn't a quick read. My path has me following Christ and we'd diverge there, however we share the same God of Abraham and Isaac. His writings are incredibly full of grace while drawing clear differences between Jewish thought and other systems in the world. It doesn't read like a textbook as the title might imply. It's very engaging and should cause any thoughtful person to stop and, well ... think. I'm already planning to read it again when I get to end.

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