

Yeshiva University  
Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies  
Harry Fischel Summer Program 2003  
Professor Rachel Elijor

### Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism: A Reassessment

The class will review Scholem's assertions in his two books *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism* and *Jewish Gnosticism, Merkabah Mysticism and Talmudic Tradition* and will compare it with development in scholarship in four major periods and in relation to the book: Gershom Scholem *Major Trends Fifty Years After* (eds. Peter Schafer and Joseph Dan) Tubingen

The four periods are:

- 1 Ancient Jewish Mysticism
- 2 Heikhalot Mysticism
- 3 Medieval Mysticism
- 4 16<sup>th</sup> century Kabbalah

### Course Requirements

Class participation 25%

4 Reading response papers –one for each week reading (1-2 page) 25%

Final paper (10-12 pages) 50%

English reading text and secondary sources is required: Hebrew reading for Hebrew Readers is recommended (as well as general reading on various kinds of mystical literature in English) both are appended with #

The course is composed of 15

Lectures relating to 15 of the following units: 3 lectures of section A, 3

lectures from section B 2 lectures from section D 2 lectures from section E

3 lectures from section F and discussions relating to the book

Gershom Scholem *Reconsidered –50 years after*

### A.

#### 1. Introduction: Mysticism and Jewish Mysticism

Gershom Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1967, pp 1-39

# Rachel Elijor, *Paneaia haShonot shel ha-Herut Iunim be-Mistika Yehudit, Alpayim* 15

Tel Aviv: Am-Oved 1998

#### 2. Historical Survey of Jewish Mystical Literature

Gershom Scholem, *Kabbalah*, Jerusalem 1974, pp. 8-87

Or Joseph Dan, *The Heart and the Fountain*, Oxford 2002 pp. 1-44

#### 3. Holy Place, Holy Time, Holy Ritual - Chariot Mysticism B. C

##### I. Holy Place

##### Texts

Bible (JPS):

Genesis Chapters. 1-2

Exodus 25:9, 17-22

I Kings 6:23-28, 8:6-8

Isaiah 6: 1-3

Ezekiel Chapters. 1, 10

I Chronicles 28:18

II Chronicles 3:10-13

Pseudepigrapha:

1 Enoch 14:8-25 in: James H. Charlesworth, (ed.), *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1, London 1983-5, pp. 20-21 or in H. F. D. Sparks, *The Apocryphal Old Testament*, Clarendon Press: Oxford 1990, p 201-203

Jubilees 8:19 in *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. II, London and New York 1985, or Sparks, *The Apocryphal Old Testament*, p. 38

Second Ezekiel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, (eds.) Florentino Garcia Martinez and Eibert Tigchelaar, two volumes, Leiden 1997, vol. I, pp. 768-771

BM478A3G371997

#On the various kinds of Pseudpigraphic writings mentioned above see Michael E. Stone, (ed), *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period*, Assen 1984. BM485 .L57 vol.2

# For Dead Sea Scrolls complete edition in Hebrew and English see: *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert*, Oxford: Clarendon 1955-2000 39 volumes BM487 A

#### Secondary Literature

Rachel Elijor, 'The Merkavah Tradition and the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism', in: *Sino-Judaica, Jews and Chinese in Historical Dialogue*, (ed. A. Oppenheimer) Tel Aviv 1999, pp. 101-158 BM423S56 1999

#Mikdash Umerkavah Kohanim umalakhim Heikhal veHeikhalot bamistika haivrit hakduma, Jerusalem : Hebrew University Magnes Press 2002

=Rachel Elijor, *The Three Temples, On The Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, Oxford: Littman Library 2003 (forthcoming, a library copy will be available)

## 4. II. Holy Time

### Texts

1 Enoch, chapters 1-36, 72-82 in James H. Charlesworth, (ed.) *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1, London and New York 1983; or Sparks, *The Apocryphal Old Testament*, pp. 184-221, 257-274

Jubilees, Chapters 1-10, in James H. Charlesworth, (ed.) *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. -2, London 1983 or Sparks, *The Apocryphal Old Testament*, pp. 10-44

David's Calendar, in *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, (eds.) Florentino Garcia Martinez and Eibert Tigchelaar, two volumes, Leiden 1998, pp. 1178-1179, Temple Scroll calendar, in: *ibid.* pp. 1238-1247, 1260, 1294, *Ibid* 1997, flood calendar *ibid.* pp. 500-502, MMT calendar, p. 790

### Secondary Literature

James Vandrkam, *Calendars in the Dead Sea Scrolls*, London and New York 1998

### **5.III. Holy Time – Shevuot-Shavout**

#### Texts

Exodus 19; Deut. 16:9-12; Leviticus 23; Psalms 68:18

Jubilees, Chaps. 1-9 *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. II; Sparks, *The Apocryphal Old Testament*, pp. 10-40

*The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, pp. 68-80, 642-649, 744-5, 768-770

BT Megila 31a-b

#### Secondary Literature

David J. Halperin, *The Faces of The Chariot. Early Jewish Responses to Ezekiel's Vision*, Tübingen 1988, pp. 262-288 BM496.9. M87 H33 1988

Rachel Eilior, *The Three Temples, On The Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, Oxford: Littman Library 2003 (forthcoming, a library copy will be available), chapter s 6-7

### **6.I. Holy Ritual - Priests and Angels**

#### Texts

Bible: *Malachi* 2: 1-8, 3:1

*Ben Sirah* 51:28-29

Dead Sea Scrolls; The Rule of The Community: *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, (eds. Florentino Garcia Martinez and Eibert Tigchelaar) two volumes, Leiden 1997-8, pp. 971; 984-987, 1028-1031 frag. 2; 1032 frag.35, 1210-1211 frag Iii

Pseudepigrapha: *Jubilees*, Chapters 30-31, Sparks pp 99-102:Dead

Sea Scrolls *St Edition*, pp. 51-57

Testaments of the Twelve Tribes, The Testament of Levi, James Charlesworth, (ed.) *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1, pp. 773-781, 788-795; Jubilees, *ibid*, vol II, pp. 112-118 or Sparks pp 526-537

#### Secondary Literature

J. Kugel, Levi's Elevation to the Priesthood in Second Temple Writings, Harvard Theological Review 86 (1993)pp 1-64

R. A. Kugler, From Patriarch to Priest: The Levi-==Priestly Tradition..SBLEJL 9 Atlanta: Scholars Press 1996

Rachel Eilior, *The Three Temples, On The Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, Oxford:

Littman Library 2003 (forthcoming, a library copy will be available) chapter 8

### **7. II. Holy-Ritual: Angelic Liturgy**

#### Text

Carol Newsom, *Songs of The Sabbath Sacrifice*, Atlanta 1985; or: *Discoveries in the Judean Desert XI*, pp. 173-339 or *DJD XXIII*, pp. 259-304; or *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, pp. 804-836, 894

### Secondary Literature

Carol Newsom, 'Merkabah Exegesis in the Qumran Sabbath Shirot', *Journal of Jewish Studies* 38 (1987), pp. 11-30

John Maier, 'Shire Olat hash-Shabbat : Some Observations on their Calendric Implications and on their Style', in: J. Trebelle Barrera and L. Vegas Montaner (eds.) *The Madrid Qumran Congress: Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judeah*, II, Leiden 1992, pp. 542-560

### **8. The identity of the Judaeen Desert Scrolls writers**

#### Texts

Ezekiel 43:19

Ben Sirah 51:29

*The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, pp. 78, 100-108, 132-134, 164, 324-326, 352-354, 554-556, 586

Flavius Josephus, *Wars of The Jews*, book 2, chapter 8:2-13

Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities*, book 13, lines 171-173, 288-298

See sources in Geza Vermes and Martin Goodman, (eds.) *The Essenes According to the Classical Sources*, Oxford 1989

#### Secondary Literature

*The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, (ed.) Geza Vermes, New York 1997, pp. 1-93

#Lawrence Schiffman, 'The New Halakhic Letter (4QMMT) and the Origins of the Dead Sea Sect', *The Biblical Archeologist* 33 (1990) 64-73

### **B**

### **9. Chariot Mysticism B.C. to Chariot Mysticism C. E**

#### Texts

Background 1 Enoch 2 Enoch and 3 Enoch -James H. Charlesworth, (ed.) *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1-London 1983; or Sparks pp. 169-362 +3 Enoch

\*Mishna Hagiga 2:1

Bavli Hagiga 14 b

Tosefta Hagiga 2:3f

#### Secondary Literature

Gershom Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1967, pp 40-79

Gershom Scholem, *Jewish Gnosticism, Merkabah Mysticism and Talmudic Tradition*, New York 1965 5076.833

Philip Alexander, 'The Historical Setting of the Book of Enoch', *Journal of Jewish Studies* 28 (1977), pp. 156-180 or \*Appendix in Charlesworth pseudepigrapha pp. 269-275

Martha Himmelfarb, *Ascent to Heaven in Jewish and Christian Apocalypses*, New York 1993, pp 29-46

\*Peter Schafer, 'New Testament and Hekhalot Literature. The Journey into Heaven in Paul and in Merkavah Mysticism', in: idem, *Hekhalot Studien*, Tübingen 1988, pp. 234-249

#Jozef T. Milik, *The Books of Enoch*, Oxford 1976 . pp 125-135

## 10. Heikhalot Literature

### Texts

#eikhalot Rabbati, in: David R. Blumenthal, *Understanding Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1978, pp. 56-84 for Hebrew Readers P. Schafer Synopsis to Heikhalot Literature, Sections 81-345

\*Third Enoch=Sefer Heikhalot, in: Philip Alexander, 3(*Hebrew Apocalypse of Enoch*), in: James H. Charlesworth, (ed.) *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1, pp 258f, 264-268

### Secondary Literature

David J. Halperin, *The Faces of the Chariot. Early Jewish Responses to Ezekiel's Vision*, Tübingen 1988, pp. 1-60, 452-455, 567-573 BM496.9. M87 H33 1988

#Rachel Elijor, 'Merkabah Mysticism, -A Critical Review [ D.J. Halperin, Faces of The Chariot, Tübingen 1988], *NUMEN, International Review for the History of Religions*, Vol. XXXVII (1990), pp. 233-249

\*Peter Schafer, "man between God and the Angels" in *ibid*, *The Hidden and Manifest God*, Albany 1992, pp. 139-166

## 11. Priests and Angels in Heikhalot Literature

### Text:

Synopsis to Heikhalot Literature + Genizah Fragments , Peter Schafer (ed.) 1982, 1984

### Secondary Literature

Rachel Elijor, 'Mysticism, Magic and Angelology - The Perceptions of Angels in Heikhalot Literature, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, vol. 1, (1993/4), pp. 3-53

BM1 .J394

Rachel Elijor, 'From Earthly Temple to Heavenly Shrines – Prayer and Sacred Song in the Heikhalot Literature and Its Relation to Temple Tradition', *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, vol. 4, (1997), pp. 217-267

## 12. Priests and Sages-Chariot and Temple-Exchanging mystical roles in the first few centuries C.E

### Texts

II Corinthians 12:2-4

BT Berachot 7a BT Hagiga 13 b BT Yoma 54a Jubilees 8:19

Visions of Rabbi Akibah and Rabbi Ishmael. In: *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp.55-60

Gershom Scholem, *Jewish Gnosticism, Merkabah Mysticism and Talmudic Tradition*, New York 1965, pp. 14-20

David J. Halperin, *The Faces of the Chariot. Early Jewish Responses to Ezekiel's Vision*, Tübingen 1988, pp. 31-37

## C.

\*13. Sefer Yetzira ('The Book of Creation')

Text :

David R. Blumenthal, *Understanding Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1978, pp. 15-19, 42-44

# Sefer Yetzira

Secondary Literature

Hayim Nahman Bialik, 'Language Closing and Disclosing' in: *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp. 255-261

\*Gershom Scholem, 'The Meaning of the Torah in Jewish Mysticism', in: idem, *On the Kabbalah and Its Symbolism*, New York 1969

**D.**

**\*14. Sefer Ha-Bahir (The Book of Brilliance) Transformations in 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Text:

# Book Bahir (ed. Ruven Margalio) Jerusalem: Mosad Harav Kook 1948 or reprints  
*The Bahir* trans. Arie Kaplan, New York 1979-89, ## 11, 22, 76, 108, 128-132, 141-146, 156-157, 162-172

Secondary Literature

\*The Enigmatic Book Bahir

\*Gershom Scholem, 'Sitra Ahra: Good and Evil in the Kabbalah', in: ibid. *The Mystical Shape of the Godhead*, New York 1991, pp. 56-87

\*Gershom Scholem, 'The Shekhinah: The Feminine Element in Divinity', in *On the Kabbalah and its Symbolism*, New York 1969, pp. 140-171

**15. The Zohar, (The Book of Splendor)**

**The beginning of the passage from Exile to redemption in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century**

Text:

The Mystical Circle and the world of the Zohar , *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp.139-159

\*Text: Isaiah Tishby (ed.) *The Wisdom of the Zohar* (3 Volumes) Oxford 1991

Vol. I. pp. 257-259, 309-318

Vol. 2, pp. 475- 482, 494-496 561-567, 569, 570, 573

Secondary Literature

Gershom Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, chapters 5-6

\*Daniel Matt, *Zohar The Book of Enlightenment*, Ramsey 1983, pp. 3-39, 193-203

Yehuda Liebes, 'How the Zohar Was Written', in ibid, *Studies in The Zohar*, Albany 1993, pp 85-90 idem 'The Messiah of the zohar

Arthur Green, 'The Zohar: Jewish Mysticism in Medieval Spain', in: *Essential Papers on Kabbalah* (ed.) Lawrence Fine, New York 1995

## E

### **16. Joseph Karo –The Mystical Autobiography From Exile to Redemption in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**

#### Text and Secondary Literature

# Etz Hayim introduction =hakdamah leshaar hahakdamot

Gershom Scholem. *Sabbatai Sevi*. (tr. R. Z. Werblowsky) Princeton 1976, Introduction

Refael Zevi Werblowsky, *Joseph Karo Lawyer and Mystic*, Philadelphia 1967

Rachel Elior, 'Messianic Expectations and Spiritualization of Religious Life in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century', in: *Essential Papers on Jewish Culture in Renaissance and Baroque Italy*, (ed.), David Ruderman, New York 1992, pp. 283-298

'Walking with the Shekhinah: The Palm Tree of Devorah', in *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp.195-202

### **17. Lurianic Kabbalah –Myth of Exile and Redemption and Predetermined History in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**

#### Text:

\*David R. Blumenthal, *Understanding Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1978, pp. 159-176, 'The Messianic Dreams of Hayim Vital' in: *The Heart and the Fountain*, pp. 203-212

#### Secondary Literature

Gershom Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, pp 244-286 or

Gershom Scholem, 'The Doctrine of Creation in Lurianic Kabbalah', in: *ibid. Kabbalah*, pp. Jerusalem 1974, 128-144

# More on Saffed spirituality in the book: *Jewish Mystical Autobiographies, Book of Visions* (ed.) Morris M. Faierstein, New York 1999

Lawrence Fine, Safed

## F.

### **18. Sabbatianism –Messianism fulfilled and denied in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

Gershom Scholem, *Sabbatai Sevi*, Princeton 1976, Introduction, and pp. 224-226, 270-275

\*Yehuda Liebes, 'Sabbtean Messianism', in: *idem, Studies in Jewish Myth and Jewish Messianism*, New York 1993, pp. 93-106                      BM530L457 1993

## 19. Frankism and Pietism in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

### Secondary sources:

\*Gershom Scholem, 'Redemption through Sin', in: idem, *The Messianic Idea in Judaism*, New York 1971, pp. 78-141

Gershom Scholem, 'Jacob Frank' in: idem, *Kabbalah*, pp. 287-309

Moshe Hayim Luzzatto, an excerpt from Mesilat Yeshtarim in: *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp. 223-230

## 20-22. Hasidism 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries- Continuity and Change

### Texts:

'The Holy Epistle of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov', in: Louis Jacobs, (ed.) *Jewish Mystical Testimonies*, London 1977

'The Mystical Prayer of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov', in: *The Heart and the Fountain, An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences*. (ed.) Joseph Dan, Oxford 2002, pp.231-237

# Iggeret Hakodesh in Migdal Oz (ed.) Yehoshua Mundschein

# Shneur Zalman of Liadi , Tanya Likkutei Amarim

### Secondary Literature

\*Rachel Elijor, *The Paradoxical Ascent To God: The Kabbalistic Theosophy of Habad Hasidism* Albany 1993, pp. 49-62, 79-95

*Hasidism Reappraised*, (ed.) Ada Rapoport-Albert, London 1996

\*Arthur Green, *Tormented Master: The Life and Spiritual Quest of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav*, Woodstock 1992, pp. 182-220

Rachel Elijor, 'Hasidism – Historical Continuity and Spiritual Changes' In: *Gershom Scholem's Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism –50 Years After*, (eds.) Peter Schafer and Joseph Dan, (Tubingen 1993, pp. 303-324