Revelation and the God of Israel explores the concept of revelation as it emerges from the Hebrew Scriptures and is interpreted in Jewish philosophy and theology. The first part is a study in intellectual history that attempts to answer the question, what is the best possible understanding of revelation? Norbert M. Samuelson draws on his extensive knowledge of western philosophy and explores the conception of the God of revelation as classical or medieval Jewish philosophers such as Maimonides and modern Jewish theologians such as Buber and Rosenzweig subsequently interpreted it. The second part is a study in constructive theology which asks whether it is reasonable to affirm belief in revelation. Here Samuelson focuses on the challenges given from a variety of contemporary academic disciplines, including evolutionary psychology, political ethics, analytic philosophy of religion, and source-critical studies of the Bible. This important book offers a unique approach to theological questions and fresh solutions to them and will appeal to those interested in the history of philosophy, religious thought, and Judaism.

Norbert M. Samuelson is the Harold and Jean Grossman Chair of Jewish Studies and Full Professor of Jewish Philosophy in the Religious Studies Department at Arizona State University. He is an internationally renowned scholar of Jewish philosophy and the author of six books including Judaism and the Doctrine of Creation (Cambridge, 1994) and most recently A User’s Guide to Franz Rosenzweig’s Star of Redemption (1999). He has published over 200 articles and is the co-editor of three collected volumes of essays. Professor Samuelson is the founder and secretary of the Academy of Jewish Philosophy.
REVELATION AND THE
GOD OF ISRAEL

NORBERT M. SAMUELSON

Arizona State University
To my beloved Angelica
“There was (a conversation) where he bet I couldn't tell him anything that was absolutely true. So I said to him, ‘God is love.’”

“And what did he say?”

“He said, ‘What is God? What is love?’”

“Um.”

“But God really is love, you know,” said Miss Faust, “no matter what Dr. Hoenikker said.”

From Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut


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