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978-0-521-60628-8 - The Origins of Judaism: From Canaan to the Rise of Islam

Robert Goldenberg

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THE ORIGINS OF JUDAISM

The Origins of Judaism provides a clear, straightforward account of the development of ancient Judaism in both the Judean homeland and the Diaspora. Beginning with the Bible and ending with the rise of Islam, the text depicts the emergence of a religion that would be recognized today as Judaism out of customs and conceptions that were quite different from any that now exist: special attention is given to the early rabbis' contribution to this historical process. Together with the main narrative, the book provides substantial quotations from primary texts (biblical, rabbinic, and other) along with extended side treatments of important themes, a glossary, short biographies of leading early rabbis, a chronology of important dates, and suggestions for further reading.

Robert Goldenberg is Professor of History and Judaic Studies at Stony Brook University (SUNY). He has published in numerous journals, including the *Journal of Jewish Studies*; *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Judaism*; *Harvard Theological Review*; *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods*; and *Jewish Studies Quarterly*. His most recent book is *The Nations That Know Thee Not: Ancient Jewish Attitudes toward Other Religions* (1998).

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For my children,

Alex, Shifra, and Jacob

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ROBERT GOLDENBERG

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Abbreviations and References

All translations of biblical and rabbinic texts are the author's own except where otherwise indicated. Translations from Greek normally follow the *Loeb Classical Library* edition, though occasionally with modifications, again except where otherwise indicated. Biblical texts are cited by chapter and verse according to the Hebrew text; it should be noted that Christian translations follow the ancient Greek and Latin versions and sometimes display different chapter divisions. Rabbinic texts are cited as follows:

Mishnah (sometimes abbreviated M.) and Tosefta by tractate, chapter, and paragraph.

Jerusalem Talmud (sometimes abbreviated J. or JT) by tractate, chapter, and paragraph, also by page and column in the first Venice edition.

Babylonian Talmud (sometimes abbreviated B. or BT) by tractate and page (nearly all editions since the sixteenth century have used a standard pagination). It should be noted that a page number designates both sides of the leaf; these are distinguished by the letters *a* and *b*.

Midrash Rabba by section and paragraph.

Sifre by book (1 for Numbers, 2 for Deuteronomy) and section.

NOTE: Transliterations of personal names, literary titles, and the like are often phonetic rather than technical. In particular, letters with diacritical marks such as š often omit those marks.