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978-0-521-89526-2 - Rosenzweig's Bible: Reinventing Scripture for Jewish Modernity

Mara H. Benjamin

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ROSENZWEIG'S BIBLE

Rosenzweig's Bible examines the high stakes, both theological and political, of Franz Rosenzweig's attempt to give new life to the Hebrew Bible and use it as the basis for a Jewish textual identity. Mara H. Benjamin's innovative reading of *The Star of Redemption* places Rosenzweig's best-known work at the beginning of an intellectual trajectory that culminated in a monumental translation of the Bible, thus overturning fundamental assumptions that have long guided the accepted appraisal of this titan of modern Jewish thought. Benjamin argues that Rosenzweig's response to modernity was paradoxical: he challenged his readers to encounter the biblical text as revelation, reinventing scripture – both the Bible itself and the very notion of a scriptural text – in order to invigorate Jewish intellectual and social life, but did so in a distinctly modern key, ultimately reinforcing the foundations of German-Jewish post-Enlightenment liberal thought.

Rosenzweig's Bible illuminates the complex interactions that arise when modern readers engage the sacred texts of ancient religious traditions.

Mara H. Benjamin is Assistant Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College. Previously, she was Visiting Lecturer and Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Post-doctoral Fellow in Judaic Studies at Yale University and Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington. Her articles have appeared in *Jewish Social Studies* and *Prooftexts*.

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Acknowledgments

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