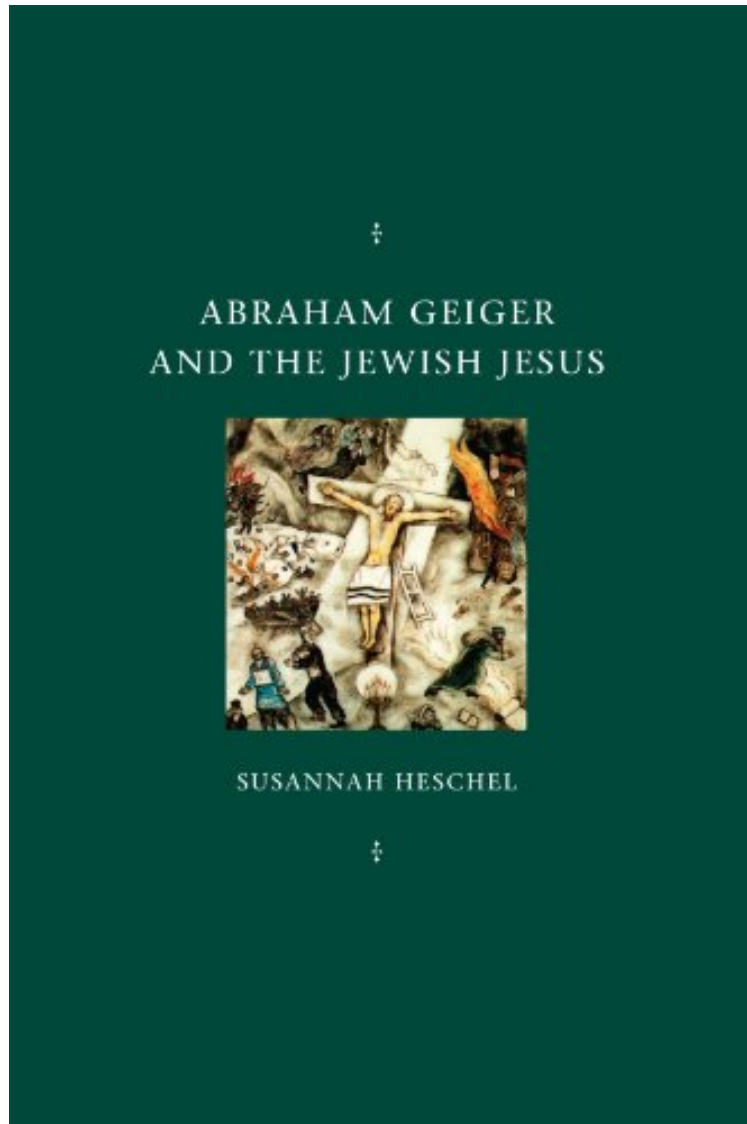


[Mobile ebook] Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism)

Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism)

Susannah Heschel

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#1070534 in Books Susannah Heschel 1998-04-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, 1.04 #File Name: 0226329593332 pages Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus | File size: 58.Mb

Susannah Heschel : Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A great work from Susannah Heschel By C. R. Fischer With strong influence from Amos Funkenstein, whose theories of counter history permeates this work, Susannah Heschel's book

(which is not in her usual field of research) on Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus presents an excellent narrative of Geiger's life and valuable insight as to the source of his historiographic approach. Geiger was raised with a more traditionally Jewish education, but various academic theories lead him to form a more critical assessment of his own religion. His ultimate goal was to reform and reshape Judaism into a modern religion, which he believed had to be done with a slow and internal transition to wean people away from the more traditional views. He came to these conclusions by looking at the evolution of Rabbinic Judaism wherein he saw moderate voices that sought to reform the Judaism of their own time and how they struggled with the Sadducean institution. The works of Geiger are described by Heschel as an attempt at creating a Jewish counter history with the goal of reclaiming the Jewish roots of traditionally Jewish concepts. He spent most of his academic career challenging Christianity, but he began his journey into counter history with a universally accepted and lauded essay investigating what Mohammed took from Judaism in creating Islam. His attempt to bring the same post-colonial analysis to Jesus received largely the opposite reaction from the dominantly Protestant academic circles. He further pushed his agenda by trying to reclaim the idea of the Pharisees, an otherwise much maligned group, by pointing to Christianity's corruption at the hands of Sadducean influences. This latter part was not as academically sound, but ideologically pushed the suggestion. The biggest problem for Geiger was his inability to extend any influence on the Christian sector with his Jewish Jesus ideology. Naturally, they did not want to accept that Jesus had any Jewish sources whatsoever. Several works made attempts to distance Christianity from the Jewishness of the Old Testament, calling to mind the concerns of Marcion, via the claim that anything good in the Old Testament was Christian while anything bad was a Jewish corruption. While the Jewish side fully embraced the idea, they had no power in the academic world at the time. Geiger's attempts at reclaiming Jesus as a Jewish figure were well intentioned but ultimately doomed. As Heschel mentions, Jews dress him as a Jew, Christians dress him as a Christian, making him a figure on the boundary of the two religions, a religious divide that continued to today out of religious necessity. The one disappointment with this book is found towards the end in the author's attempts to talk about the influence of Geiger on a later period. Heschel brings in a lot of subjects that seem somewhat out of place. They filter in from her other interests but I'm not sure they fit the style of the book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Readable, Interesting and Brilliantly Written
By David G. Important, foundational and beautifully written, here are the crossroads of German philosophy, Jewish enlightenment and the struggle to reconcile Jewish identity with assimilation before the slide to the 20th century horror. Before the Holocaust can be understood, a firm grasp of the 19th century must be made, and Susannah Heschel's *Geiger* is a necessary component. Along with Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism* and Lionel Gossman's *Basel in the Age of Burckhardt: A Study in Unseasonable Ideas*, these three studies are essential reading.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well thought out book
By David L. Cairns This is a great book that provides insights into the start of Reform Judaism. Well written with plenty of documentation to back it up.

Was Jesus the founder of Christianity or a teacher of Judaism? When he argued the latter based on the New Testament, Abraham Geiger ignited an intense debate that began in nineteenth-century Germany but continues to this day. Geiger, a pioneer of Reform Judaism and a founder of Jewish studies, developed a Jewish version of Christian origins. He contended that Jesus was a member of the Pharisees, a progressive and liberalizing group within first-century Judaism, and that he taught nothing new or original. This argument enraged German Protestant theologians, some of whom produced a tragic counterargument based on racial theory. In this fascinating book, Susannah Heschel traces the genesis of Geiger's argument and examines the reaction to it within Christian theology. She concludes that Geiger initiated an intellectual revolt by the colonized against the colonizer, an attempt not to assimilate into Christianity by adopting Jesus as a Jew, but to overthrow Christian intellectual hegemony by claiming that Christianity and all of Western civilization was the product of Judaism.

About the Author
Susannah Heschel is the Eli Black Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College. She is the coeditor of *Insider/Outsider: Multiculturalism and American Jews* and the editor of *On Being a Jewish Feminist: A Reader* and *Moral Grandeur and Spirited Audacity: Essays on Abraham Joshua Heschel*.