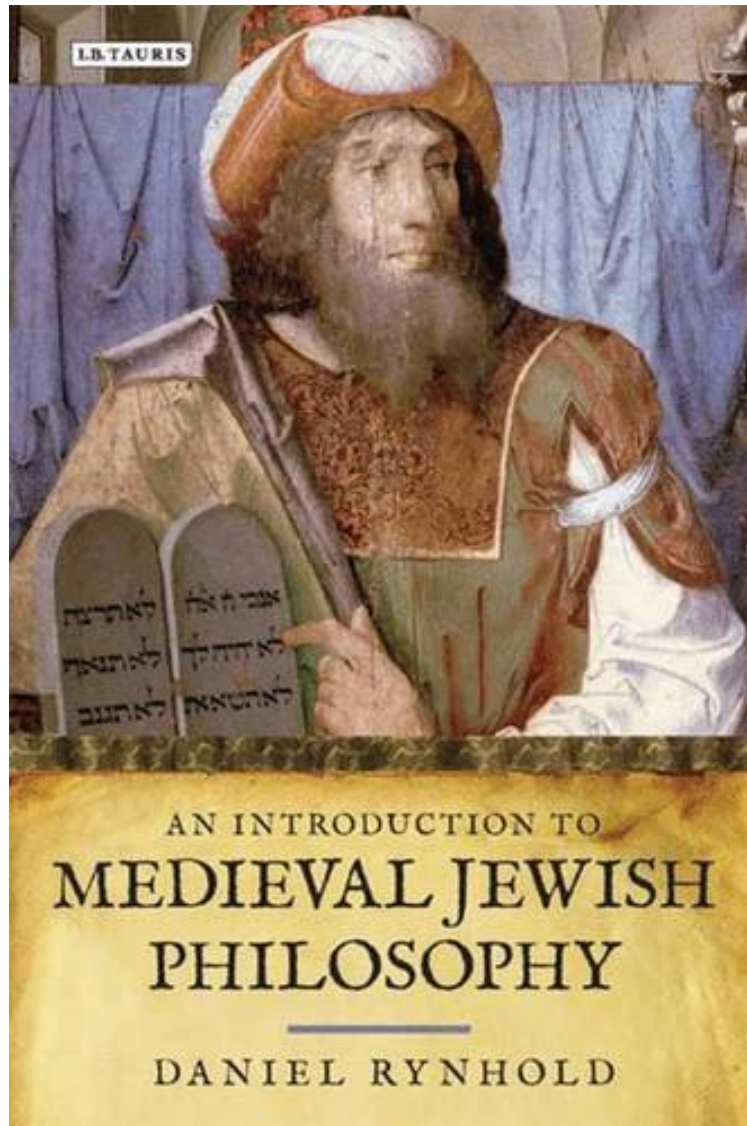


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## An Introduction to Medieval Jewish Philosophy (Introductions to Religion)

*Daniel Rynhold*

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#610435 in Books 2009-04-15 2009-03-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.23 x .81 x 6.111, .95 #File Name: 1845117484272 pages | File size: 20.Mb

**Daniel Rynhold : An Introduction to Medieval Jewish Philosophy (Introductions to Religion)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Introduction to Medieval Jewish Philosophy (Introductions to Religion):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The overview you're looking for By AMR An excellent overview of the subject. The chapters are divided into topics: The Existence of God; God and Creation; Divine Attributes;

Prophecy; Rationalizing the Commandments; Freewill and Omniscience; The Good Life; The Bad Life.

Unsurprisingly, Maimonides features most prominently (at least to the point I've read to, and no reason to think that won't continue). Yehudah Ha'Levi is often presented as the counterpoint to Maimonides' Greco-Islamic 'rationalism'. The other figures that make appearances include Saadia Gaon, Gersonides, and Hasdai Crescas. The book is well-written and quite readable, especially considering its subject matter. It is meant as an introduction, and a neophyte will probably gain much from it, but I think it will be much more accessible to those with at least a basic knowledge of Judaism and Aristotelean and neo-Platonic philosophy. Recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Darren May Amazing overview of the subject matter. Clear, concise and not written in an overly academic of a style. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Steve Kaplan Short, but very thorough survey of the Jewish philosophers of the Middle Ages.

Human civilization will be forever indebted to the great thinkers of Jewish philosophy's golden age. Moses Maimonides, Levi Gersonides, Judah Halevi, Saadia Gaon, Hasdai Crescas and their like grappled with some of the most challenging metaphysical issues, while the profundity of their solutions continue to engage philosophers today. Did God create the world? Can human freedom be reconciled with divine foreknowledge? What is the nature of the good life? Focusing on the central philosophical questions of the Middle Ages, Daniel Rynhold offers a concise introduction to topics such as God and creation, human freewill, biblical prophecy, the Commandments, the divine attributes and immortality. Structured around themes that form the common "syllabus" of medieval Jewish philosophy, each chapter builds a debate around a particular topic and in so doing utilizes the arguments of the chief philosophical figures of the medieval era. Explaining all concepts in a clear, non-technical fashion, the book also provides suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter. The first dedicated textbook to introduce the great richness of medieval Jewish philosophy as a whole, this lively and comprehensive survey is the ideal introduction for undergraduate students of the subject as well as the interested general reader.

"For some twelve centuries, Jewish religious thinkers, like their Christian and Muslim counterparts, have been wrestling with the challenge that rational enquiry presents to traditional beliefs and practices. Can the existence of God be proven? Was the world created by divine fiat? How may reflective individuals logically describe God's attributes? Is prophetic power a natural or supernatural attribute? Does humankind truly have a choice over good and evil and does the suffering of the righteous call into question the notion of divine justice? Daniel Rynhold's fine volume offers a readable, informative and reliable summary of the leading figures and the major ideas relating to such topics. The author explains--with a light touch and an occasional dash of humour--a variety of philosophical problems, as seen by modern and well as medieval thinkers with either religious or non-religious commitments. He clarifies the resolutions proposed for each problem by Saadia, Maimonides, Judah Halevi, Gersonides and Crescas, and reconstructs the discussions that might have taken place had they lived in the same periods and places. All credit to the author for producing a textbook that will be found clear and useful by lay readers, as well as students and scholars of religion, Jewish studies and medieval philosophy."--Stefan C Reif, Emeritus Professor of Medieval Hebrew Studies, University of Cambridge