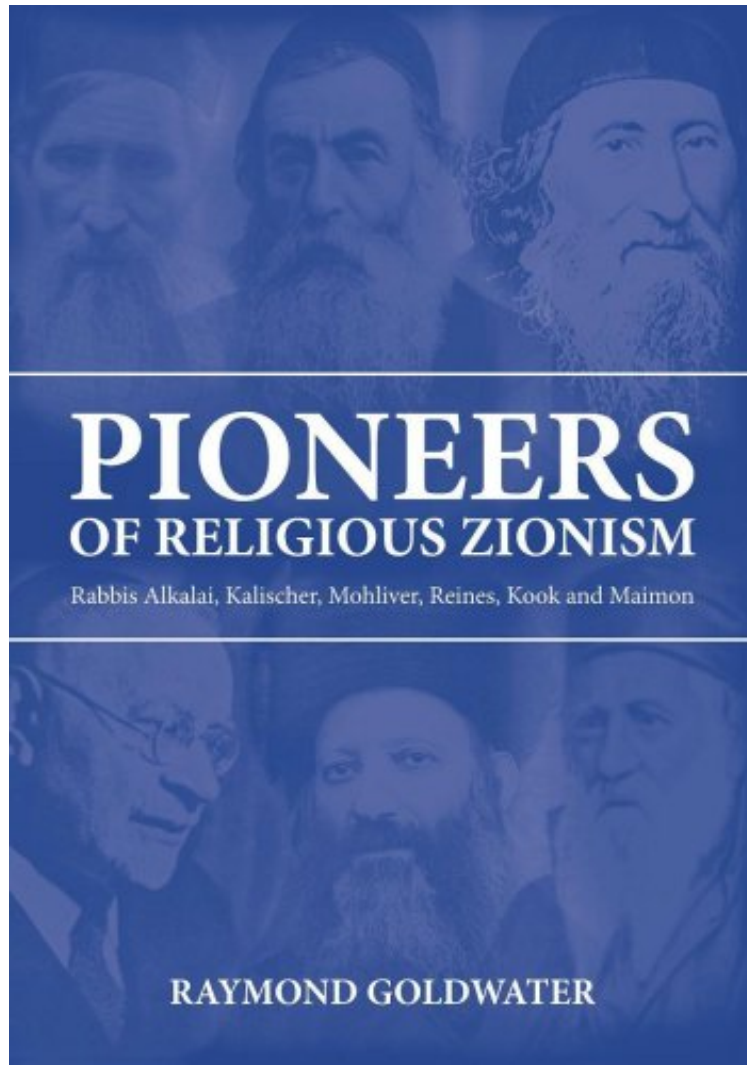


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Pioneers of Religious Zionism: Rabbis Alkalai, Kalischer, Mohliver, Reines, Kook and Maimon

Raymond Goldwater

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Raymond Goldwater : Pioneers of Religious Zionism: Rabbis Alkalai, Kalischer, Mohliver, Reines, Kook and Maimon before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pioneers of Religious Zionism: Rabbis Alkalai, Kalischer, Mohliver, Reines, Kook and Maimon:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Article or book? By reeder Given the dearth of books on the subject, it's good to see a volume on these great personalities. However the author punctuates the information with his own biases instead of allowing the reader to judge for himself. Words and phrases such as : interesting, unrealistic ,wishful

thinking, treading on dangerous ground, etc... throughout the book turn it into long somewhat biased article instead of an objective book that one would expect. That said, it does have interesting information and I did learn something new.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Their dreaming it helped make it so
By Shalom Freedman
This is a book about six pioneering figures of Religious Zionism. Rabbis Yehuda Alkalai, Zvi Hirsch Kalisher, Samuel Mohliver, Isaac Jacob Reines, Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook, Yehudah Leib Maimon (Fishman). The book devotes a chapter to each of these figures explaining their overall ideology, their role in helping bring about the creation of the modern state of Israel. Alkali developed the concept of 'teshuva' which meant for him both 'repentance' and 'return' to the land of Israel. Mohliver worked with the secular Chovvei Zion and helped raise money for pioneering efforts. Reines founded the Mizrachi as a religious party within the Zionist movement, but maintained the idea that the Redemption could only come through Divine means. Rabbi Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel was a remarkably original poetic thinker for whom the Jewish people's return to the land of Israel was a central to the whole process of cosmic redemptive action. He is perhaps the most profound thinker of all religious Zionism and one whose influence is still tremendously strong today. Rabbi Maimon who worked in close cooperation with Ben-Gurion for many years helped infuse public life in Israel with basic elements of the Jewish tradition. This work clearly tells the story of the major ideas and accomplishments of each of these figures. I found it extremely interesting, perhaps because I have long had curiosity about people like Alkalai and Mohliver without really having known much about them. The work does not really go into their personal and family histories but focuses on their public roles. For those who care for the state of Israel and would like to understand the story of its religious Zionist founding fathers, this book is highly recommended.

Pioneers of Religious Zionism describes the lives and philosophies of the most important rabbinical Zionists of the 19th and early-20th centuries: Yehuda ben Shlomo Alkalai, Zvi Hirsch Kalischer, Samuel Mohliver, Jacob Reines, Abraham Isaac Kook, and Judah Leib (Fishman) Maimon. The book describes how these men joined secular Zionists in the struggle for the reestablishment of a Jewish national home an unusual act for their time and had to contend with fierce opposition and condemnations from many rabbis in Eastern Europe, who believed that the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland of Israel depended upon the arrival of the Messiah. What emerges from this biographical study is that, in their lives and writings, these rabbis provided the foundation on which modern religious Zionism was built.

About the Author
Raymond Goldwater is a former chairman of the Inter-University Jewish Federation of Great Britain, a former honorary officer of the United Synagogue of London, a former chairman of the University Chaplaincy Board for Jewish students, and a former chairman of the Religious Advisory Committee of the Association for Jewish Youth. He has contributed articles to *Leela*, a periodical published by the London School of Jewish studies, and has served as editor of *Jewish Philosophy and Philosophers*.