

דורדור JPS
SCHOLAR ודורשיו
OF DISTINCTION
SERIES

EUGENE B. BOROWITZ

STUDIES IN THE MEANING
OF JUDAISM



THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

Philadelphia

2002 • 5763

Contents

“... Who has brought us to this day...”

Acknowledgments	xi
Préface	xv

A GLIMPSE: WHEN AGNOSTICISM AND RATIONALISM COULD NO LONGER GROUND OUR VALUES 1

1 / 1950 Theological Conference Cincinnati, 1950: Reform Judaism's Fresh Awareness of Religious Problems	7
2 / 1956 Creating Commitment in Our Religious Schools	17
3 / 1957 The Idea of God	31
4 / 1959 Existentialism's Meaning for Judaism: A Contemporary Midrash	47
5 / 1961 Crisis Theology and the Jewish Community	59
6 / 1963 Faith and Method in Modern Jewish Theology	69
7 / 1964 Creative Worship in the Computer Age	85
8 / 1964 Why We Went: A Joint Letter from the Rabbis Arrested in St. Augustine	89

A TRACK: LEADING ON FROM GOD, THE GROUND OF OUR VALUES 95

9 / 1966 On Celebrating Sinai	101
10 / 1970 The Problem of the Form of a Jewish Theology	115
11 / 1970 The Postsecular Situation of Jewish Theology	133

x Contents

12 / 1971	Education Is Not I-Thou	149
13 / 1974	<i>Tzimtzum</i> : A Mystic Model for Contemporary Leadership	157
14 / 1978	A Jewish Response: The Lure and Limits of Universalizing Our Faith	171
15 / 1982	The Authority of the Ethical Impulse in <i>Halakhah</i>	179
16 / 1983	Recent Historic Events: Jewish and Christian Interpretations	193
17 / 1984	The Autonomous Jewish Self	215

A WAY: THE POSTMODERN EXPLICATION OF JEWISH SELFHOOD 235

18 / 1986	<i>Hillul Hashem</i> : A Universalistic Rubric in the <i>Halakhah</i>	241
19 / 1986	The Ideal Jew	255
20 / 1986	The Critical Issue in the Quest for Social Justice: A Jewish View	275
21 / 1987	The Blessing over a Change of Wine: A Study in the Development of a Jewish Law Published in Honor of the Eightieth Birthday of Nathaniel E. Hess	289
22 / 1987	Co-Existing with Orthodox Jews	317
23 / 1992	Dynamic Sunyata and the God Whose Glory Fills the Universe	327
24 / 1997	"Please, God, Heal Her, Please"	341
25 / 2000	" <i>Im ba'et, eyma</i> "—Since You Object, Let Me Put It This Way	351

A PAUSE: TO LOOK BACK BEFORE MOVING ON 375

26 / 2000	A Life of Jewish Learning: In Search of a Theology of Judaism	379
27 / 2002	" <i>Halakhah</i> " in Reform Jewish Usage: Historic Background and Current Discourse	415

Glossary	435
Bibliography of the Writing of Eugene B. Borowitz	443
Index	467