



CREATION AND THE PERSISTENCE OF EVIL

*The Jewish
Drama
of Divine
Omnipotence*

JON D. LEVENSON

Creation Persistence Of Evil

Scott Cowdell



Creation Persistence Of Evil:

Creation and the Persistence of Evil Jon D. Levenson, 1994-12-19 This paperback edition brings to a wide audience one of the most innovative and meaningful models of God for this post Auschwitz era In a thought provoking return to the original Hebrew conception of God which questions accepted conceptions of divine omnipotence Jon Levenson defines God's authorship of the world as a consequence of his victory in his struggle with evil He traces a flexible conception of God to the earliest Hebrew sources arguing for example that Genesis 1 does not describe the banishment of evil but the attempt to contain the menace of evil in the world a struggle that continues today Creation and the Persistence of Evil Jon Douglas

Levenson, 1985 Creation and Chaos Talk Eric M. Vail, 2012-06-07 Talk about chaos is pervasive Biblical scholars theologians and scientists have been using the word chaos for some time occasionally mingling ideas across disciplines around the shared word Quite often discussions of chaos center on the issues of creation's origin and nature as well as on God's creative methods and relationship to creation Eric M Vail investigates the current uses of the word chaos in those areas A new way of articulating creation out of nothing is offered as both helpful and appropriate in our current milieu He suggests where we ought to focus our use of the word chaos in Christian discourse and argues that chaos is more fitting for naming where creation has gone awry rather than for naming that state out of which creation comes to be **From**

Creation to Canaan Mick Pope, 2024-04-18 Climate change species loss and the pollution of our air water and soil all indicate that humans have failed in their God given mandate to care for the earth Some Christians see these as signs of the end times and beyond our control This book goes back to the beginning of creation to examine humanity's God given vocation to care for creation as an expression of holiness Human power and agency have their limits in a world where God has ordered things for the flourishing of all creatures The current environmental crisis is understood as the consequence of not respecting these limits Instead of passive acceptance of the present crisis the church is encouraged to work for the common good of the whole creation **Wisdom's Root Revealed** Greg Schmidt Goering, 2009 This monograph interprets the theme

of election in the book of Sirach Previous scholarship has often understood Ben Sira's worldview to be dualistic and has approached the sage's correlation of Wisdom and Torah as either a nationalization of Wisdom or a universalization of Torah By probing Ben Sira's ideas about election this book suggests that Ben Sira does not collapse the traditional sapiential dichotomy wisdom folly into a dualistic worldview and that his understanding of the relation between Wisdom and Torah proves to be far more subtle than previous interpretations have allowed The study demonstrates that the concept of election enables a profitable discussion of the relation of Wisdom and Torah in the thought of this pivotal Second Temple sage The God Who Risks John Sanders, 2009-09-20 If God is all knowing and all powerful can he in any way be vulnerable to his creation Can God be in control of anything at all if he is not constantly in control of everything John Sanders says yes to both of these questions In *The God Who Risks* defends his answer with a careful and challenging argument He first builds his case

on an in depth reading of the Old and New Testaments Then Sanders probes philosophical historical and systematic theology for further support And he completes his defense with considerations drawn from practical theology The God Who Risks is a profound and often inspiring presentation of relational theism an understanding of providence in which a personal God enters into genuine give and take relations with his creatures With this book Sanders not only contributes to serious theological discussion but also enlightens pastors and laypersons who struggle with questions about suffering evil and human free will

Animal Suffering and the Problem of Evil Nicola Hoggard Creegan,2013-05-30 Nicola Hoggard Creegan offers a compelling examination of the problem of evil in the context of animal suffering disease and extinction and the violence of the evolutionary process Using the parable of the wheat and the tares as a hermeneutical lens for understanding the tragedy and beauty of evolutionary history she shows how evolutionary theory has deconstructed the primary theodicy of historic Christianity the Adamic fall while scientific research on animals has increased appreciation of animal sentience and capacity for suffering Animal Suffering and the Problem of Evil responds to this new theodic challenge Hoggard Creegan argues that nature can be understood as an interrelated mix of the perfect and the corrupted the wheat and the tares At times the good is glimpsed but never easily nor unequivocally She then argues that humans are not to blame for all evil because so much evil preceded human becoming Finally she demonstrates that faith requires a confidence in the visibility of the work of God in nature regardless of how infinitely subtle and almost hidden it is affirming that there are ways of perceiving the evolutionary process beyond that nature is red in tooth and claw

Creation in Jewish and Christian Tradition Henning Graf Reventlow,Yair Hoffman,2002-03-01 This volume brings together Jewish and Christian scholars with perspectives on Creation in the Bible Tanakh Old Testament New Testament in ancient Egypt and Israel and at Qumran as well as contemporary theological philosophical and political issues raised by the biblical Jewish and Christian concepts of creation

The Return of the Chaos Monsters Gregory Mobley,2012-01-31 Mobley has written a thick narrative account of Israel s thick narrative He does so with freedom and imagination while remaining faithful to the plotline of the old narrative His book defies genre classification it is part introduction part theology but mostly a playful tease that invites the reader into the indeterminate wisdom of the biblical text Mobley s shrewd reflection on God s anger is itself well worth the price of the book But there is much more here that invites truth thinking about texts we thought we already knew This welcome and suggestive prose of biblical imagination ranges all the way from the stories of the ancient Near East to quite personal narrative memories

A Covenant of Creatures Michael Fagenblat,2010-06-03 I am not a particularly Jewish thinker said Emmanuel Levinas I am just a thinker This book argues against the idea affirmed by Levinas himself that Totality and Infinity and Otherwise Than Being separate philosophy from Judaism By reading Levinas s philosophical works through the prism of Judaic texts and ideas Michael Fagenblat argues that what Levinas called ethics is as much a hermeneutical product wrought from the Judaic heritage as a series of phenomenological observations Decoding the Levinas s philosophy of

Judaism within a Heideggerian and Pauline framework Fagenblat uses biblical rabbinic and Maimonidean texts to provide sustained interpretations of the philosopher's work Ultimately he calls for a reconsideration of the relation between tradition and philosophy and of the meaning of faith after the death of epistemology **Justification by the Word** Jack D. Kilcrease, 2022-09-21 God's Word creates what he commands In *Justification by the Word* Jack D. Kilcrease reintroduces Martin Luther's key doctrine Though a linchpin of the Reformation Luther's view of justification is often misunderstood For Luther justification is an expression of God's creative Word To understand Luther on justification one must grasp his doctrine of the Word The same God who declared let there be light and it was so also declares your sins are forgiven Justification is an objective reality It is achieved in Christ's resurrection and received through an encounter with the risen Christ in Word and sacrament Justification turns us outward away from our own unsteady feelings and limited understanding to look to Christ And the church must preach justification lest we so easily forfeit the joy of the gospel Justification by the Word inspires readers to reencounter the radical doctrine of justification by faith alone *The Torah's Vision of Worship* Samuel E. Balentine, 1999-07-30 A complement to the author's earlier *Overtures to Biblical Theology* study on prayer this volume addresses the topic of worship as articulated in the first five books of the Bible Rather than a history of Israelite religion Balentine's volume examines the vision of worship expounded in the Torah in relation to priesthood creation liturgy and covenant He concludes by discussing the contemporary situation of experiencing God's hiddenness and a world caught in despair Balentine proposes that a fresh look at the Torah offers possibilities of counter imagination and hope **Mimetic Theory and Its Shadow** Scott Cowdell, 2023-08-01 Leading Girardian theologian Scott Cowdell seeks to resolve a long standing challenge to mimetic theory that it entails a fundamental brutishness an ontological violence Girard's account of scapegoating violence seen as providing the initial stability for our species to emerge and consolidate hardly seems compatible with Christian belief in God's good creation with violence only appearing after a subsequent Fall The brilliant but controversial theologian John Milbank has long raised this concern about Girard grounded in a remarkably sophisticated though seldom fathomed philosophical theology Unpacking Milbank's program along with Girard's recasting of Continental philosophy in light of mimetic theory Cowdell finds a way between two apparently irreconcilable positions With irenic spirit but analytic tenacity he probes for ways through Milbank's arguments while pressing on growth points in Girard's Cowdell's proposals involve reframing divine creation in light of salvation history reimagining divine participation by thinking Christ and evolution together and developing a semiotic approach to mimetic theory that delivers ontological peace hermeneutically Cowdell shows how Girard's vision of human transformation through faith in Christ reveals a different world beyond ontological violence while preserving the divine participation that Milbank champions **The Heart of Torah, Volume 1** Shai Held, 2017-09-01 In this collection of Torah essays Held probes the portions in bold original and provocative ways He mines Talmud and midrashim great writers of world literature and commentators of other religious backgrounds to ponder

fundamental questions about God human nature and what it means to be a religious person in the modern world Back cover

Hidden Polemics in Biblical Narrative Amit,2022-07-04 In current usage polemics is broadly defined as the practice of rhetorical persuasion or as the rhetorical presentation of an argument in dispute The phenomenon of polemics is found throughout the whole corpus of biblical literature In most instances the polemics is direct but sometimes indirect and occasionally it appears to be deliberately covert This book is primarily concerned with exploring the phenomenon of covert polemics Dealing first with considerations of method definition and characterization the study moves on to the analysis of a number of narrative texts and the uncovering of their covert polemical content Polemics of this type is a feature of biblical writing on a range of central issues and can be instructively isolated in texts relating to cultic locations Beth El Jerusalem questions of leadership the houses of Saul and David community boundaries the Samaritans and other problems of legitimation *The Disarmament of God* Paul Fitzpatrick SM,2023-09-29 *The Heart of Torah* Shai Held,2017-01-01 In The Heart of Torah Rabbi Shai Held s Torah essays two for each weekly portion open new horizons in Jewish biblical commentary Held probes the portions in bold original and provocative ways He mines Talmud and midrashim great writers of world literature and astute commentators of other religious backgrounds to ponder fundamental questions about God human nature and what it means to be a religious person in the modern world Along the way he illuminates the centrality of empathy in Jewish ethics the predominance of divine love in Jewish theology the primacy of gratitude and generosity and God s summoning of each of us with all our limitations into the dignity of a covenantal relationship **Israel's Tabernacle as Social Space** Mark K. George,2009 *The Weakness of God* John D. Caputo,2006 Applying an ever more radical hermeneutics including Husserlian and Heideggerian phenomenology Derridian deconstruction and feminism John D Caputo breaks down the name of God in this irrepressible book Instead of looking at God as merely a name Caputo views it as an event or what the name conjures or promises in the future For Caputo the event exposes God as weak unstable and barely functional While this view of God flies in the face of most religions and philosophies it also puts up a serious challenge to fundamental tenets of theology and ontology Along the way Caputo s readings of the New Testament especially of Paul s view of the Kingdom of God help to support the weak force theory This penetrating work cuts to the core of issues and questions What is the nature of God What is the nature of being What is the relationship between God and being What is the meaning of forgiveness faith piety or transcendence that define the terrain of contemporary philosophy of religion *You Are Israel* Jonathan Teram,2018-05-03 Isaiah has a richer theology of creation than any book of the Bible Isaiah uses the Hebrew word for create more than any book of the Bible Isaiah ends with a vision of the creation of a new heavens and a new earth Isaiah uses the name Jacob more than any book of the Bible except for Genesis itself The name Jacob is used in Isaiah almost as many times as it is used in all of the books of the prophets combined Isaiah even says that God created Jacob Isaiah also mentions the Garden of Eden Abraham and Sarah Noah and the flood with echoes of Adam and Eve Cain and Abel the Tower

of Babel Isaac Rachel and Joseph and his brothers Many scholarly studies have ignored the importance of Genesis in Isaiah
This book argues Genesis is Isaiah s instrument to re form the identity of the exilic and post exilic Jewish communities

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