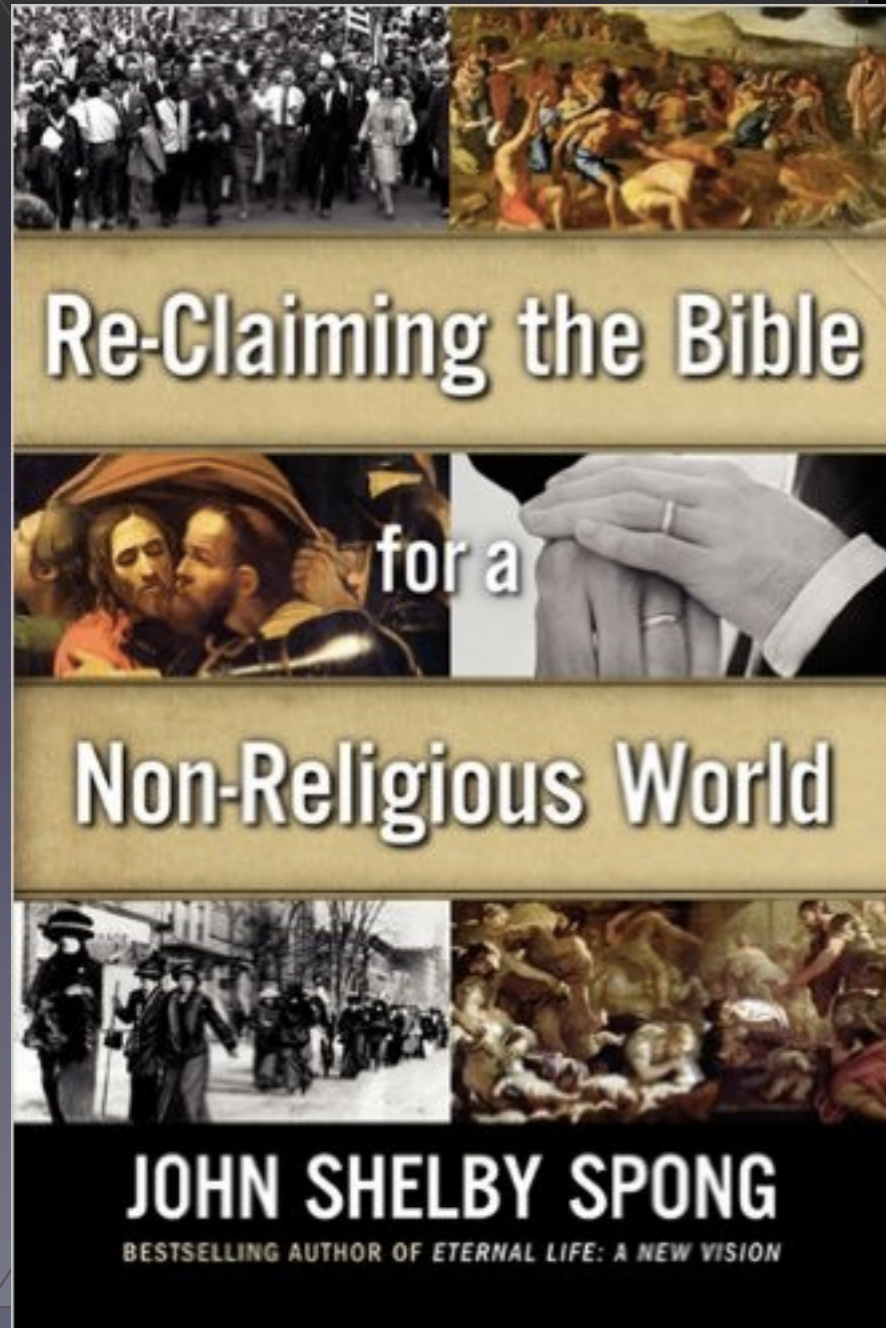


Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

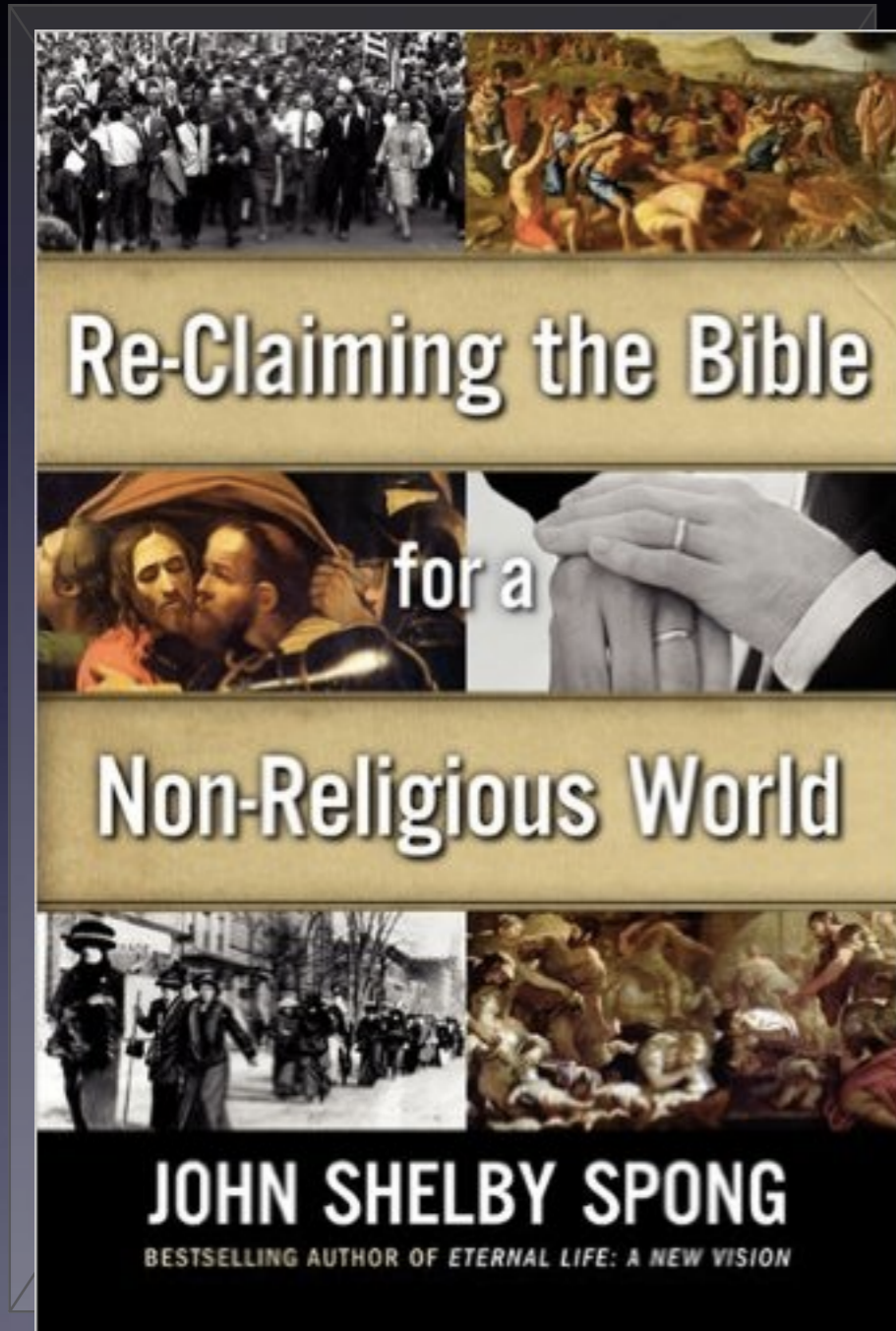
ACTS

Fall 2016

St David's United Church
Calgary



Reclaiming the Bible



Session # 5

- Opening
- Questions
- Overview
- Break
- Videos
- Discussions
- Closing

Opening - Karen McKeown



Liturgy and Wisdom

Some Questions to think about:



- Why study the Hebrew Bible?
- Why did the early Christians build on the Hebrew Bible?

Liturgy and Wisdom



Tonight's Themes -

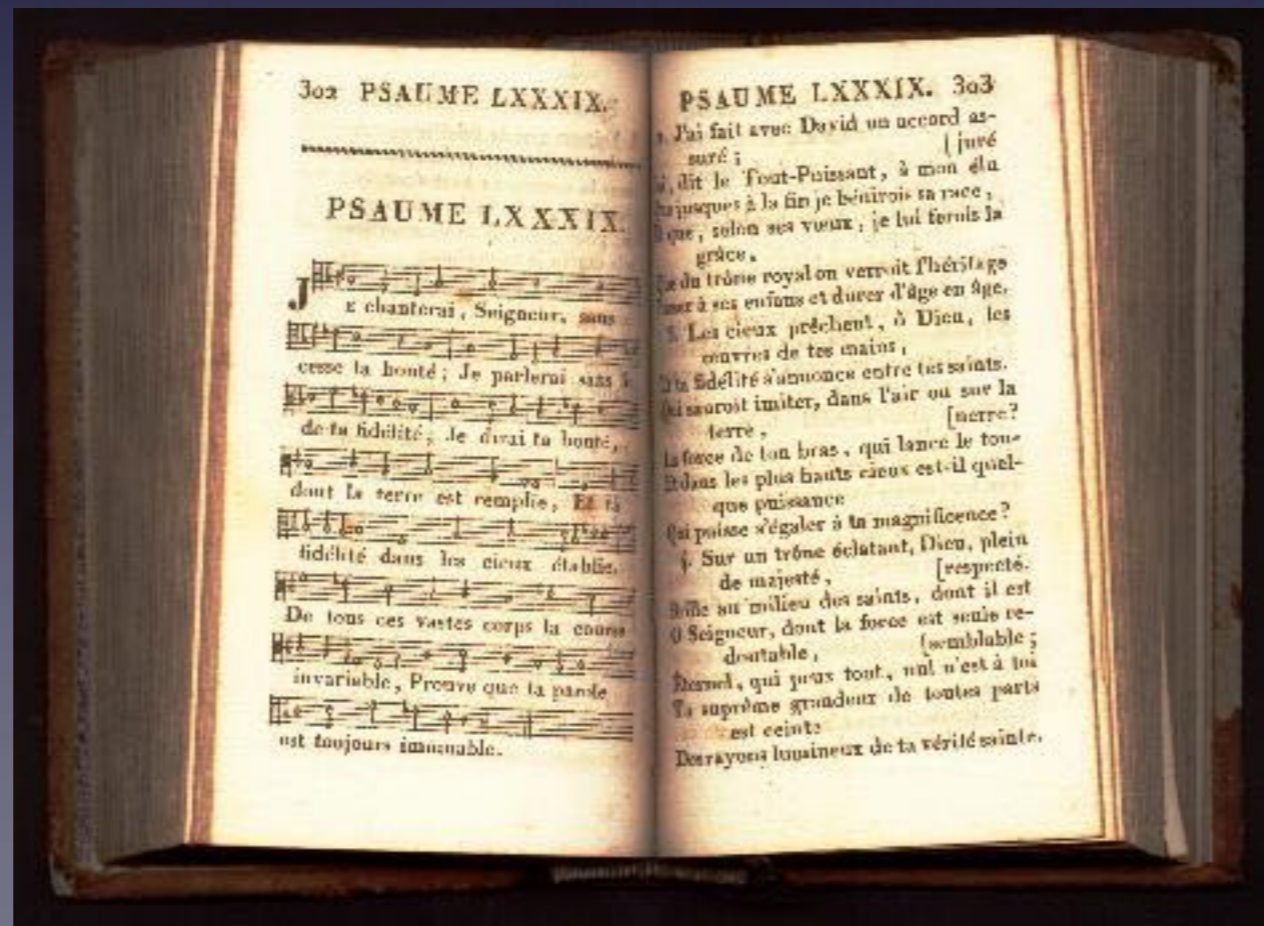
Liturgical Books
and
Wisdom Literature

Liturgy and Wisdom

The Psalter

Liturgical foundation of the Reformed Church tradition

Swiss and Scottish liturgies still impact us today



Video

Psalm 23

From the Scottish Psalter (1912)

This Psalter Choir is composed of members
of the Protestant Reformed Churches in America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEs4F9Y0rPw>

2m20s



Liturgy and Wisdom

The Psalms

Emerged from Hebrew worship literature

Source book of temple and synagogue worship



Liturgy and Wisdom

A mixed blessing -

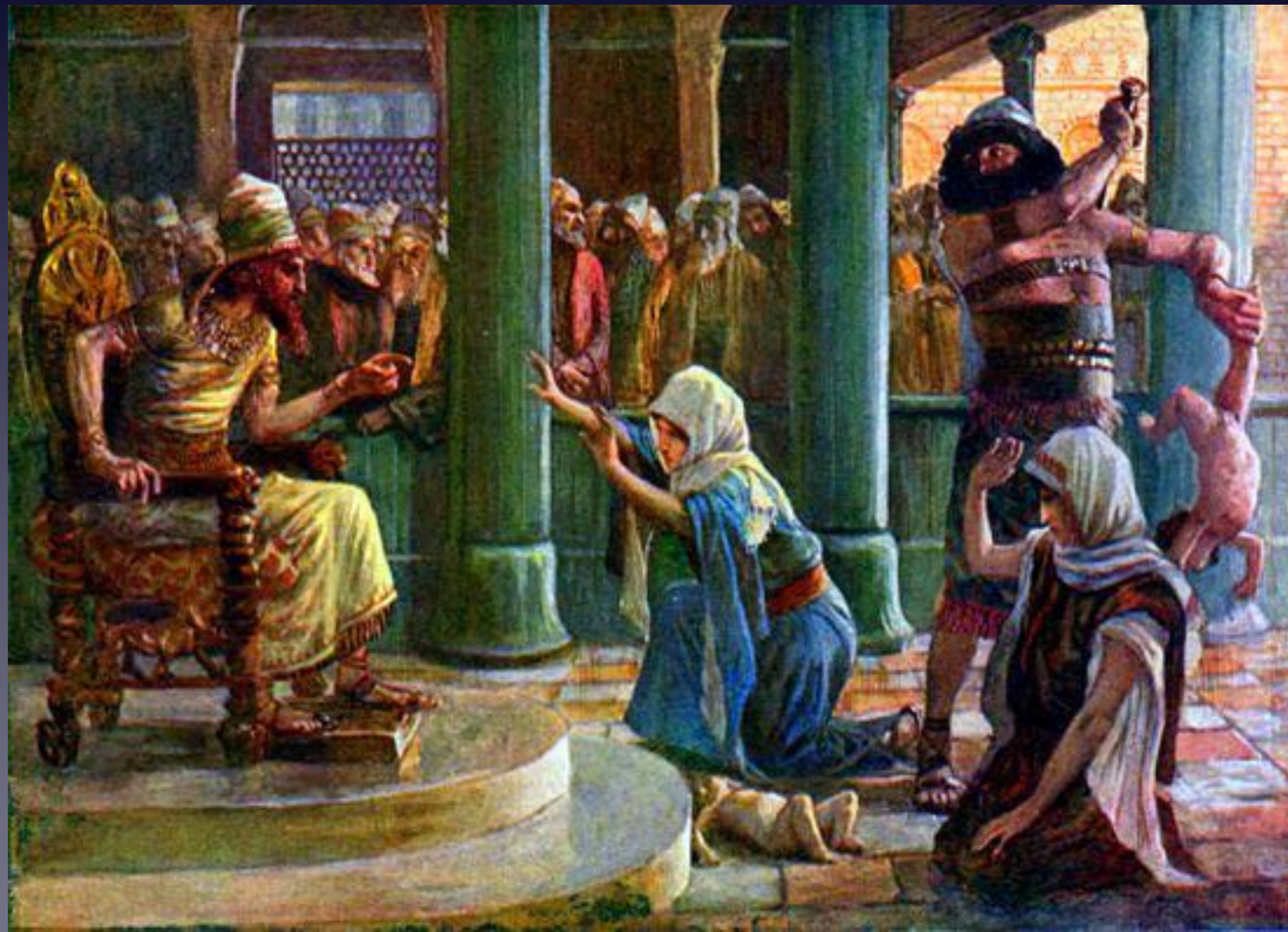
"Time does make ancient good uncouth"
- James Russell Lowell



Liturgy and Wisdom

Wisdom

Proverbs/Ecclesiastes/Song of Solomon



Liturgy and Wisdom

Questions to consider -

Why is so much of this material lost to people today?

Is this a good or a bad thing?

Liturgy and Wisdom

What can be done to recover the best for our times? Consider books like Jim Taylor's **"Everyday Psalms"**

God has walked with me; I could ask nothing more.
God has given me green meadows to laugh in,
clear streams to think beside, untrodden paths to explore.

When I thought the world rested on my shoulders,
God put things into perspective.
When I lashed out at an unfair world, God calmed me down.
When I drifted into harmful ways, God straightened me out.
God was with me all the way. ...

Liturgy and Wisdom

Why was Wisdom included with Law and Prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures?

I CANNOT TEACH
ANYBODY
ANYTHING. I CAN
ONLY MAKE
THEM THINK.

- SOCRATES

Liturgy and Wisdom

Sophia - "wisdom" in Greek

- a feminine term
- value recovered in an era of gender justice
- Hagia Sophia in Istanbul



Liturgy and Wisdom

"Good living can be rewarded in this life"
Hebrews lacked a concept of the afterlife



Liturgy and Wisdom

Ecclesiastes - Quoheleth - "the preacher"

both cynical and hopeful theolog

"All is vanity" "To everything there is a season"



Liturgy and Wisdom

Song of Solomon - bawdy songs or spiritual rhapsodies? Should a book like this be included in the canon?



Liturgy and Wisdom



Song of Solomon

appears in the Greek Septuagint for the first time in 250 BCE

Is it theology?

philosophy?

focus on finding God?

(or)

living the good life?

Liturgy and Wisdom

Used to commemorate the death of the temple (**Festival of Ab**) or salvation from national genocide (**Purim**)



Liturgy and Wisdom

Liturgical Observance

- reflect on other faiths and secular thought
- was influencing Hebrew thinking



Liturgy and Wisdom

Lamentations - Living through loss



Liturgy and Wisdom

Esther - Saving one's people in critical times



Liturgy and Wisdom

"Our perception of truth evolves as human consciousness expands"



Liturgy and Wisdom

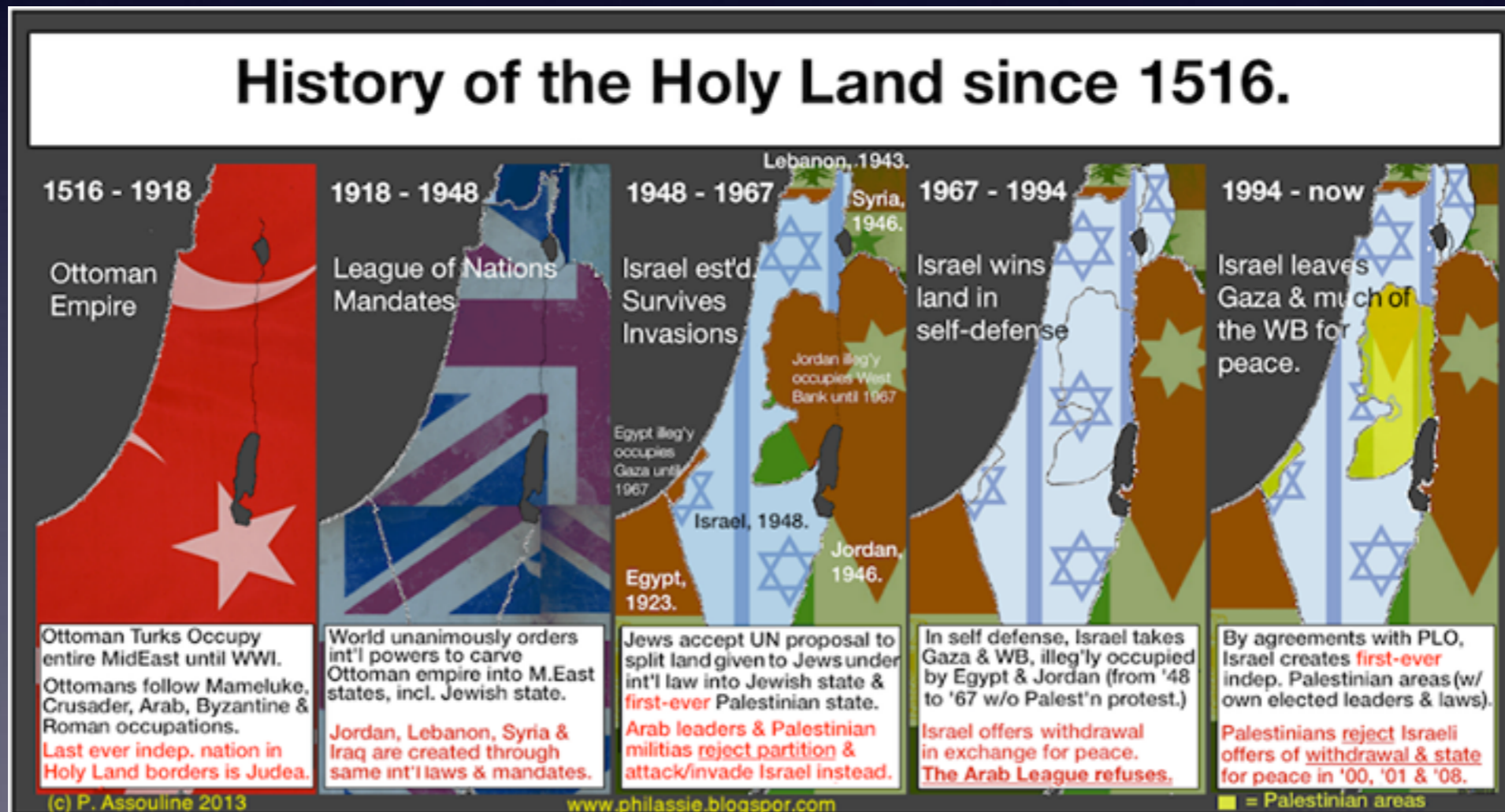
Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

- Claiming identity and value as a people through association with "the land"
- survival and resilience
- a classic Hebrew theme still much debated today



Liturgy and Wisdom

Hebrew theological reflection -
Not history as we know it



Liturgy and Wisdom

Nehemiah and Esther - 2nd century BCE

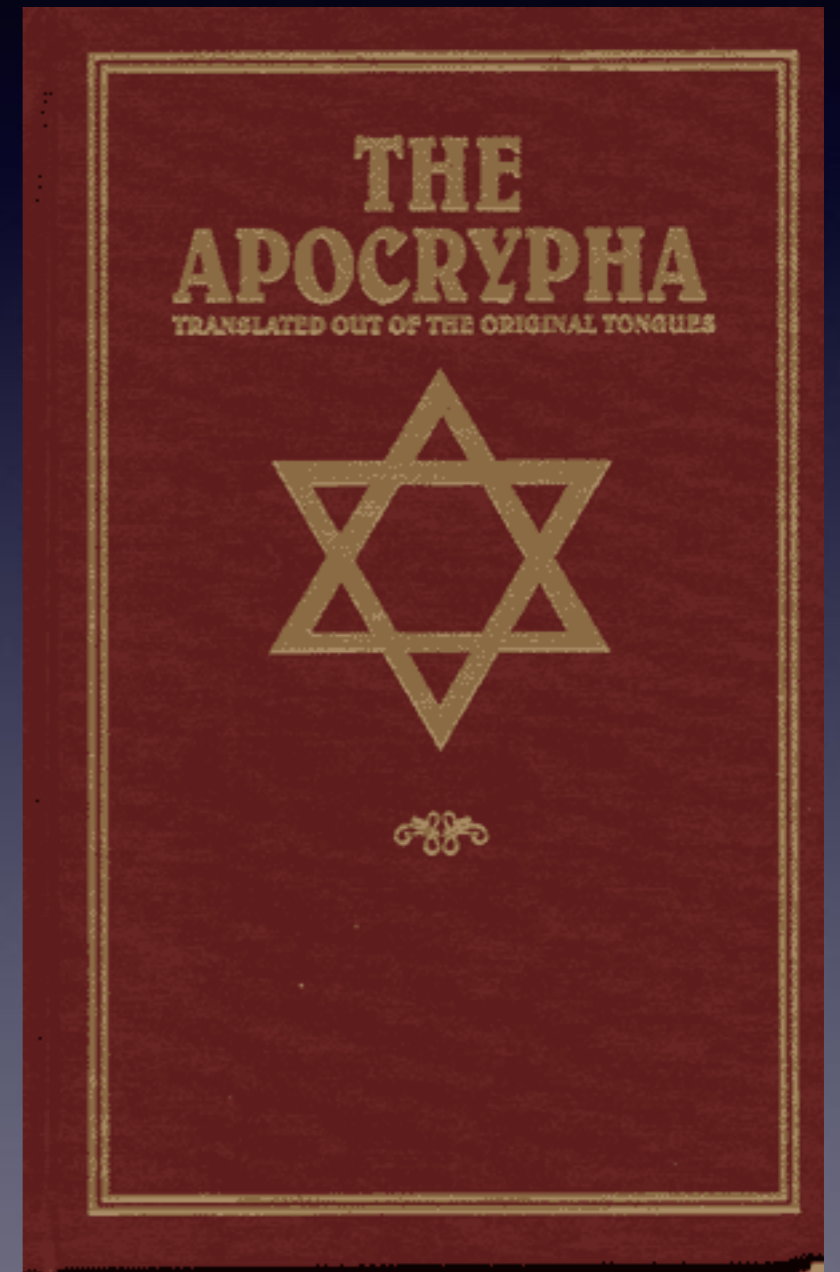
- Hebrew biblical canon closed



Liturgy and Wisdom

Inter-testamental books

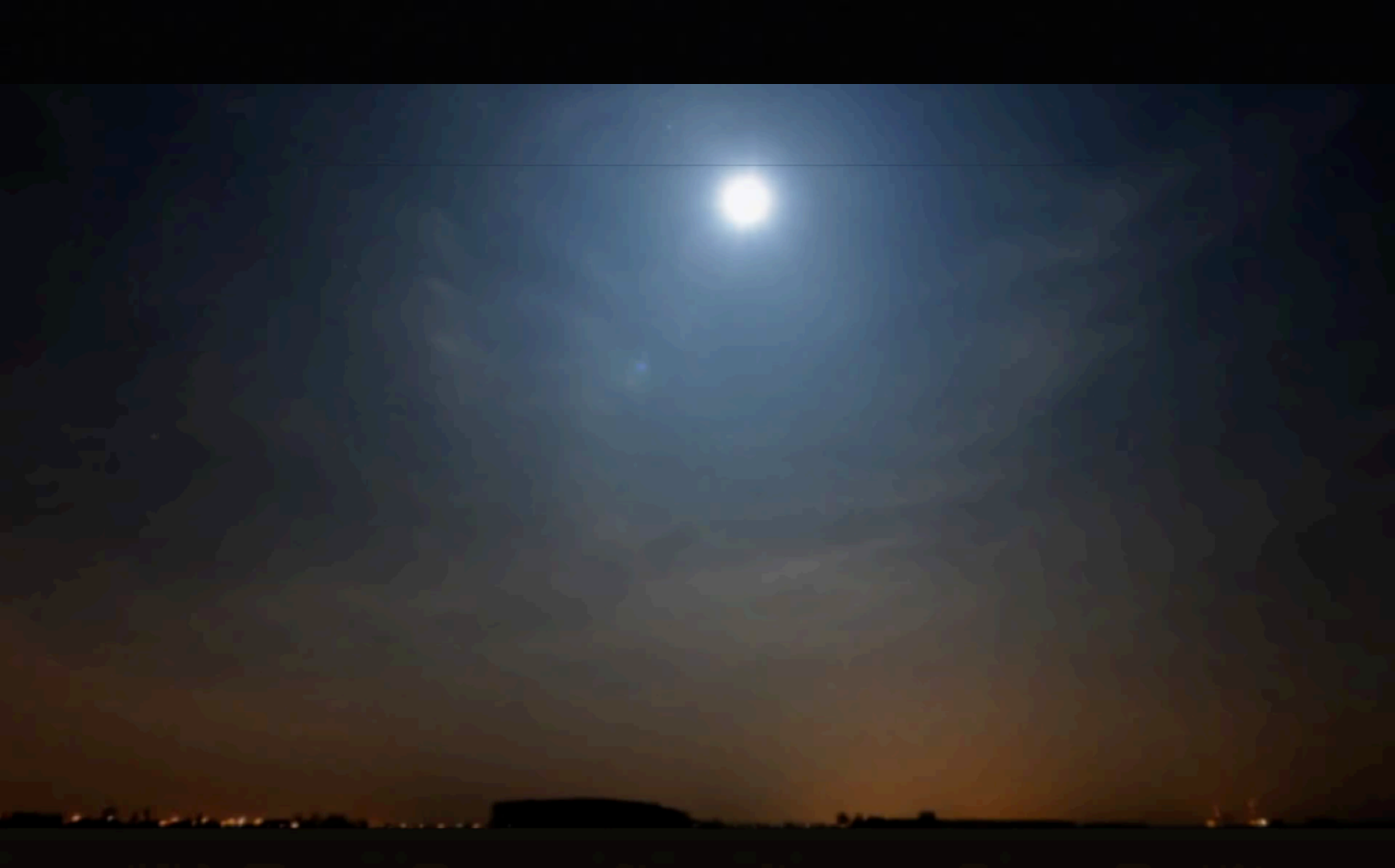
Apocrypha



Liturgy and Wisdom

Textual distinctives - led to the separation of Judaism and Christianity

Genesis 1	בראשית א
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.	א בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And a wind from God moved upon the face of the waters.	ב וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתָה תֹהוֹ וָבִהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל- פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:
And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.	ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי-אֹרֶךְ וַיְהִי-אֹרֶךְ:
And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.	ד וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאֹרֶךְ כִּי-טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹרֶךְ וּבֵין



Break

Video

Psalm 23

Holy Rascals

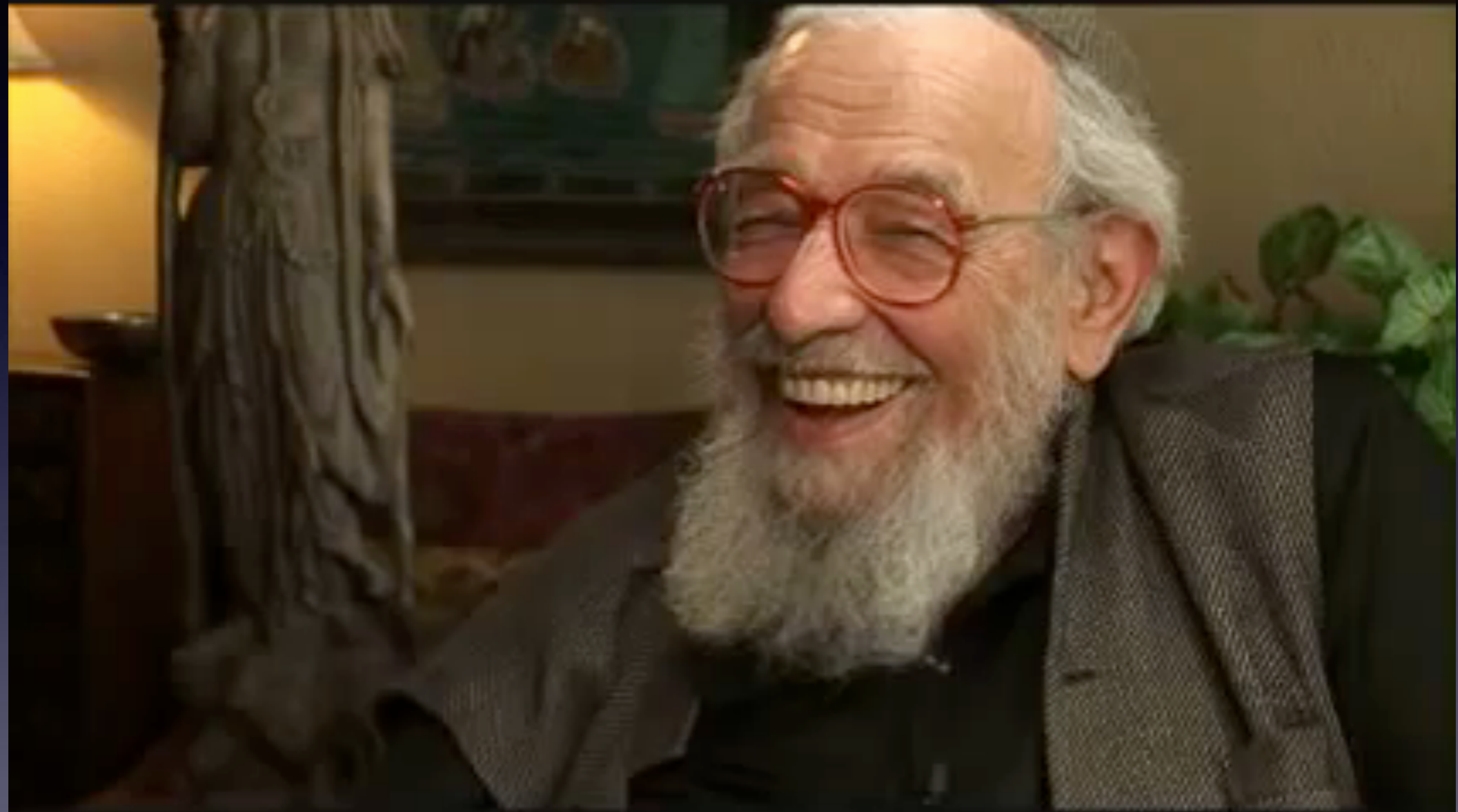
Rabbi Salman Schachter-Shalomi

Psalm 23 explained

The Lord Is My Sheperd

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z_1dING_ul

7m52s



Video

Psalm 23

John Rutter's

The Lord Is My Sheperd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cEYXHOSKyo>
4m32s

reference also John Rutter

describing his Requiem as it included Psalm 23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIZPLcqKMIE>



Courtesy MMTV

Next Readings

Session 6 -

Pt VIII - Introducing the Christian Scriptures

Chapters 27 - 30

Study Website

<http://rtb.stdavidscalgary.net>

Closing - Sally Hodges



Discussion Questions