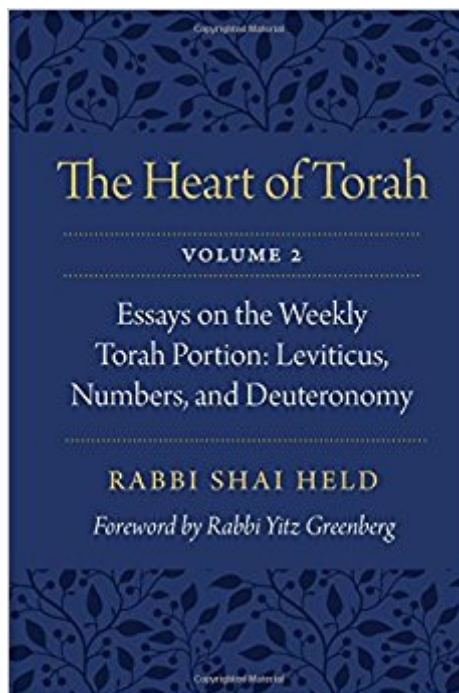


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The Heart Of Torah, Volume 2: Essays On The Weekly Torah Portion: Leviticus, Numbers, And Deuteronomy



Synopsis

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.

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"*The Heart of Torah* is a stunning achievement: textually learned, theologically profound, ethically challenging, spiritually uplifting, and psychologically astute. If you want to know what it can mean to read the Torah today with your whole heart and your whole mind, read this book."---

--Rabbi Sharon Brous, founder and senior rabbi at Ikar, Los Angeles"Shai Held deftly brings the wisdom of Torah to bear upon the contemporary human condition."

"Christians who read this book can discover fresh dimensions within the biblical text, see more clearly where there is common ground between Jews and Christians, and better grasp what it means to understand and live in this world as God's world."---

--Walter Moberly, professor of theology and biblical interpretation at Durham University"Shai Held is one of the most important teachers of Torah in his generation."---

--Rabbi David Wolpe, author of *David: The Divided Heart*

Rabbi Shai Held is president, dean, and chair of the Center for Jewish Thought at Mechon Vardot Hadar and directs its Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas in New York City. He is the author of *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence* and a recipient of the Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education. Rabbi Yitz Greenberg is one of the preeminent Jewish thinkers of our time.

a brilliant addition to the world of torah commentary. two essays each week--short and to the point, picking up on lines and concepts in ancient text. enlivening them for a modern audience, often teasing out social justice concepts.

With careful attention to the text and impressive erudition in classical and modern Jewish sources (and the end notes to support it), Rabbi Shai Held elicits deep, relevant meaning from even the more arcane sections of the Torah. Reading these books with an open mind and an open heart will leave a lasting impression on the reader. *The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion*

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