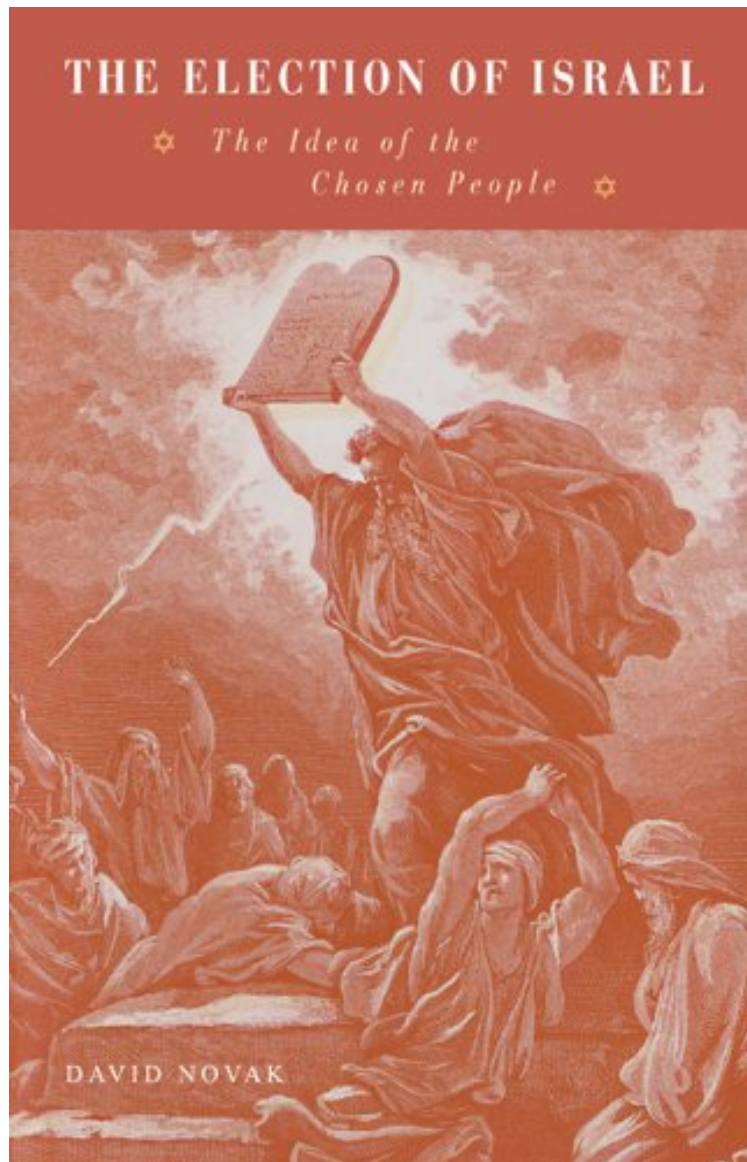


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## The Election of Israel: The Idea of the Chosen People

David Novak

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**David Novak : The Election of Israel: The Idea of the Chosen People** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Election of Israel: The Idea of the Chosen People:

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Major Important work of Jewish philosophy By A CustomerR. Novak attempts to retrieve a number of critical Jewish philosophic and religious notions in this work: Choseness, revelation, divinely imposed obligation. He works against the background of Spinoza's pantheism and critical

approach. He is strongest in pointing out the weakness of the enlightenment arguments, but nonetheless makes a powerful case for re-interpreting in contemporary terms traditionalist arguments. A necessary book for any serious student of the modern Jewish philosophical condition.

The view of themselves as the chosen people of God has been maintained by Jews from the beginnings of their history to the present. The author explores the development of this idea in Jewish theology and law, and essays a contemporary retrieval of the classical doctrine of election. Through an examination of the philosophical implications of the idea, he argues for the correlation of election and revelation, and shows both what the notion of election should mean for Jews today, and how non-Jews can better understand it.

"...an important and erudite book that contains an encyclopedia of interesting ideas." *The Cresset*"The Election of Israel is a worthy successor to Novak's earlier *Jewish-Christian Dialogue*, giving further evidence that David Novak is one of the commanding religious thinkers at the end of the twentieth century who can be ignored by neither Jews nor Christians who would understand God's saving ways in history." *First Things*"The book will appeal to a specialized audience. It will be of particular interest to those committed to interfaith matters and concerned about Israel's role in the world today." *The Bible Today*"Novak's book is an important contribution toward a renewal of this central tenet of Jewish faith." Michael Wyschogrod, *Modern Theology*"An indispensable study for those who are interested in a careful philosophical examination of this integral element of Jewish thought and life. The material is clear...and is highly recommended for graduate students, scholars, and libraries." Michael Oppenheim, *Religious Studies* "The Election of Israel is a must read for Jews and Christians alike since it speaks to our most profound community-shaping and identity-forming theological claims. Novak has provided a compelling answer to what it means to be a Jew--an answer that cannot be ignored by Christians who worship the Jewish Jesus and are rooted in the tradition of Abraham." *Pro Ecclesia*