

Science & Religion in Jewish Thought

Or, What Maimonides Really Meant



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Seminar Hall, Room 1315

Chemistry Building, UW-Madison Campus

What does Judaism have to say about the relationship between science and religion?

While Jewish tradition does not speak with one voice on this question, the history of Jewish thought is full of attempts to reconcile the religious tenets of Judaism with scientific progress and philosophical truth, although such attempts also encountered vigorous rabbinical resistance. In this lecture, we will consider the greatest of all Jewish thinkers, Moses ben Maimon, or Maimonides (1135-1204), who devoted his major philosophical work to resolving the "perplexity" of someone who is both religiously devout and scientifically informed, and showing how the Jewish worldview can be understood in naturalistic and rationalistic terms.