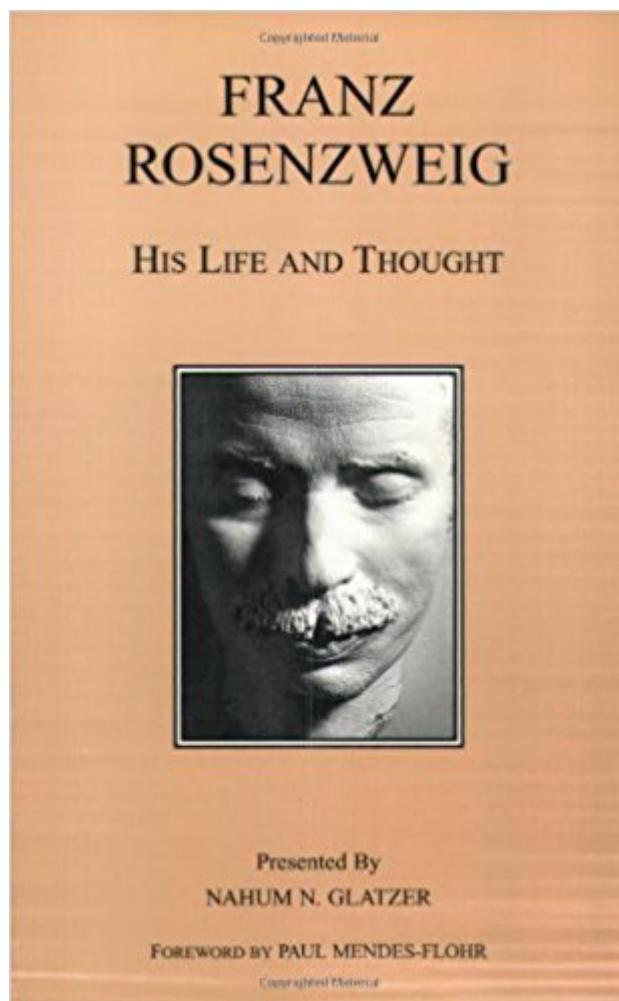


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# Franz Rosenzweig: His Life And Thought



## **Synopsis**

A reprint of the Schocken Books edition of 1961.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Rosenzweig's life combined a fabulous spiritual search, a profound engagement with philosophy as well as with Judaism, and enormous accomplishment in the face of overwhelming physical handicaps. His thought is both illuminated by and realized in his amazing life. Nahum Glatzer has brought both the life and the thought together in this marvelous collection. There is no better introduction to this seminal Jewish thinker. --Hilary Putnam, Harvard University Glatzer's anthology not only makes available an important array of texts; it also presents Rosenzweig's life in a way that is as moving as it is informative. --Michael Morgan, Indiana University This is an excellent and important volume. I'm very glad you have brought it back into print--especially in an edition that is so faithful to the original. --Robert Gluck, University at Albany

The late Nahum N. Glatzer was Low Professor of Judaic Studies, Brandeis University and University Professor, Boston University. Paul Mendes-Flohr is Professor of Jewish Thought, Hebrew University.

It's probably safe to say that most Americans have never heard of Franz Rosenzweig. I surely hadn't, until I came across his name multiple times in books by David Goldman (How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam Is Dying Too), and It's Not the End of the World, It's Just the End of You:

The Great Extinction of the Nations). In the latter book, Goldman goes so far as to recommend reading Rosenzweig and putting his own book in the recycle bin. Rosenzweig is known primarily for his early masterpiece, The Star of Redemption (Modern Jewish Philosophy and Religion), which is extremely tough reading. It has been described as a graduate course in philosophy and theology. Enter Glatzer's introduction, which at least makes it possible to begin understanding this man, who may well be one of the intellectual and spiritual titans of the last century. I find that the more of Rosenzweig I read, the more I want to know. David Goldman is a brilliant man in his own right, and he spent a number of years studying Rosenzweig. Just to whet your appetite a bit: Rosenzweig is one of the very few thinkers I have come across who regards both Judaism and Christianity as true and valid religions. He describes the differences between them, but is convinced that both can and do lead to a knowledge of God and redemption. Another thought of his: writing is better than reading, writing poetry is better than plain writing, and living life is better than writing poetry. That's one of his biggest points: don't get lost in the words and the books; we are called to live life according to God's love for us. This book is a terrific accomplishment.

This is a book that really narrate some theories in the Psychoanalysis and the Psychotherapy. The Work is very easy to understand. I strongly recommend.

This book is incredible for the insight it gives you into Franz Rosenzweig's life and thinking. It is a remarkable biography along with numerous samples of essays and personal letters. Glatzer follows him from his childhood and vigorous young manhood to his early disability and death as a young father from Lou Gehrig's disease. The book leaves you inspired by Rosenzweig's remarkable example of strength, patience, and love, both in thought and in deed. It is wonderful to see his thoughts memorialized in this way for future generations.

One need only google "Franz Rosenzweig" to learn about his inspirational life story, so I will not discuss it before discussing this book. Glatzer divides the book into two halves: Rosenzweig's life story told through his letters to various friends and relatives (including Glatzer himself) and selections from Rosenzweig's writings. Unfortunately, even Rosenzweig's shorter writings (let alone "Star of Redemption", his most famous work) are so abstract as to be almost impenetrable in translation (at least to me). Having said that, there were a few lines worth quoting, such as: "The older one gets the more difficult one finds it to make friends, because one's own store is so great that while there may be individual items in common, these items seem too small a fraction of the whole to form the

basis of a common fortune." "[Because of the cultural domination of Christianity] the Jewish religion cannot be 'accepted', it has to be grafted on by circumcision, dietary observances, and Bar Mitzvah." (Though I personally would subtract the often-useless Bar Mitzvah and substitute "Shabbat observance"). "I understand I was put in a sermon yesterday ... but it won't really be good until they use me in sermons without quoting me, and best of all, without even knowing it is me they are using." [Explaining his refusal to convert to Christianity] "no one can reach the Father save through [Jesus] ... But the situation is quite different for one who does not have to reach the Father because he is already with him. And this is true of the people of Israel..." Unfortunately, most of Rosenzweig's work is not this pithy. On the other hand, if you do want an introduction to this remarkable man's work, this book is far easier to read than his "Star of Redemption".

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