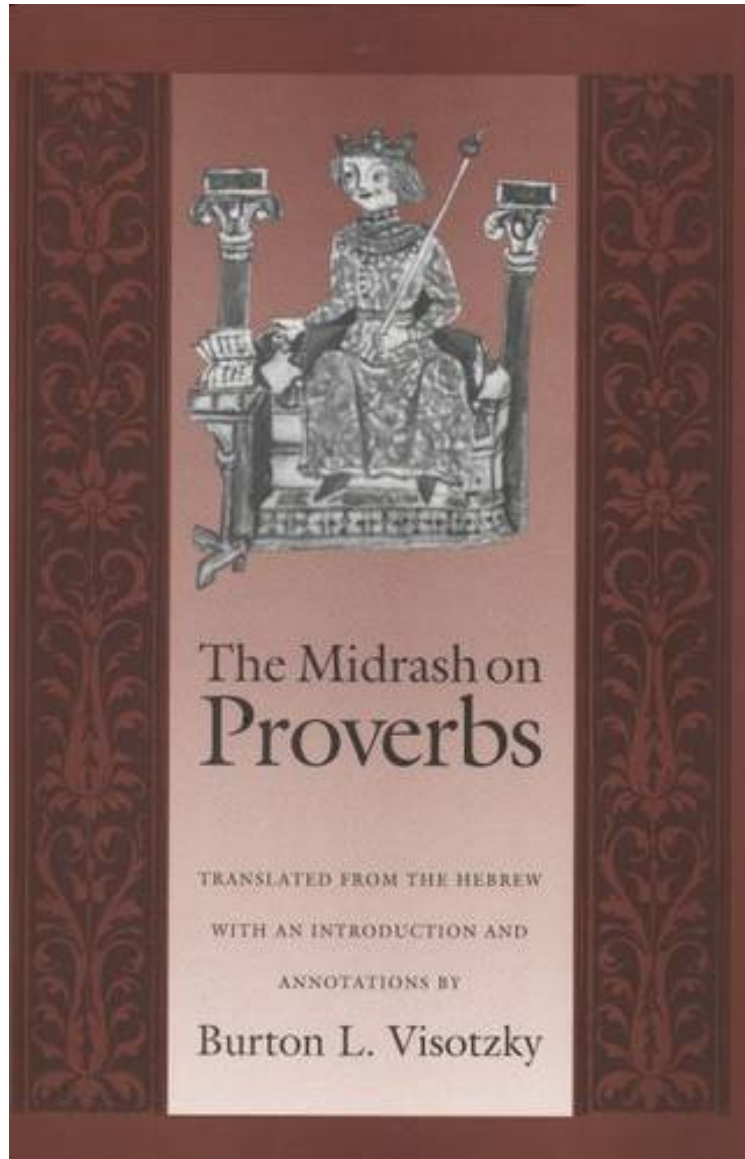


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The Midrash on Proverbs (Yale Judaica Series)

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Midrash which contains two different kinds of 'midrash' By Shalom Freedman Two other reviewers have attested to the excellence of the translation. 'The Midrash on Proverbs' is an especially important transitional one between two different periods of Midrashic development, between one which

primarily relies on mythic and legendary material and one which provides a more line- to - line straightforward commentary. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Vizotksy's Midrash is a Proverbial Winner! By Rabbi David Greenspoon Dr. Visotzky's translation on the Midrash of Proverbs is first rate, as one expects from the Yale Judaica Series. The book is more than a straight translation of *Midrash Mishle* (*The Midrash on Proverbs*). It is an English translation of Visotzky's carefully prepared critical edition of *Midrash Mishle* (originally published in Hebrew). *Midrash on Proverbs* is accessible to both serious scholars and informed enthusiasts. Visotzky's clear translations are sensitive to the original Hebrew, his short commentary is succinct and helpful, and the layout of the book itself is extremely lucid and straightforward. If you do not have the Hebrew skills to study this midrash in the original, this is the book for you! It is a pleasure to own and read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Translation; wonderful teaching tool By Rabbi Jason Miller I studied *Midrash Mishle* with Burt Visotzky in a class at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Visotzky has dedicated his life to this text and it shows in this translation, which makes this particular midrash accessible to the English speaking audience. The stories in this midrash are superb and Dr. Visotzky footnotes all known manuscripts and their variations. If you liked the Book of Proverbs, you're sure to enjoy the *Midrash on Proverbs*!

The *Midrash on Proverbs*, a ninth-century collection of rabbinical commentary on the Book of Proverbs, is now available to English-speaking audiences for the first time. Burton L. Visotzky here provides a lucid translation of the work from his annotated critical edition of the Hebrew text, *Midrash Mishle*.

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Hebrew From the Back Cover The *Midrash on Proverbs*, a ninth-century collection of rabbinical commentary on the Book of Proverbs, is now available to English-speaking audiences for the first time. Burton L. Visotzky here provides a lucid translation of the work from his annotated critical edition of the Hebrew text, *Midrash Mishle*. *Midrash Mishle* is a watershed in midrashic literature, for it marks the point at which broader forms of classical midrash on the Scriptures gave way to verse-by-verse commentary. It is unlike most earlier midrash in that it regularly pays attention to context, relates verses to each other, provides comments on apparently simple meanings of verses, and philologically considers the meaning of specific terms. At the same time, it resembles earlier midrash by considering narrative legends--offering, for example, fanciful versions of Solomon's meeting with the Queen of Sheba, the death of Moses, and Joseph's encounter with his brothers. It also alludes to medieval Jewish law and custom, anti-Karaite polemic, and rabbinic mysticism (with its esoteric speculations on such subjects as the measurements of God's body). Visotzky's volume illuminates all these subjects for the scholar and non-specialist alike in a prose translation that mirrors the style of the original *Midrash Mishle* text. His introduction to the volume sets it in the wider context of Jewish hermeneutics of the Bible.