

Klein-Braslavy, Sara. פירוש הרלב"ג לסיפורי בריאת האדם ולסיפור גן העדן (*Gersonides' Interpretation of the Stories of the Creation of Man and the Garden of Eden*), Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2015. 421 pp. \$42.00. (9789654937948). In Hebrew.

Levi ben Gershom (Gersonides) lived in Provence during the first half of the 14th century. His commentaries to the Bible are famous, as is his philosophical tract *The Wars of the Lord*. Famous, but rarely understood in all their depth. Gersonides' prose writings are highly technical and unwieldy, while his thought was startlingly original and independent, and these two characteristics conspire to confuse and discourage his casual reader. Sara Klein-Braslavi, who has published many important studies on the philosophical and exegetical aspects of Gersonides and of his role model, Maimonides, presents in this volume a close reading of some of the most interesting parts of Gersonides' biblical commentary – the sections devoted to Adam and Eve. She pays careful attention to structure as well as content, explicating the ways in which Gersonides built his commentary and how he used his sources. She makes extensive use of a vitally important but understudied component of the Gersonidean oeuvre – his supercommentaries on the Aristotelian corpus, which were written not directly on Aristotle's books but on the commentaries to his books by the medieval Islamic philosopher Averroes. Reading Gersonides' works intertextually allows Klein-Braslavi to expose common themes that run through the thinker's various books and to illuminate gnomic lines in the biblical commentary from more expansive discussions in the philosophical-scientific works. This book is of crucial importance to students of medieval Jewish philosophy and philosophical Bible exegesis.

Pinchas Roth, Talmud Department at Bar Ilan University.