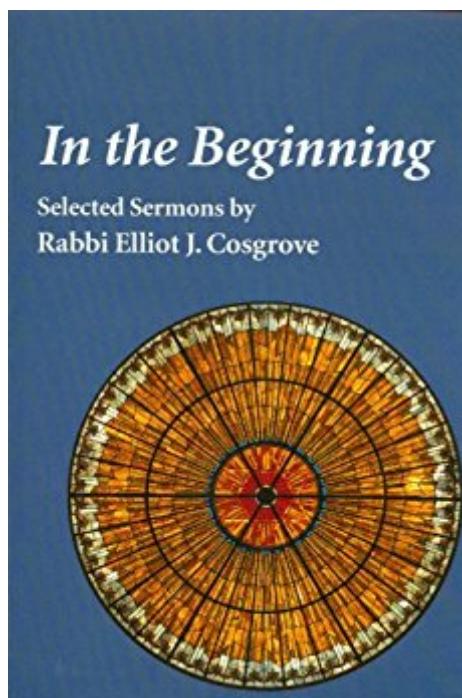


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In The Beginning: Selected Sermons By Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove



Synopsis

Recognized as a leading voice in the Conservative Movement of Judaism, Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove, Ph.D., writes, "Deeply personal, anchored in sacred texts, and compelling to the congregant, a good sermon sets as its goal to edify, instruct, and most of all convey how a Rabbi views Jewish life. Every time I preach, I am driven by a single goal — to communicate the ongoing relevance of Judaism to the contemporary Jew. Politics, morals, Israel, theology, ritual observance or another topic — every sermon seeks to answer the question of 'What does Judaism have to say to me today?' Thus, while a sermon always begins from within the preacher, the measure of its success ultimately hinges on the degree to which it speaks both for the tradition and to the listener." Rabbi Cosgrove's writings -- anchored in Torah, deeply personal, and altogether relevant to the congregant -- reflect his passion for the intersection of Jewish scholarship and faith. His subjects in this volume range from the Founding Fathers' view of America as the Promised Land, to the importance of music in our tradition, to our connection with Israel, and how the Torah teaches resilience for challenging times. Rabbi Cosgrove follows a tradition of distinguished predecessors on the pulpit of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, including Rabbi Milton Steinberg, Rabbi Judah Nadich, and Rabbi David H. Lincoln. Ordained at The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1899, Rabbi Cosgrove earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He is the author of four collections of selected sermons, *In the Beginning* (2009), *An Everlasting Covenant* (2010), *Go Forth!* (2011), and *Hineni* (2012). He is the editor of *Jewish Theology in Our Time: A New Generation Explores the Foundations and Future of Jewish Belief* (Jewish Lights).

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