

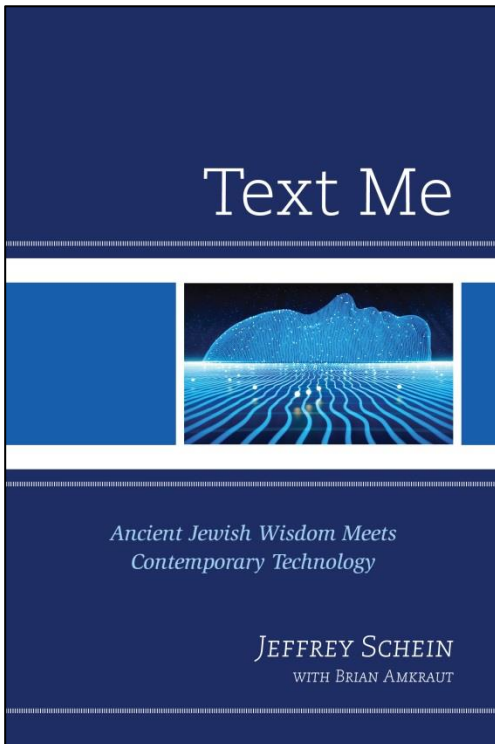


Text Me

Ancient Jewish Wisdom Meets Contemporary Technology

By Jeffrey Schein

With Brian Amkraut



“Finally, we have a resource that meets the needs of spiritual leaders and educators living in the digital age. In Jeffrey Schein’s book, *Text Me: Ancient Jewish Wisdom Meets Contemporary Technology* they will find theory, experience, and practice distilled into usable wisdom. What makes this book so critical is that it fills a void that is only getting larger. And with its real-life stories, it’s an engaging and instructive read for which rabbis and religious educators of all faiths will want to make time.” —**Hayim Herring**, author, organizational consultant, and educational futurist

“Jeffrey Schein’s book offers religious leaders a resource for critically engaging the changes taking place in a thoughtful and practical way, exploring in depth particular aspects of technology and resources of his own faith traditions. While written primarily for a Jewish audience, the insights and understandings of each of the chapters provide insights Christian and Islamic religious leaders can reflect on, as well as a model of interdisciplinary engagement other faith traditions could reproduce within their own sacred texts and writings.” —**Terri Elton**, St. Paul, Associate Professor of Leadership Luther Seminary

Common sense tells us that technology can either be a blessing or curse in our lives. The assertion flows from us in a deceptively facile way. Beneath the flowing assertion, lay many cross currents and much complexity. These complexities are named and laid out for individual and group exploration throughout the book. They provide mirrors for the reader and groups of readers to discover affirmations and arguments with their own digital profiles based on Jewish/humanistic religious values.

The iterative analysis points back to the double-entendre in the book’s title, “text me” can be a command to engage in the famously quick communication as in receiving a text on our smart phones and “text me” can also serve as an imperative to explore the wisdom contained in Jewish texts. The synergies, gaps, creative tensions, and paradoxes living within this double use of “text me” permeate the volume. Though rooted in Jewish sources the tools of analysis can be used by Christians, Muslims, and people who describe themselves as “spiritual but not religious.” Commentaries provided by scholars of all three of the western, monotheistic faiths highlight this universal dimension. Indeed, this book is an invitation to all who live in the digital age—which is to say all of us.

Jeffrey Schein is senior education consultant for the Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood.

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