

Questions, week 8 (Elon, to p. 295; Frieden)

1. Explain Elon's book's title.
2. How could Moses Mendelssohn move from one world to another by walking 100 miles (p. 1)?
3. What are the similarities and differences between Mendelssohn and Maimonides?
4. Explain the following sentence (p. 100), "Rahel [Levin] and her like-minded friends must have wondered how the emancipation of 1812 would have fared if it had been enacted a generation or two earlier, in the heyday of the Enlightenment, as it had in America."
5. Elon refers often to rich and poor Jews. How did this difference originate? How was it continued? Were there Jews in the middle?
6. How did the events of 1848 and 1870 affect German Jews?
7. Explain the following sentence (p. 233), "In Rathenau's opinion, Jews would survive as Jews, paradoxically, through assimilation."
8. Was it accidental that Theodor Herzl (the father of modern Zionism) was German? Or was Zionism "Germany's gift to the Jews (p. 291)"?
9. What is a Shtraymel? Why was it important?
10. What do we learn about Jewish society in Russia from "If Not Higher"?