In the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform, the leading rabbis of American Reform Judaism declared that “we reject as ideas not rooted in Judaism, the belief ... [in] Gehenna (Hell).” Arguing that this claim misrepresents the history of Judaism, this talk will examine ancient Jewish discourse about Gehenna to unearth the distinctive values, aesthetics, fantasies, and hopes found within classical Jewish culture. Without such an analysis, one’s understanding of Judaism remains incomplete.

Civil conflict is generally thought of as a dynamic process of repeated violent interactions between government and rebel combatants, yet cooperation between combatants is also quite common during civil wars. This talk examines the evolution of cooperation in the context of violent civil conflicts. It introduces a novel dataset capturing cooperation between combatants and discusses implications of these new data for our understanding of the dynamics and resolution of civil wars.