CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi
List of Abbreviations xv

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION 1

Krochmal’s Life 3
The Guide of the Perplexed of the Time 14
The Time 16
The Perplexed 20
The Guide 23
The Guide of the Perplexed 29

CHAPTER 2
METAPHYSICS AND JEWISH FAITH 44

Teleology, Intention and the Existence of God 45
The Nature of God 54
CONTENTS

God as Spirit 70
Absolute Spirit and Jewish Religious Consciousness 75
The Commandments 81

CHAPTER 3
KROCHMAL'S THEORY OF HISTORY 103
History as Tradition 104
Modern Historiosophy and Judaism 113
The Guide 122
Metaphysics, History, the Supersession of the Jews 126
Progress 137

CHAPTER 4
BIBLICAL STUDIES 156
The Book of Isaiah 165
Qohelet and Psalms 172

CHAPTER 5
THE RABBINIC TRADITION 206
The Guide 226
The Period of the Soferim 235
The Period of the Tannaim and the Nature of Oral Torah 238
The Formation of the Mishnah 250

CHAPTER 6
THE PERPLEXITIES OF THE AGGADAH 274
The Problem of Aggadah in the Modern Period 277
Krochmal's Response 282
CONTENTS

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION 308

Krochmal and the Modern Intellect 309
Krochmal and Modern Judaism 313
The Question of Influence 321

Index 329