The Birth of Religion and
The Making of Peace

Featured Speaker: Reuven Firestone-Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam - Hebrew Union College

March 22, 2011
4:30pm Reception - 5:00pm Lecture
The Rosen Screening Room Located on the 2nd Floor of the Tutor Campus Center

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The great moments of divine revelation producing Holy Scripture are extremely rare. Even when we are especially charitable we can count them on only one hand. Such revelation occurs at moments of crisis, when it is imperative for the gates of heaven to open wide to produce a new and eternal dispensation from the Holy One. Prophets and messiah’s struggle to be heard, and they are inevitably abused and worse. These are the birth pangs of religion, and they become imprinted in the spiritual collective memory of faith communities. They have often been the cause of rage against members of other faith communities, but they can also be an impulse for reconciliation and peace-making.