Rosenzweig’s *Star* and Systems Theory

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Abstract

Moses, Pollock, and others have noted the highly systematic character of Rosenzweig’s *The Star of Redemption*. This paper shows that the philosophical theology of the Star embodies ideas central to systems theory.

The *Star* is based on a discussion of three elements – God, World, and Man – and three relations that they enter into – Creation, Revelation, and Redemption. For Rosenzweig, these elements and relations constitute the “All.”

This hexad illustrates the definition of “system,” and in the *Star*, other systems ideas, including the ontological vs epistemological perspectives, structure and function, synchronics and diachronics, and the metaphysics of number are also salient.
• Introduction

1. Elements & Relations
2. Ontology & Epistemology
3. Wholes & Parts: Structure & Function
4. Diachronics
5. Metaphysics of Number

• Acknowledgement
• References
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Figure 1 Two views of Rosenzweig’s Star

(a)

(b)
Figure 2 Equal & unequal elements

(a)  

(b)  

GOD  
WORLD  
MAN  
GOD  
WORLD  
MAN
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Figure 3 Structure & function

(a), (b) are systems-theoretic; (c) uses (b) to depict the attributes Rosenzweig assigns to elements. “System” & “Tatsache” label the whole double cone figure, not merely its vertex.
Figure 4 Adding attributes to definition of “system”

System = element S = relation AB’
Figure 5 Elements + attributes + relations = All

All

CREATION

REDEMPTION

REVELATION

WORLD

GOD

MAN
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Figure 6 Three relations in sequence w’ attribute reversals

CREATION

- - - - -

y ........ n
power y being

GOD

n ........ y
particulars y logos

WORLD

n ........ y
freedom y character

MAN

CREATION

- - - - -

y ........ n
power y being

GOD

n ........ y
particulars y logos

WORLD

n ........ y
freedom y character

MAN

REVELATION

CREATION

- - - - -

y ........ n
power y being

GOD

n ........ y
particulars y logos

WORLD

n ........ y
freedom y character

MAN

REDEMNPTION

CREATION

- - - - -

y ........ n
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REVELATION

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ALL

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REDEMNPTION

- - - - -

y ........ n
freedom y character

MAN
Figure 7 Diachronics of the Star
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Figure 8 Tetrad of number

- All
- One
- Many
- Nothing
Acknowledgement

- This paper draws extensively from Pollock’s *Franz Rosenzweig and the Systematic Task of Philosophy* (2009), which both inspired this study & made Rosenzweig’s thought more accessible to the author.
References (1/3)


References (2/3)


References (3/3)

