

4. In the Beginning (1975) A Jewish youth from a militant background seeks his own beginning on a life of his own.  
(The depicted struggle is one with a hostile external world and a misunderstanding support base.)
5. The Book of Lights (1981)...The rabbinic chaplain looks for life support in less accredited Jewish circles and in a world totally unmarked by Judaism.  
(The conflict is the reconciliation of values in a world that has continued well with no recognition of those values.)

B. The consummate theme: Traditional value versus pragmatic change

1. The questions:
  - a. How best can a sub-culture survive in a hostile world?
  - b. Can the premises of tradition be held while the expanding spheres of the mind are accommodated?
  - c. How much of one's heritage can be forfeited (!) in the hope of continuing one's destiny?
  - d. To what extent can the threat of change be mollified by the promise of a continued existence?
2. Some responses (from the idealization of the novels):
  - a. The hasidim
  - b. The orthodox
  - c. The secularist
  - d. The goy
3. Excursus:
  - a. Our own setting
  - b. Messianic Judaism

C. The vital recognition: Our very heart is tradition!

1. Within the books (quick sketches)
  - a. The Chosen: the culture
  - b. The Promise: The life path
  - c. Asher Lev: The family
  - d. In the Beginning: The world relationship
  - e. Book of Lights: Perspective

(Observation: it becomes almost impossible to do anything of yourself without testing or threatening some aspect of sacred heritage.)