

Rabbinic Judaism – a Timeline

Though elements of Rabbinic Judaism can be dated back to the period of the Restoration, the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, Rabbinicism can best be said to emerge during the Hasmonean period. During this period Judaism went through "a radical transformation from the rule of the Jewish community by God through the High Priest, to rule of the community through the judicial and legislative discourse of the Supreme Court." From now on the High Priest was subservient to the supreme court of the Sanhedrin.

^		of the Samedrin.			
Rabbinic Judaism	Prior to the Hasmonean state, when the Jews were under the yoke of the Seleucids, the function of the <i>av beit din</i> (father of the religious court) was oversight of the Sanhedrin. He was the senior spiritual leader of the Jewish people, a kind of <i>Chief Rabbi</i> .				
Zugot 142 BC 40 BC	period when the religious	The two heads of the Sanhedrin, the President (<i>rais</i>) and the Vice-President (<i>av beit din</i>) led the religious life of the Jewish community. This was the period of the growing division between the elitist Sadducees and the more egalitarian Pharisees, arising from the appointment of a Greek sympathizer as High Priest. Divisions on points of law date from the dual leadership of Hillel and Shammai, during the time of Herod the Great.			
Mishnaic 70 AD	This is the period when the Mishna was written.	The High Priesthood had become increasingly corrupt, beholden to Rome, and for sale to the highest bidder. The leaders of the Jewish community (<i>Tannaim</i>) lived in the Holy Land, and Jerusalem in particular. After the destruction of the Second Temple (AD 70) the Rabbi Yohannan ben Zakai founded a new Yeshiva in Yavne. The Tannaim included Shammai, Gamaliel (inc. AD 70), Akiva (during the AD 135 revolt) and			
200		as many as 120 in all.			
200		is completed, from material written over the previous 2 centuries.			
Amoraim 200 500	The Amora were the scholars who codified Jewish law into the Gemara. In interpreting the Mishnah, they produced the Gemara, which together then formed the Talmud.	Beginning with the Rabbi Akiva (known simply as <i>Rav</i>) this period lasted about 8 generations. After moving to Babylon in 219 the Rav founded the yeshiva at Sura. Others were Joshua ben Levi (Lydda, 3 rd C), Shmuel (Pumbedita, d.254), Abbahu (Caesarea, 4 th C), Hillel II (creator of current Hebrew calendar), Rashi (5 th C, compiled Babylonian version of Talmud).			
Savora 500 700	Editors of the Talmud, responsible for its final structure.	Though largely complete by 550 AD, the Talmud was probably significantly improved by the work of the Savora over the following two centuries. One of the last of these was Rabbi Yose.			
700	The Talmud is completed in cont	ent (Mishnah and Gemara) by Rashi and structure by the Savora.			
Geonim 589 1038	Geon ('excellency') literally means 'splendour' or 'genius.' The <i>im</i> is a Hebrew plural form.	The two great yeshivot in Babylon were at Sura and Pumbedita. During the early medieval period the spiritual leaders of the Jewish community were the heads of these colleges. (The <i>exilarch</i> was the secular authority, under Islamic rule). Hezekiah Geon, the last Geon of Pumbedita, was tortured to death in 1040. The Geonim took the completed Talmud and taught it to their students.			
Rishonim 1250 1500	Rishom means the 'former' and refers to the leading Rabbis of the period before the writing of the <i>Shulkan Arukh</i> .	Rashi, Maimonides ('Rambam'), Nahmanides ('Ramban'), and Halevi were Rishonim. It is not so much a position, as an measure of the respect their writings acquired, the honor in which they are held now, and the validity of their work as a basis for quotation and commentary.			
1560	The <i>Shulkan Aruch</i> is a compendium of Jewish law compiled by Rabbi Yosef Karo (1488-1575). In his introduction he explains that he wrote it due to the explain of Jews from Iberia (Spain and Portugal) and the invention of printing. Both of these threatened to weaken the rituals and laws of the Jewish people (by dispersing the people & facilitating the spread of heresy). It is an abridged version of Karo's earlier <i>Beth Josef</i> , but it gained respect from both Ashkenaz and Sephardic communities alike, and is often simply known now as the <i>Code of Jewish Law</i> .				
Acharonim 1500	The 'later ones,' referring to the Rabbis and scholars of the modern period, since the 16 th century publication of the <i>Shulkan Aruch</i> .	Scholars working in the centuries since the Shulkan Aruch was published have not been able to ignore its content, and it has hence served as the foundation for much discussion of Jewish Law in the modern period – particularly the editions printed with the commentaries of Rabbi Moses Isserlis in the inner margins. The <i>Acharonim</i> since than have produced commentaries on the <i>Shulkan Aruch</i> ,			
Present		supplementing those on the Talmud.			

Christian Zionism: Geography

When the extent of the land of Israel is considered, there are a number of relevant Old Testament passages. (We will continue this list next issue.)

PENTATEUCH PROMISES TO THE PATRIARCHS

Abraham received his Covenant promises in stages:

- Genesis 12:6-9 The Canaanites were then in the land, but the Lord appeared
- to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." <u>Genesis 13:14-17</u> The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring for ever."
- <u>Genesis15:18-21</u> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates – the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." <u>Genesis 17:3-8 I have made you a father of many nations...</u>

and kings will come from you. ... The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you, and I will be their God."

- Some passages, such as Gen. 22:15-18, apply specifically to the *descendants*, rather than the land.
- ...but promises made solely to Abraham could without difficulty be applied to his non-Jewish descendants (as is already the case in Gen. 21:11-13).
- To **Isaac** were passed on the promises already made to Abraham, the 3stage promise of descendants, land and a blessing to the nations:

<u>Genesis 26:4</u> "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me…"

and to Jacob:

- <u>Genesis 28:13</u> "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and your father Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying."
- <u>Genesis 35:22</u> 'A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."
- The Lord communicated the same to **Moses**, initially only mentioning Canaan: <u>Exodus 6:3-8</u> "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens... I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord."

Exodus 23:31-32 "I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River."

and through Moses also, a warning:

<u>Deuteronomy 30:17-18</u> But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

Al Aqsa Mosque

The Al Aqsa was the first mosque built on the Temple Mount after the Arab invasion. It is located on the southern wall (the grey dome), overlooking the Biblical *Ophel*. The building in the SW corner is actually an Islamic museum,



Near the SW corner of the Haram Al Sharif compound there is a small projection from the wall. This is the base for an arch that in

though part of the

'Al Aqsa Complex'.

Roman times supported a bridge over the valley that ran alongside the wall. Known as Robinson's arch, from the archaeologist who identified it, it is evidence of an earlier access point to the Temple precincts from this point. On the above picture the stairs on the left



provide for entry for those approaching from the south. Beyond those steps is the *Western Wall*. The steps pictured have not survived, and have for a number of years been replaced by a ramp which curves south (towards you, dear reader).

The recent demonstrations have concerned the work being done on this ramp. There have been plans to extend a bridge across to the wall. For now a temporary walkway has been erected.



View excavation: <u>http://www.antiquities.org.il</u>

5. Geography (B)	The prophesied return of Israel will occupy will include				
Prophecies include a wide area of the Middle	the present State	plus the West	plus the Gaza	plus the Sinai	plus what is now
East – Israel today is only a small part of that.	of Israel	Bank	strip		Jordan

This	Month
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Ints Month							
Jan 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 5 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15						
	W T F S S M T W T						
Sudan 1000+ die in epidemic in south Plane hijacked, lands in Chad Sudan loses AU policeman killed in Darfur	Ahead of peace talks, army attacks rebels in Darfur						
UN troops accused of assaults Bombing raids kill 21 in Darfur Attacks by rebels on UN workers AU presidency Chinese PM visits Sudan							
	s fired at port 3 children killed in grenade attacks Mortar kills 1 in Moga.						
OIC gone, but residents 2 mortars hit presidential palace US bombs Al Qaeda base in South AU tries to provide troops New speaker sworn in provide troops New speaker sworn in Kenya arrests, returns 34 Islamists 2 assassinated in Mogadishu Mortars hit Mogadishu, 5 killed	Mortars kill 2 Demo against AU deployment Uganda ok's troops in Somalia Govt. reshuffles 10, 3 removed Mortar attack in Mogadishu, 3 die						
Pakistan Army kills 20 Al Qaeda in S Wazir air strike Car bomb Islamabad suicide bombs - 1/26 (2 die), on 1/28 (0) Islamabad S 💞 kills 2							
Govi. to close 4 religee camps in border	in Islamabad Women students protest mosque demolition						
Afghan. Taliban spokesman arrested Afghan lawmaker shot dead Taleban occupy Musa Qala Roadside bomb kills 3 Afg. soldiers Suicide bomb kills 10 nr NATO base Kandahar suicide bo	Taleban commander Strike kills7 Taliban flee hydro plant by Using children as shields						
Pakistan surged recently At Pak. border 3 arrested w/ explosives in car Air strike kills snr Taliban leader Yemen clashes with rebel							
Arabia Red Crescent plane crashes, 3 killed Al Houthi rebels kill 12 on 1/27 & 1/31 Gunman arrest AU tries	to provide troops Vosque Putin visits Saudi Rebel clashes continue, 80 dead						
Irag 4 US killed in Nineveh prov. Muqtada group ends parliament boycott 2 S € s kill 13 in Baghdad Hilla S€ kills 61	16 houses torched in Amil district Borders to close for 3 days						
US Deaths: Car 🗞 kills 6 in Sadr City 10-day Shia Ashura festival begins 🛛 Air strike kills 14 insurgents in Diyala prov. 7 car 🗞 in Kirkuk, 4 kill	ed 4 US killed in Anbar prov. Iraq embassy reopens (after 17 yrs)						
3/30: 2,317 Car 🗉 kills 70 nr university 7 US killed in Anbar prov. Bird guide published 7 US killed by R-S 🗉 s in 3 days Truck S-🇉 kills 135 in Bird guide published 7 US killed by R-S	aghdad Car 🗳 kills 17 in Aziziya Muqtada has left for Iran						
5/31: 2,459 7/31: 2,578 Sadr City 🗉 kills 15 Baghdad bus 🗉 kills 6 Baghdad car 🍝 kills 18 💕 🗟 s kill 40 Shia in 3 towns Mamudiya car 🗳 kills	8 Gunmen massacre family of 14 Air stikes kill 15 insurgents						
9/30: 2,700 Kirkuk S- 🗉 kills 10 police Baquba S- 🗉 kills 14 Ramadi INC leader kidnapped/killed Car 🗉 kills 4 police	in Khalis Health minister arrested RS- Kill 3 US in Diyala						
10/31: 2,806 11/15: 2,858 US troops raid Kurd camp nr border Baghdad 2-car bombing kills 88 (Chemical Ali' admits 210/342 insurgents killed beld in 2 days							
12/31: 3,000 Gulf states US to reopen 10 factories Joint operation nets 93 in Diyala	er killed in Basra Air strike kills 8 militants nr Baghdad Arms, ammo found in						
	kill 24 in Baghdad Attacks in Mussayab kill 4 Baghdad Shia mosque						
1/31: 3,0/3 uoop Wedding convoy hit in Mosul, 3 die Mortars kill 6 in Suwayra 263 followers + cult 'Mahdi' killed in Slovak Sadr mili 2/15: 3,118 Sugar and the standard and the	tia leader killed in US/Iraq raid Kurd forces assist US in Baghdad offensive						
Sunni preacher shot dead Mosul clash-5 police killed	ri governor's aide arrested 15 police killed by S-I nr Tikrit						
Syrian border. About 11/2m Death squad leader captured Tel Afar: 2 teachers killed	kidnapped from house in Shia suburb 2 Germans kidnapped						
Basis and abread bring (1/2 - 2 minion Basia monals injure 6 OK Haira Street operation by OS/riaq	Mortar kills 4 in Fallujah 8 recruits shot dead near Mosul						
	US helicopter crashes, 7 killed 3 bombs in Baghdad market kill 79						
Jordan (700,000),Leb (40,000), Egy (50,000). 5 US helicopters shot down in 3 weeks. Both down in 3 weeks. Baghdad minibus ● kills 6	3 Iranians arrested on border nr Kut 18 killed by truck S- at college						
Syria condennis attacks on OS troops model. S-bomber kins i mistia mosque	Kirkuk Arabs demonstrate against forced relocation						
	Bomb kills 11 Rev. Guards						
Turkey Armenian news editor killed, 8 arrested by Jan 31 46 Qaeda suspects arrested	4 th bird flue victim Olmert meets w/ Erdogan						
Lebanon Opposition calls Strikers block Beirut roads/streets, opposition call off strike after 24 hrs	Hezbollah munitions truck seizecBuses bombed near Gemayel home						
Demonstrators still camped outside for general strike Clashes-100s Sunni/Shia Clashes at Arab Uni. 4 killed	Troops fire on US sends 60 vehicles 300,000 at Hariri anniv. rally						
Curfew imposed in Beirut							
Jordan King wants to develop nuclear power program UN report criticises torture	Putin visits Jordan						
Israel PM Olmert in fraud investigation Pres. Katsav denies assault charges Suicide bomb in Eilat kills 3 Gen. Gabi Ashkei							
Gen. Halutz resigns 1 shot dead, 2 held at Gaza border US inquiry into Israeli use of US-supplied cluster bomb	Saudi condemns Jerusalem excavations meet Feb 19th						
Complaints develop into Militant shot dead in Nablus Militant killed in Tulkarm raid Ex-Justice minister convicted of indecency	Lohonon hordor						
excavation work on access New WB plans postponed Peres possible to replace Katsav IDF kill 2 militants n Nablus	UN Sec.Gen. calls Officer/Abbas						
Taily free Al Adda Moodue listael transfers & toom to Abbas	Gaza militants shot planting bomb						
WB & 2 shot near Gaza border- Lilled hu gun amhering Abbas meets w/ Militants bomb empty resort PM Haniyeh calls for calm Mortars hit nr Abbas							
	mas commander killed in Gaza Egypt finds 18,000 bullets nr Gaza border						
Roadside bomb hits Hamas squad Hamas militant killed	Abbas & Hamas leaders meet in Mecca Putin visits w/ Abbas						
US provides \$ & weapons more abductions 16 killed in Hamas/Fatah violence Fatah militant wounded Abbas/Hamas sign agreement on Unity govt. PM resigns, is asked to form norm unity govt.							
Al Arabiya TV 2 killed nr Gaza Islamic Uni. Fatah convoy attacked, 6 killed	Gazans celebrate unity agreement						
Abbas, as do Jordan & Egypt. Fighting continues, 20+ killed	Demonstration at AI Aqsa over excavation						
Jan 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Feb 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15						