



“It is Forbidden for all Circumcised Persons To Enter...any person contravening this Prohibition shall be Put to Death.” Hadrian Edict – 135ce



Judaism Emerges – The Historical Context

- The Fracturing of the Religion of Ancient Israel into Jewish Sects – Beginning c. 100 BCE – The Impact of Roman Occupation
 - Temple/State Elite Struggle to Control Diversity
 - The Impact of Constant Invasion and Occupation

❖ Judaisms in the First Century (Josephus/NT)

- Complicit/Coping with Roman
 - Sadducees
 - Pharisees
- Resisting Roman Colonization
 - Essenes - Qumran
 - Zealots - Masada

Qumran and Dead Sea Scrolls



Masada



Jesus And His Followers

- Jesus as a Jewish Reformer (Like Buddha as Hindu Reformer) not one to Create a New Religion – Reforming Practice, Softening Boundaries, Challenging Political and Religious Elites
- The Split That Creates Christianity (as opposed to a sect of Judaism) Result of A Variety of Factors to include:
 - The Influence of Paul
 - Inclusion of Gentiles (is Judaism a choice?) A New Covenant -Not the Law But Grace
 - Jesus's Identity – From Jewish prophet to Jewish Messiah to Second Adam to God Incarnate Creating Points of Conflict – Jesus' Identity (Heretical Modification of or Perfecting Judaism- Also reflected in Gospels' identity shifts
- The Catastrophic Destruction of the Temple – The Emerging Christian Movement Cites as Evidence of Rejection – From Coexistence to – Supersession

The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism will define the
Destruction of the Temple as Creative Destruction

- One time [after the destruction of the Temple in August 70] Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai was going forth from Jerusalem, with R. Joshua following after him. He saw the house of the sanctuary lying in ruins .

R. Joshua said, “Woe is us for this place that lies in ruins, the place in which the sins of Israel used to come to atonement.”

He said to him, “My son, do not be distressed. We have another mode of atonement, which like [atonement through sacrifice], and what is that? It is deeds of loving-kindness.

For so it is said, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’” (Hosea 6:6)

Thus the Pivot to Building Judaism as a Religion of:

- ❖ Deeds of Kindness (Repairing the World – Tikkun)
- ❖ Prayer - Individual and Communal (Beth Knesset - Synagogue)
 - ❖ Shema
- ❖ Study of Torah (Synagogue and Beth Midrash)

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

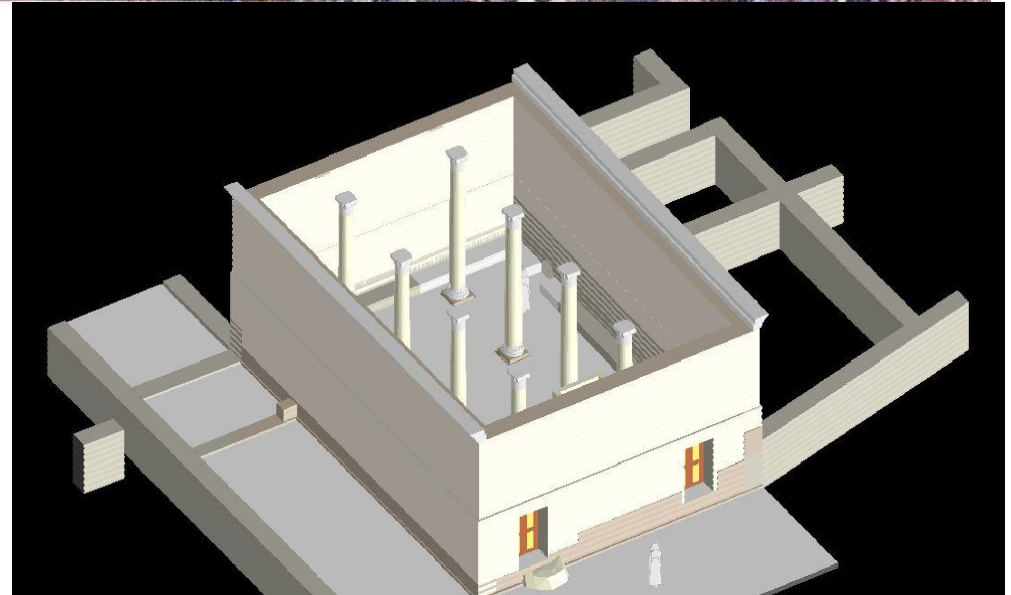
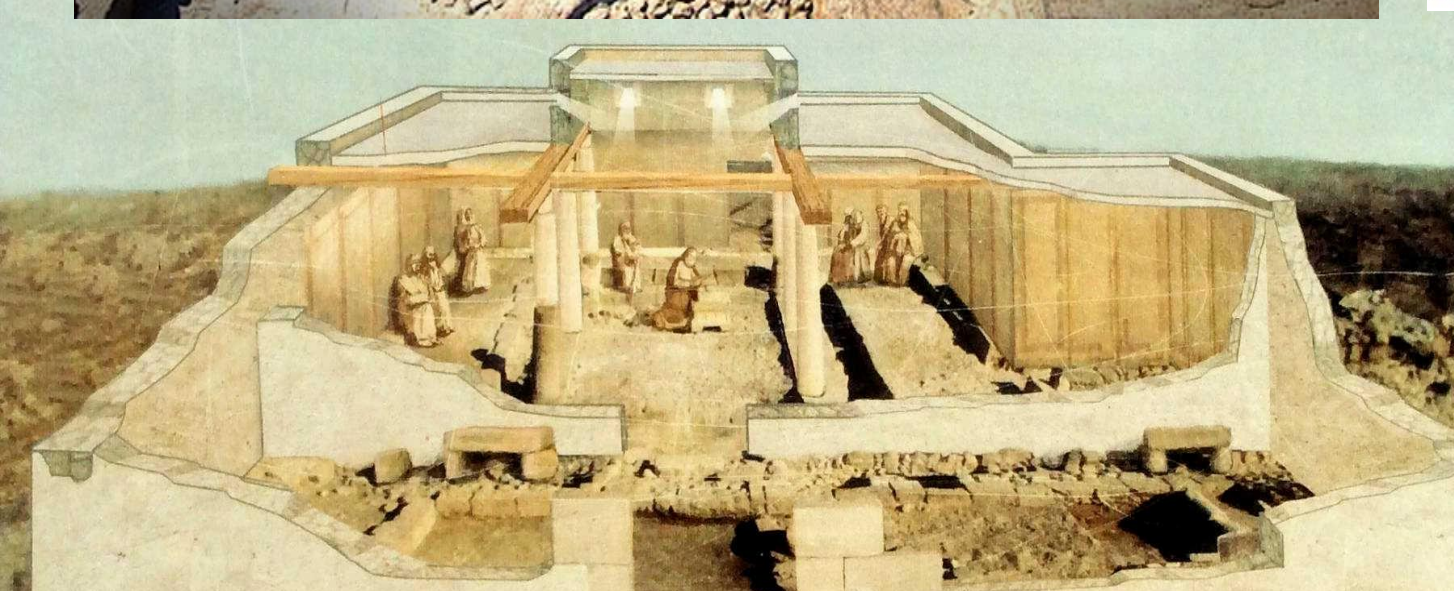
She-ma yisrael, adonai eloheinu, adonai echad

Hear O' Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Sources for Recovering Early Rabbinic Judaism

- Material Culture – From The Archaeology of Ancient Israel to ‘Talmudic Archaeology’
 - Judaism did Not Collapse with the Birth of Christ Despite Supercessionists Hopes and Dreams/Fantasies
 - Evolution of Rabbinic Judaism and Interplay with Greco-Roman Culture
 - Judaism and the Emergence of Christian Colonization of the Holy Land
 - Judaism and the Persian and Arab Invasions
- Jewish Literature – 2 Streams – Oral Law (Halakah) and Homiletic/Legendary (Haggadah)
 - Mishnah
 - Tosefta
 - Gemara – Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmudim
 - ❖ Midrashim – Midrash Rabbah



• The Voices of Jewish ‘Creative History’

- Yochanan ben Zakkai (75 CE) and Vespasian – The Calculated Risk – ‘Our Fate is Dependent on Righteousness not Military Strength’ – Meeting the Challenge of the Destruction of the Temple
 - **Judah the Prince(200 CE) and the Mishnah**
 - The Oral Torah (Mishnah, other rabbinic texts) as the interpretive key to God’s will – As Opposed to the New Testament
 - Perfecting (sanctifying) Israel’s Social Order for the workaday world
 - Stamaim = Tannaim + Amoraim + Seboraim = Gemara + Mishnah = **Talmud**
 - Judah’s generation known as the Tannaim (till around 200 CE), the next generation (roughly 200 – 350) was known as the Amoraim (350 – 425) debated and elaborated on the work of the Tannaim. The Seboraim (425-500) deepened the work of the Amoraim and produced the Gemara. The Gemara was combined with the Mishnah to form the Talmud – 2 Talmudim – The Jerusalem Talmud (450) and Babylonian Talmud ((550)
 - **Jews are Thus Guided by the “Dual Torah” – both Flowing from God to Moses to the Jewish People to Perfect the World**

- Moses Maimonides (1138) – Judaism Becomes Creedal
 - Formulating A ‘Jewish Creed’?
- Moses Mendelssohn (1729)- Judaism and the Enlightenment
 - An Enlightenment Jewish theologian – Rejection of Jewish Separatism and advocated a form of ‘Jewish Deism’ – Rejection of Creedal Based Religion – “Freedom in Doctrine, Conformity In Action”
 - Orthopraxis over Orthodoxy
 - Baal Shem Tov (1700)– The Mystical/Experiential Response
 - The Origins of Hasidism – began a grassroots movement of joyful love and service that appealed to ordinary people, not only to a scholarly elite. Experience over Intellect. The essential message and practice of early Hasidism are simple. The message: . . . “the whole earth is full of God’s glory” (Isaiah 6:3). The practice: . . . “I place God before me always” (Psalm 16:8). Understand these and you understand Hasidism.. . . Hasidism tries to wake the wave up to being the ocean.

Building Out The Sacred into the Mundane, the Everyday

- Sacralizing Time and Space
 - Time:
 - Sabbath
 - Days of Awe – High Holy Days (Compare Lent/Ramadan)
 - Rosh Hashana
 - Yom Kippur
 - Seasonal ‘Pilgrims Festivals’
 - Passover – Pesach
 - Pentecost – Shavuot
 - Tabernacles – Sukkot
 - Minor Festivals
 - Chanukha - Menorah
 - Purim

❖ **Marking the Stages of Life**

- ❖ **Circumcision**
- ❖ **Bar and Batmitzvah**
- ❖ **Marriage – *Kiddushin* and *Nisuin***
- ❖ **Death – Sit *Shiva* and *Kaddish***



Living a Jewish Life - Space and Self

Surrounding Oneself with the Symbols and Reminders of the Presence of God

- ❖ ***Mezuza***
- ❖ **Practicing Kosher – Observing the Laws of *kashrut***
- ❖ ***Kippah - Yarmulke***
- ❖ ***Tallit***
- ❖ ***Tefillin***
- ❖ ***Practicing Tzedaka* – Charitable Giving – 1/10 of income**
- ❖ **Regulating Sexual Practice and Marriage – The Problem of the *Get***
- ❖ **An Orthodox/Chassidic Life – Shtreimel and Payot**



Shtreimel,



payot



The Momentous 20th Century – Holocaust and Creation of the State of Israel

Holocaust Theology

- Punishment for...assimilation, Reform – Redemption – State of Israel ?
- The Theology of Kiddush Hashem – Refusing collaboration and death = Sanctify the Name of God – bodily Prisoners, Spiritually Free – God's Will?
- Birth Pangs of the Messiah
- Rubenstein's response – The Death of the God of History

Fackenheim's response – Tikkun and
614th Commandment

