



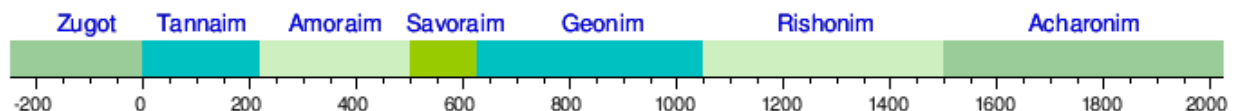
Jewish History 8

Rabbi Daniel Levine

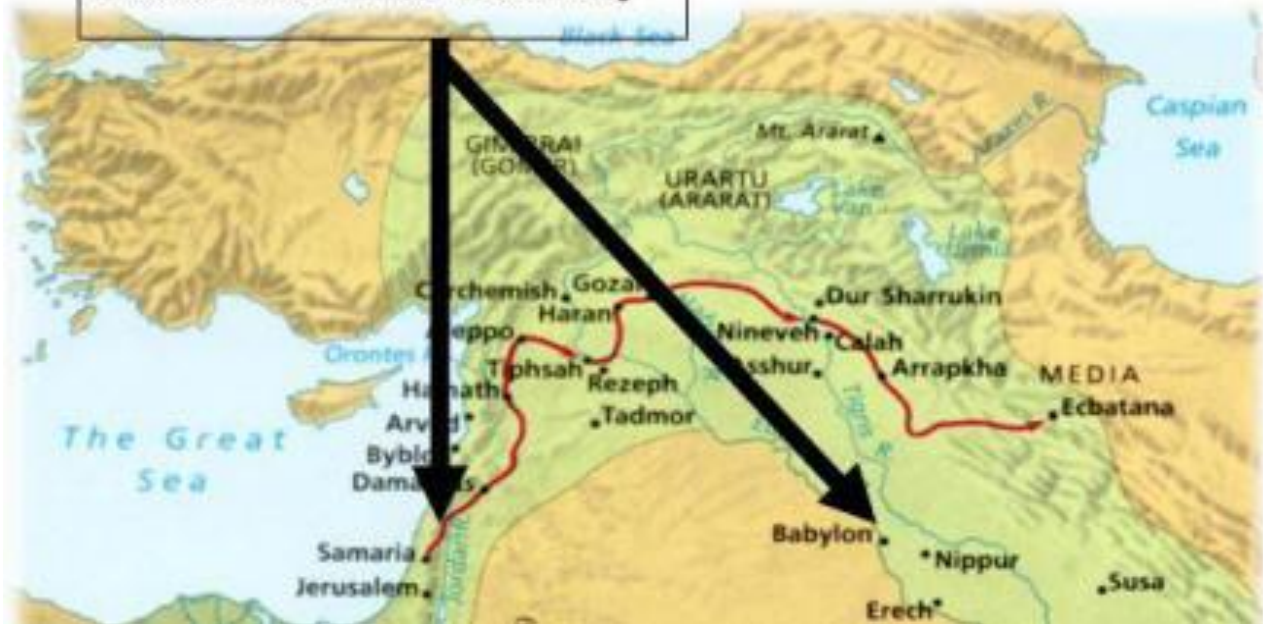
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Timeline of the Rabbis

- Exilic and Second Temple Decentralization + Oral Torah
- Pharisees (Anshi Knesset Hagedolah)
- Zugot
- Temple Destroyed
- Tannaim (Mishna)
- Rabbi Judah the Prince (200 CE)
- Amoraim (Gemara) (200 - 500 CE)
- Rav Ashi and Revina
- Sevoraim/Stammim (500-700 CE)
- Geonim (700 CE - 1000 CE)



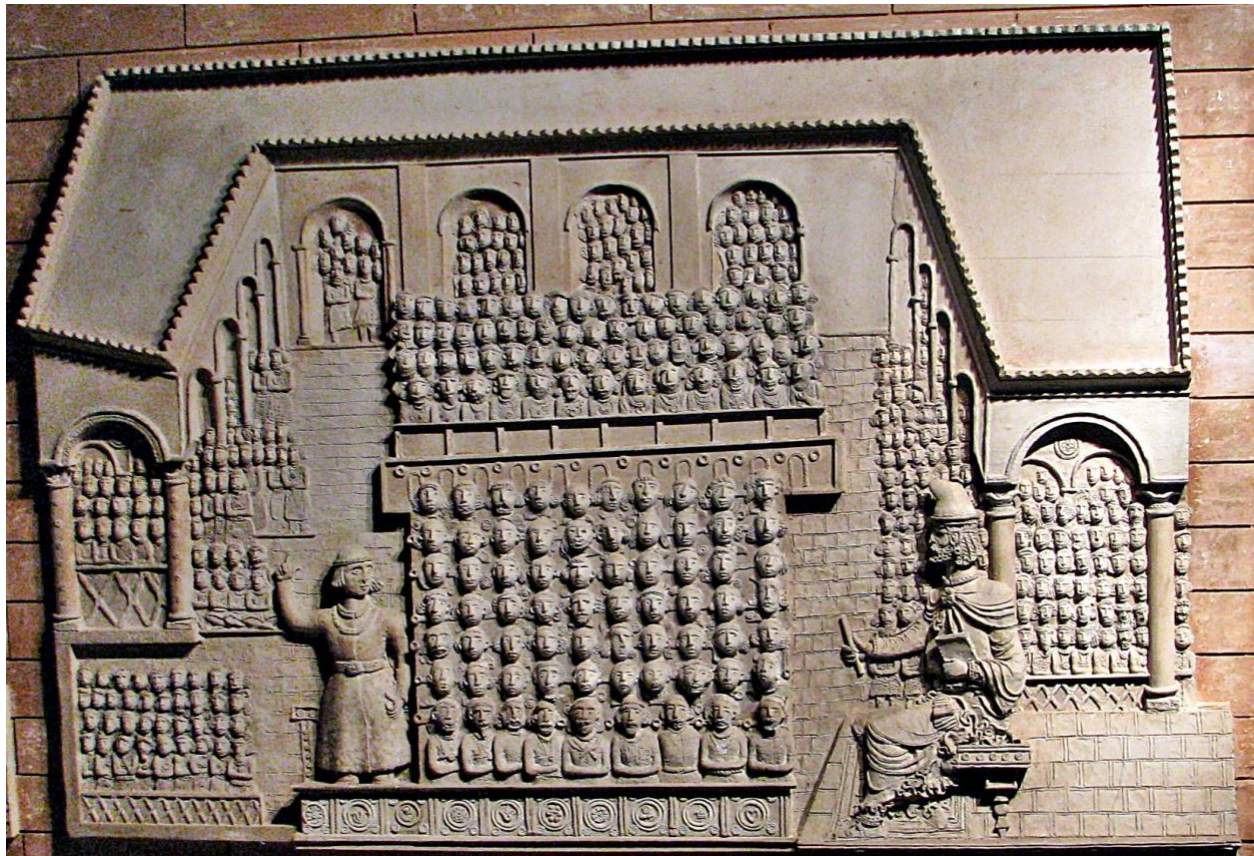
Sources of Rabbinical Authority



Major Academies in Babylonia: Reish Galuta as leader of the Jewish world

- Sura (Rav, Rav Huna, Rav Hasida, Rav Ashi)
- Pumpadita (Rav Yehudah, Rabba, Abaye)
- Neharda (Shmuel, Rav Dimi)





B. Talmud Ketubot 111a

R. Yehuda said, anyone who lives in Babylonian, it is as if lived in Israel, as it says: "Ho, Zion flee [to] where the daughter of Babylon dwells" (Zech 2:11).

B. Talmud Kiddushin 69b

R. Elazar said: Ezra did not leave from Babylonia until he made it like fine flour and then went out ... it is what R. Yehuda said in the name of Shmuel: "All lands are like basic flour compared to Israel, but Israel is like basic flour in comparison to Babylonia."

B. Talmud Megillah 29a:

R. Shimon b. Yohai said: Come and see how beloved are Israel to God — ... every place to which they were exiled the Shekhinah went with them. ... Where [is the Shekhinah] in Babylonia? Abaye said: In the synagogue of Huzal and in the synagogue of Shaf Veyativ (lit. slid and settled) in Nehardea

J. Talmud Nedarim

R. Yitzchak stood up and read in the Torah: "These are the festivals of Hananiah the nephew of R. Yehoshua." They said to him: "These are the festivals of the Lord!" He said to them, "That's our version."

R. Natan got up and completed: "For from Babylonia will go our the Torah, and the Word of the Lord from Nehar Paqod." They said to him, "For from Zion will go out the Torah, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem!" He said, "That is our version."

Pirkoi ben Baboi (8th century Babylonian)

"Zion" is nothing but the yeshiva where they are distinguished [מצויינים] in Torah and mitzvot, for it says, "writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies" (Mic. 4:10). The redemption comes first to the yeshiva in

Babylon, for just as Israel will be redeemed owing to their virtue, therefore shall the redemption come first to them.

Talmud Chagigah 3b

Torah scholars sit in many groups and engage in Torah study. There are often debates among these groups, as some of these Sages render an object or person ritually impure and these render it pure; these prohibit an action and these permit it; these deem an item invalid and these deem it valid.

Lest a person say: Now, how can I study Torah when it contains so many different opinions? The verse states that they are all “given from one shepherd.” One God gave them; one leader, i.e., Moses, said them from the mouth of the Master of all creation, Blessed be He, as it is written: “And God spoke all these words” (Exodus 20:1)

So too you, the student, make your ears like a funnel and acquire for yourself an understanding heart to hear both the statements of those who render objects ritually impure and the statements of those who render them pure; the statements of those who prohibit actions and the statements of those who permit them; the statements of those who deem items invalid and the statements of those who deem them valid.

“The talmudic commentaries that emerged from the Geonic era primarily focused on straightforward explanations of difficult talmudic lexicons or on the elucidation of specific complicated passages. Additionally, Geonic attention was turned toward the issuance of legal rulings for the many communities that looked toward the Babylonian academies for legal decisions.”

-Professor Aryeh Leibowitz