

Rabbinic Times  
 Rabbinic Thought - Unit 9  
 Cantor Levine

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Reading #1

*“Zeal leads to cleanliness, cleanliness to ritual purity, ritual purity to self-control, self-control to holiness, holiness to humility, humility to fear of sin, fear of sin to saintliness, and saintliness to the Holy Spirit.”* (Sotah IX, 15)

Reading #2

*“If a prophet is proud, his prophecy departs from him; and if he is angry, it likewise leaves him.”* (Pesachim 66b)

Reading #3

*“Just as He set up kings, wise men and prophets for Israel, He set them up similarly for the other nations. As He raised up Moses for Israel, so He raised up Balaam for the heathens.”* (Numbers Rabbah XX, I)

Reading #4

*Moses gave utterance to all the words of the other prophets as well as his own, and whoever prophesied only gave expression to the essence of Moses' prophecy*

Exodus Rabbah

Reading #5

*The time will come when the Prophets and the Writings will be abolished but not the Torah*

Megillah 70d

Reading #6 - Centrality of Torah - Pirkei Avot: (10 Samplings)

1. Simon the Just was one of the last survivors of the Great Assembly. He used to say, upon three things the world is based: upon the Torah, upon divine worship, and upon acts of loving-kindness.
2. Let your house be a meeting place for the wise (in Torah); sit amidst the dust of their feet, and drink in their words with thirst.
3. Provide yourself with a teacher (of Torah), and get yourself a companion.
4. He who does not increase his knowledge decreases it; and he who does not study (Torah) deserves to die; and he who makes a worldly use of the crown of Torah shall waste away.
5. An empty-headed man cannot be a sin-fearing man, nor can a person ignorant (of Torah) be pious.
6. If you have learned much Torah, ascribe not any merit to yourself, for thereunto were you created.
7. If two sit together and interchange no words of torah, they are a meeting of scorners...but if two sit together and interchange words of Torah, the Shechinah abides between them.
8. If three have eaten at a table and have spoken no words of Torah, it is as if they had eaten of sacrifices to dead idols.
9. He who is walking by the way and studying (Torah), and breaks off his study and says, "How fine is that tree, how fine that fellow!" him the Scripture regards as if he had forfeited his life.
10. Turn it (the Torah) and turn it over again, for everything is in it.

Reading #7

*These are the things of which the fruits are enjoyed in this world while the capital remains for the World to Come: the honoring of parents, benevolence, restoring peace between a man and his fellow, and also the study of Torah which is equal to them all.*

Peah I, I

Reading #8

*The Holy One, blessed be He, gave us the Written Torah in which are 613 commandments in order to fill us with precepts through which we can earn merit.*

Reading #9

*Man was created a single individual to teach the lesson that whoever destroys one life, Scripture ascribes it to him as though he had destroyed a whole world; and whoever saves one life, Scripture ascribes it to him as though he had saved a whole world.*

Sandedrin IV, 5

Reading #10

וַיֵּרָא ה' כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ וְכָל יֵצֵר מִחֻשְׁבֵּת לְבוֹ  
 רָק רָע כָּל-הַיּוֹם.

*The Lord saw how great was man's wickedness on earth,  
 and how every plan devised by his mind was nothing but evil all the time.*

Genesis 6:5

Reading #11

- *The Evil Yetzer persuades man to sin in this world, and bears witness against them in the future world.* Sukkah 52b
- *The Evil Yetzer of man assaults him every day, endeavoring to kill him, and if God would not support him, man could not resist him.* Sukkah 52b
- *As man throws out a net whereby he catches the fish of the sea, so the sins of man become the means of entangling and catching the sinner.* Midrash on Proverbs 5

Reading #12

*Our sages taught that Hillel was worthy of the divine presence resting upon him, but was deprived of this gift because of the unworthiness of his generation.*

Sotah 48b

Reading #13

**הַחַיִּים וְהַמּוֹת נִתְּנִי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה וּבַחֲרַתְּ בְּחַיִּים**

*I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose Life.*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Reading #14

*“I made the Yetzer Hara. Be careful that he should not make you sin; but if he did make you sin, be eager to do repentance, then I will forgive your sins.”*

Reading#15

*“Repentance means that the center gives up the sin, removing it from his mind, and determining his heart not to repeat the evil action again; and soap also he must regret his past, he must also confess with his lips and give expression to the thoughts which he determined in his heart.”*

Mishneh Torah

Reading #16

*This claim to real exemption from any particular sin can only be maintained after the penitent had twice at least the full opportunity to commit the sin under which he was laboring during his sinful life, and escape from it.*

Mishnah Torah

Reading #17

**הִנֵּה יָמִים בָּאִים יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ הֵי וְהִקְמַתִּי לְדָוִד צֶמַח צְדִיק  
וּמֶלֶךְ מְלֹךְ וְהִשְׁפִּיל וְעָשָׂה מְשֻׁפָּט וְיִצְדָּקָה בְּאֶרֶץ**

*“See a time is coming – declares the Lord, - when I will raise up a true branch of David’s line. He shall reign as king and shall prosper and he shall do what is just and right in the land.*

Jeremiah 23:5

Reading #18

**אֶת-צִמְחַ דָּוִד עֲבַדְךָ מְהֵרָה תְצַמִּיחַ וְקִרְנוֹ תִרְוֶם בְּיִשׁוּעָתְךָ  
כִּי לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קִוִּינוּ כָּל הַיּוֹם**

*Cause the offspring (branch) of Your servant David to flourish  
and hasten the coming of messianic deliverance. We hope continually for  
Your redemption. (Weekday Amidah)*

Reading #19

*“If Israel should keep only a single Sabbath as it is prescribed, at once the  
Messiah would come.”* Taanit 64a

*“Of charity it is said, great is charity, for it brings the deliverance nearer.”*  
Baba Batra 10a

Reading #20

**הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי שֹׁלֵחַ לְכֶם אֶת אֵלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא לְפָנַי בּוֹא יִנֹּס הִי הַגְּדוֹל  
וְהַנּוֹרָא. וְהִשִּׁיב לֵב-אָבוֹת עַל-בָּנִים וְלֵב בָּנִים עַל-אָבוֹתָם  
כִּן אֲבֹא וְהִפִּיתִי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ חֵרֶם.**

*Lo, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome,  
fearful day of the Lord. He shall reconcile parents with children and  
children with their parents, so that, when I come,  
I do not strike the whole land with utter destruction. Malachi 3:23-24*

Reading #21

*“Shortly before the days of the Messiah there will come a great pestilence, and the  
wicked will meet their end in it.”*

Reading #22

**וְהָיָה הִי לְמֶלֶךְ עַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהִיָּה הִי אֶחָד וְשִׁמוֹ אֶחָד**

*And the Lord shall be king over all the earth;  
in that day there shall be one Lord with one name.*

Zechariah 14:9