

Course Name and Number:

World of the Sages - Rabbi. A. Kahn

02-499-80

02-500-80

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:** 2021-2022 **Semester:** Fall & Spring

**Hours/credits:** 2 each semester

***Course Goals***

*To understand the Midrashic approach to biblical characters*

***Learning Outcomes***

*Mastery of basic texts, including commentaries, understanding of ideas.*

**Course Description:**

The course will deal with an analysis of the worldview of the Sages of the Talmudic and post-Talmudic period, as is reflected by their comments found in the Talmud and Midrashic literature. Specific attention will be paid to the Rabbinic approach to Biblical Characters.

Throughout the course Biblical Passages will be studied, and then reconsidered from the perspective of the Sages. Theological issues will be raised and the philosophical opinions of the Sages will be analyzed.

***Prerequisites***

*Familiarity with the Biblical Narrative*

***Course requirements****: attendance to frontal lecture, preparation, and mastery of basic texts. There will be a final administered after each semester.*

*required material for the exam, all primary texts and commentaries, including material discussed in class.*

**Components of the course grade**

*30% based on participation, 70% based on the final exam/assignment*

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

1. **The Fratricide of Cain**

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 22:2

1. **The leadership of Noah, “A Stupid Shepherd”**

Sanhedrin 108a, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 30:9, Zohar Hashmatot, Margoliot edition Bereishit 254b, Zohar, Vayikra, Section 3, Page 15a, Seder Olam chapter 1

1. **The Monotheism of Abraham - From logic to revelation.**

Nedarim 32a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 64:4, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 38, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 95:3, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 39,

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages19-36

1. **The Sacrifice of Isaac**

Shabbat 89b, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 56:8

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 400-419

1. **The Personality of Sarah.**

Midrash Rabbah *-* Genesis 45:1, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis XLV:3, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis XLV:4, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LX:16, Zohar Volume 1, 133a

פסיקתא רבתי איש שלום פרשה מ ד"ה דבר אחר בחדש

Man of Faith in the Modern World, pages 83-89

1. **The competition of Esau and Jacob.**

Midrash Rabbah 99:9, Midrash Rabbah 65:22, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LXV:10, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LXXVIII:14

1. **The emergence of a Nation**

Sotah 46b, Sotah 17a, Midrash Rabbah 69:8, Midrash Rabbah 28:3

תרגום (יונתן) ירושלמי על בראשית פרק לד פסוק לא

Man of Faith in the Modern World, pages 29-36

1. **The Struggle of Jacob.**

Hulin 91a, Zohar Bereshit 170a, Yoma 86a,

פרקי דרבי אליעזר ]היגר[ - "חורב" פרק מה, רעיא מהימנא חלק ג' דף ק ע"ב

1. **The leadership of Judah. Proto-messianism**

Midrash Rabbah 85:1,2,5,11,

מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל בא - מס' דפסחא בא פרשה יד ד"ה ומושב בני, תוספתא ברכות ]ליברמן[ פרק ד הלכה יז

# The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 682-692

1. **The Heroism of Joseph.**

### Eicha Rabbah Introduction section 24, Sotah 36b, Sanhedrin 102a, Migilah 16b, Sukka 52a

### רמב"ן בראשית פרק מב פסוק ט

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 521-523

1. **The Death of Jacob**

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 96:1, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 98:2, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 99:5, Pesachim 56a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 98:3, Midrash Rabbah Deuteronomy 2:35, Mishna Eduyyot Chapter 2:9, Talmud - Berachoth 61b, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 53:11

#### ספרי דברים פיסקא לא, אליהו רבה ]איש שלום[ פרשה כא ד"ה פעם אחת הייתי

1. **The Emergence of Moses as leader.**

Midrash Rabbah Exodus 1:8,26,32, Hullin 139b,

מדרש תהלים ]בובר[ מזמור קיד ד"ה בצאת ישראל, ויקרא רבה ]מרגליות[ פרשה לב ד"ה ה גן נעול, במדבר רבה ]וילנא[ פרשה יג ד"ה כ ביום הששי, במדבר רבה ]וילנא[ פרשה כ ד"ה כב וישב ישראל

1. **Freedom.**

Brachot 4b, 12b, 28a, Pesachim 50a, Makot 24b

1. **Revelation at Sinai**

Shevu'oth 20b, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 47:1

מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל יתרו - מס' דבחדש יתרו פרשה ד ד"ה +שמות כ', מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל יתרו - מס' דבחדש יתרו פרשה ז ד"ה זכור ושמור, מדרש זוטא - שיר השירים ]בובר[ פרשה א ד"ה ב ישקני מנשיקות

# The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 146-150

1. **The Golden Calf.**

Zohar, prologue 1b-2a, Megilah 7b, Sotah 17a, Shabbat 88a

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 554-564

1. **The Sabbath & Temple the underlying connection.**

Pesikta De Rab Kahana 2:10, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 34:1, Shabbat 118b, Chagigah 12a, Mishna Avot 4:1

תלמוד ירושלמי תענית פרק א דף סד עמוד א /ה"א

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 37-65

1. **Sacrifices**

Yoma 23a, Brachot 8a, Rambam Guide 3:46

אליהו רבה ]איש שלום[ פרשה ז ד"ה ושחט את בן, רמב"ן ויקרא פרק א פסוק ט, רמב"ם הלכות מעילה פרק ח הלכה ח

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 368,435. Introduction to the Code of Maimonides, pages 407-514

1. **Betzalel, builder of the Tabernacle**

Brachot 55a, Sanhedrin 69b, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 34:1, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 40:1-3, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 50:2, Midrash Rabbah Numbers 12:3, Sotah 11b

מדרש תנחומא ]ורשא[ פרשת תצוה סימן י ד"ה ]י[ וזה הדבר, מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל בשלח - מס' דעמלק בשלח פרשה א ד"ה וידי משה

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 555-557

1. **The Cherubs**

Rosh HaShana 17b, Yoma 54a,b, Baba Bathra 99a,

1. **Nadav and Avihu**

Midrash Rabbah Exodus 3:1, Midrash Rabbah Leviticus 20:9,10, Midrash Rabbah Numbers 15:24, Sanhedrin 52a, Zevachim 115b

1. **The Unwritten book**

Mishna Yadayim 3:5, Talmud - Shabbat 115b-116a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 64:8

מסכת סופרים פרק ו הלכה א, פירוש הספורנו על התורה ספר במדבר פרק י:לה

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 286-297

**Course requirements**

Attendance, mastery of the primary and secondary sources.

A final examination will be given at the end of each semester.

**Grade Components: Number grade.**

Final – 70%

Participation – 30%

#### Bibliography:

Beisdin A. Man of Faith in the Modern world Ktav 1989

Braude W.G., Pesikta Rabbati (Yale Judaica series 18), New Haven 1968

Epstein I. The Babylonian Talmud Soncino press London

Freedman H., & Simon M., Midrash Rabba (10 volumes) London 1939

Ginzberg L. The Legends of the Jews (vols. 1-6) Philadelphia, 1913-1928

Goldin J., Fathers according to Rabbi Nathan (Yale Judaica series 10), New Haven 1955

Kahn, A Crowns on the Letters OU/Ktav NY 2020

Kahn, A, Echoes of Eden (5 volumes) OU/Gefen Jerusalem 2011-2016

Kahn, A, Emanations Targum Michigan, 2001

Kahn, A, Explorations Targum Michigan, 2002

Kahn, A, Explorations Expanded New York: Kodesh Press, 2019

Neusner J., The Talmud of the Land of Israel

Spiegel S. The Last Trial 1969

Twersky I. Introduction to the Code of Maimonides Yale 1980

Urbach E. The Sages - Their Concepts & Beliefs Jerusalem, 1979