

---

# Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xv

## Introduction

1

Religion and Political Change 1

Judaism without Christianity 4

The Judaic Sages' Canon in the Context of the Fourth Century 7

Their Intent, Our Interpretation 11

## 1. Judaism and Christianity in the Age of Constantine

13

Christianity and the Roman Empire in the Age of Constantine 13

Jews in the Land of Israel in the Fourth Century 18

Judaism in the Land of Israel 23

## 2. Genesis Rabbah and Israel's History: Christian and Judaic Theories of History and Its Meaning

29

The Issue of History: Events, Patterns, Proofs 29

Eusebius and the Beginnings of Christian Historiography 31

Genesis Rabbah and Israel's Historical Crisis 36

## 3. The Talmud of the Land of Israel and the Messiah: Christian Triumph, Judaic Response

59

vii

The Messianic Crisis	59
Chrysostom: Jewish Unbelief, Christian Wavering	61
The Talmud of the Land of Israel and Israel's Messianic Crisis	65

#### 4. Leviticus Rabbah, Genesis Rabbah, and the Identification of Israel

81

Who Is Israel?	81
Aphrahat and the People Which Is No Peoples	85
Leviticus Rabbah and Israel's National Crisis	94
Genesis Rabbah: The Claim of the Siblings	106
Genealogy and the Political Crisis	111

#### 5. Politics and Proof-Texts: Exegesis and Canon

114

A Test of Falsification	114
Same Topic, Different Program: No Encounter	117
Jerome and the Christian Exegetical Tradition	119
Sifré to Numbers and the Judaic Exegetical Tradition	124
The Christian Canon in the Fourth Century: Old and New Testaments	128
The Judaic Canon in the Fourth Century: The Written and Oral Torah	133
The Absence of Confrontation	141

#### Epilogue: The Shape of the Initial Encounter and the Enduring Confrontation

146

Sages' Success in the Initial Encounter	146
The Enduring Confrontation	149

#### Appendixes

1. Genesis Rabbah on Israel's History	153
2. Aphrahat on Israel	191
3. Leviticus Rabbah on Israel	203
4. Genesis Rabbah on Israel	224

Bibliography	231
--------------	-----

Index	237
-------	-----