## Contents

Steven Fine and Aaron Koller  
Preface — v

Shawn Zelig Aster  
*Mishnah Baba Metsia* 7:7 and the Relationship of Mishnaic Hebrew to Northern Biblical Hebrew — 1

Jonathan S. Milgram  
*Mishnah Baba Batra* 8:5 — The Transformation of the Firstborn Son from Family Leader to Family Member — 19

Noa Yuval-Hacham  
*Mishnah Avodah Zarah* 4:5 — The Faces of Effacement: Between Textual and Artistic Evidence — 29

Joshua Weistuch and Ben Zion Rosenfeld  
*Tosefta Ma'aser Sheni* 1:4 — The Rabbis and Roman Civic Coinage in Late Antique Palestine — 53

Yonatan Adler  
*Tosefta Shabbat* 1:14 — “Come and See the Extent to Which Purity Had Spread”  
An Archaeological Perspective on the Historical Background to a Late Tannaitic Passage — 63

Uzi Leibner  
An Illustrated Midrash of Mekilta de R. Ishmael, Vayeḥi Beshalḥ, 1 — Rabbis and the Jewish Community Revisited — 83

Lawrence H. Schiffman  
Jerusalem Talmud Megillah 1 (71b–72a) — “Of the Making of Books”: Rabbinic Scribal Arts in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls — 97

Alexei Sivertsev  
Jerusalem Talmud Sanhedrin 2,6 (20c) — The Demise of King Solomon and Roman Imperial Propaganda in Late Antiquity — 111
Burton L. Visotzky
*Genesis Rabbah 1:1 – Mosaic Torah as the Blueprint of the Universe – Insights from the Roman World* — 127

R. Steven Notley
*Genesis Rabbah 98:17 – “And Why Is It Called Gennosar?” Recent Discoveries at Magdala and Jewish Life on the Plain of Gennosar in the Early Roman Period.* — 141

Galit Hasan-Rokem
*Leviticus Rabbah 16:1 – “Odysseus and the Sirens” in the Beit Leontis Mosaic from Beit She’an* — 159

Steven Fine
*Babylonian Talmud, Sukkah 51b – Coloring the Temple: Polychromy and the Jerusalem Temple in Late Antiquity* — 191

Sacha Stern
*Babylonian Talmud, Avodah Zarah 16a – Jews and Pagan Cults in Third-Century Sepphoris* — 205

Steven D. Fraade
*The Rehov Inscriptions and Rabbinic Literature – Matters of Language* — 225

Stuart S. Miller
“This Is the Beit Midrash of Rabbi Eliezer ha-Qappar” (Dabbura Inscription) – Were Epigraphical Rabbis Real Sages, or Nothing More Than Donors and Honored Deceased? — 239

Laura S. Lieber
*The Piyyutim le-Hatan of Qallir and Amittai – Jewish Marriage Customs in Early Byzantium* — 275

**Afterwords**

Eric Meyers
*The Use of Archaeology in Understanding Rabbinic Materials: An Archaeological Perspective* — 303
Daniel Sperber
The Use of Archaeology in Understanding Rabbinic Materials: A Talmudic Perspective — 321

Index — 347