

CONTENTS

PREFACE	ix
I. GENESIS: THE PATRIARCHS AND MATRIARCHS LIVE OUT THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES IN GENESIS RABBAH	1
i. What is the main point of Genesis Rabbah?	1
ii. Abraham and Israel's History	1
iii. A systematic exposition	5
iv. Isaac and Jacob and Israel's History	14
v. Joseph, the Tribal Fathers, and Israel's History	18
vi. Rome in Particular	26
II. EXODUS: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN MEKHILTA ATTRIBUTED TO R. ISHMAEL	39
i. What is the main point of Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael?	39
ii. "On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt." Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael 47. Bahodesh 1	40
iii. And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael 51. Bahodesh 5	46
iv. "You shall have no other gods before me" Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael 52. Bahodesh 6	51
v. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael 53. Bahodesh 7	57
vi. "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" Mekhilta Attributed to R. Ishmael 54. Bahodesh 8	63
III. LEVITICUS: THE MORAL LESSONS OF HOLINESS IN LEVITICUS RABBAH	71
i. What is the Main Point of Leviticus Rabbah?	71
ii. "And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, Say to the people of Israel, These are the living things which you may eat among all the beasts that are on the earth" (Lev. 11:1-2) Leviticus Rabbah Parashah Thirteen and how the Food Laws Predict Israel's Future History among the Nations	74
iii. "When a bull or sheep [or goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother; and from the eighth day on it shall be acceptable as an offering by fire to the Lord" (Lev. 22:27) Leviticus Rabbah Parashah Twenty-Seven and How God Favors the Pursued over the Pursuer	86

IV. NUMBERS: WAYWARD WOMEN IN THE WILDERNESS IN SIFRÉ TO NUMBERS 101

- i. Scripture and the Law of Judaism: The Case of the Wife Accused of Infidelity 101
- ii. Survey of the Law of the Accused Wife in the Mishnah and the Tosefta
- iii. The Theology of the Law of the Wife accused of Infidelity 104
- iv. How Does Sifré to Numbers Read Numbers Chapter Five 117
- v. Drawing Scripture and the Mishnah into Alignment 126
- vi. Extending the Law to a Variety of Cases 132
- vii. Equalizing the burden of the law to men as much as to women 134
- viii. A Theology of Divine Justice in Context 136
- ix. Equality of Responsibility for the Rite 140

V. DEUTERONOMY: "I DEAL DEATH AND I GIVE LIFE." VISIONS OF HOLOCAUST AND RESTORATION IN SIFRÉ TO DEUTERONOMY 145

- i. The Ultimate Apocalypitization of Israel's History and Social Order 145
- ii. "Give ear, O heavens, let me speak." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Six 146
- iii. "The Rock — his deeds are perfect." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Seven 157
- iv. "Is corruption his? No, his children's is the blemish." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Eight 161
- v. "Do you thus requite the Lord, O dull and witless people?" Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Nine 163
- vi. "Remember the days of old, consider the years of ages past." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Ten 165
- vii. "For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his own allotment." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Eleven 167
- viii. "For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his own allotment." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twelve 169
- ix. "He found him in a desert region, in an empty howling waste." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Thirteen 171
- x. "Like an eagle who rouses his nestlings, gliding down to his young, so did he spread his wings and take him." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Fourteen 173
- xi. "No alien god at his side." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Fifteen 174
- xii. "He set him atop the highlands, to feast on the yield of the earth." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Seventeen 176
- xiii. "So Jeshurun grew fat and kicked." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Eighteen 178

xiv.	"You neglected the rock that begot you, forgot the God who brought you forth." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Nineteen	182
xv.	"The Lord saw and was vexed, and spurned his sons and his daughters." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty	184
xvi.	"I will sweep misfortunes on them." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-One	187
xvii.	"I thought I would make an end of them." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Two	189
xviii.	"Were they wise, they would think upon this, gain insight into their future." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Three	192
xix.	"Yea, their day of disaster is near, and destiny rushes upon them." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Four	193
xx.	"I personally will exact punishment from them, not through an angel, not through a messenger." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Five	195
xxi.	"The Lord will vindicate his people." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Six	196
xxii.	"who ate the fat of their offerings and drank their libation wine? Let them rise up to your help and let them be a shield unto you." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Eight	198
xxiii.	"See, then, that I, I am he; there is no god beside me. I deal death and give life; I wound and I will heal, none can deliver from my hand." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Twenty-Nine	198
xxiv.	"He will avenge the blood of his servants." Sifré to Deuteronomy Pisqa Three Hundred Thirty	199