

Session 2: torah (Instruction), TORAH (Written; Oral) and TALMUD TORAH (Study)

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Revelation: "The Moment(s) at Sinai"

Biblical Period: Patriarchs/Matriarchs, 2000 BCE-to Ezra/Nehemia (400 BCE)

The Books of the Torah (Torah): 6th c, BCE

The Books of the Prophets (Ne'viim): 4th c, BCE

The Books of Writings (Ketuvim): 2nd c, BCE

Rabbinic Period: 400 BCE--6th c. C.E

The Mishna: oral law code, attributed/compiled in 200 C.E, by Rabbi Yehudah Ha'Nasi

The Gemarra: expansion of the Mishna; Jerusalem Talmud, 400 C.E; Babylonian Talmud,

500 C.E--includes halacha (law) and aggadah (homily, midrash, history) discussions

Midrash: contains homily, history, story, and the literary imagination of the rabbis

Geonic Period: (589) 6th c., C.E--10th century, C.E

Siddur (Prayerbook): first one written/compiled, Seder Rav Avram Gaon, 9th c, CE

Midrash: more varieties (as above)

Medieval Period: 11th c., C.E.--16th c., C.E

Commentary on Talmud (Rashi, France, 1102)

Commentary on Talmud/Rashi (Tosafot, 12th-14th c)

Commentary on Talmud (Rishonim (early) and Achronim (later)) rabbinic authorities

Mishnah Torah, Moses Maimonides/Rambam (condensation of Talmud, 1180), 12th c.

Shulchan Aruch, Yosef Karo (Seph. law code, 1564); Moses Isserles, Mappah (Ashk, 1569-71)

Responsa Literature

Kabbalah literature, The Zohar, Moses de'Leon (1286)/Mystical literature develops, 14th c.

Midrash

Modern Period: 17th/18th c.--19th c. CE (Emancipation, Eastern and Western Europe)

Mishna B'rura, Hafetz Hayim (expansion of "code" literature, Jewish law/ritual practices

Commentaries

Responsa Literature

Midrash

Essays

Books

Contemporary Period: 19th c. C.E--to the present

Books on Judaica (explosion of books available to English readers); internet and bookstores

Feminist and contemporary Midrash (continues to expand in every literary genre)

Prayerbooks--of all types produced by various Jewish denominations; commentaries

English translations (denominations) of The Five Books of Moses (Torah) with commentary

English translations of The Talmud include: Soncino, Steinsaltz, and Schottenstein editions

A variety of Jewish sacred texts are available on the internet