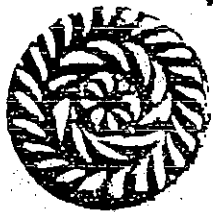
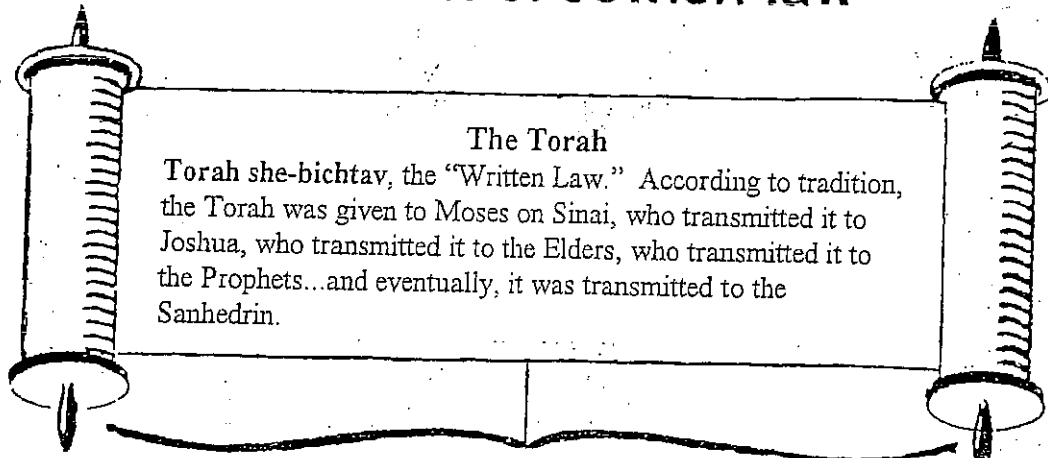


evolution of Jewish law

A



The Mishnah
Codification and collection of Torah she-be'al peh, "Oral Law," transmitted by word of mouth over generations. Compiled by Rabbi Judah and his court around 160-200 C.E. in Palestine.

THE TALMUD

The Jerusalem Gemara
Compilation of the commentary on the Mishnah by the Amora'im in Palestine, approximate end of 4th century. Together with the Mishnah, this forms the Jerusalem Talmud.

The Babylonian Gemara
Compilation of the commentary on the Mishnah by scholars in the Babylonian academies, approximate end of 5th century. This is much larger and more significant than the Jerusalem Gemara. Together with the Mishnah, this forms the Babylonian Talmud.

Comments and decisions of the GE'ONIM, 6th-10th centuries.

Commentaries by RASHI (France, 11th century)

Tosafot: Commentaries by descendants of Rashi (France/Germany, 12th-13th centuries)

Mishneh Torah by MAIMONIDES "The Ramham", (Egypt, 12th century)

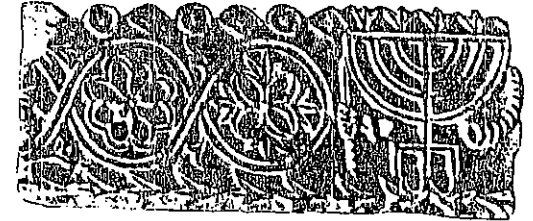
Shulchan Aruch: Code by JOSEPH KARO (Palestine, 16th century)

Other codes and commentaries

Responsa literature

The Mishnah

its arrangement and contents



FIRST ORDER: ZERA'IM ("Seeds")

Of the 11 books in this order, all but the first deal with the laws of agriculture. The 11 are:

- Berakhot (blessings, prayer)
- Pe'ah (edge of the field)
- Demai (doubtful crops)
- Kila'yim (diverse kinds)
- Shevi'it (the seventh year)
- Terumat (heave-offerings)
- Ma'aserot (tithes)
- Ma'aser Shen'i (2nd tithes)
- Hallah (dough offering)
- Orlah (fruit of the trees)
- Bikkurim (first fruits)

SECOND ORDER: MO'ED

("Festivals" or "Appointed Seasons")

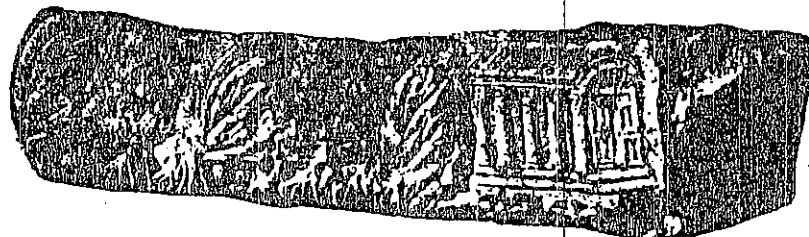
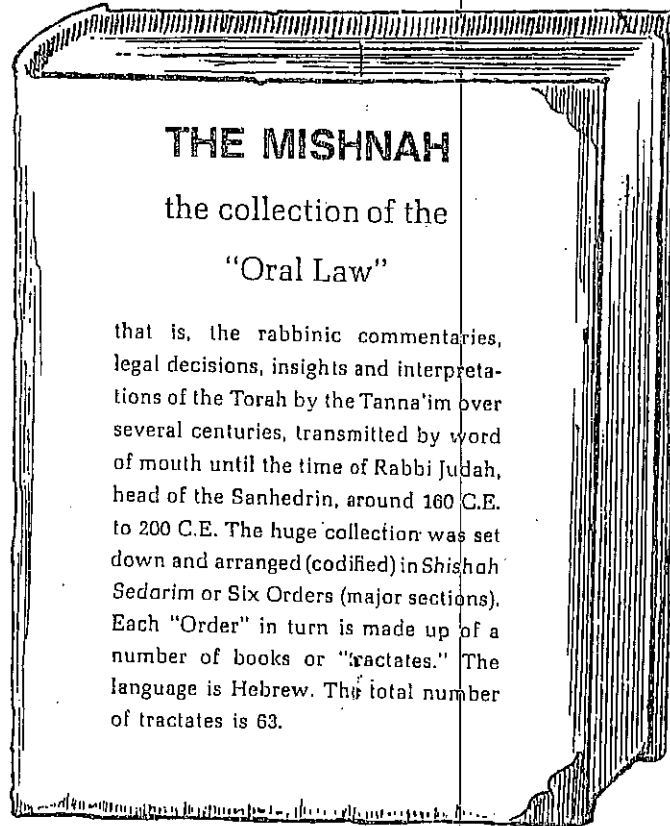
12 books:

- Shabbat (Sabbath)
- Eruvin (Sabbath travel regulations)
- Pesachim (Passover)
- Shekulim (temple-taxes)
- Yoma (the day [of atonement])
- Sukkah (booth)
- Yom Tov or Betzah (an egg)
- Rosh Hashanah (new year observances)
- Ta'anit (fast day[s])
- Megillah (the scroll [of Esther])
- Mo'ed Katan (mid-festival days)
- Hagigah (festival sacrifice)

THIRD ORDER: NASHIM ("Women")

7 books on the laws of marriage and divorce:

- Yevamot (sisters-in-law)
- Ketivot (marriage contracts)
- Nedarim (vows)
- Nuzir (the nazirite-vow)
- Sotah (the suspected adulteress)
- Gittin (divorces)
- Kiddushin (marriage)



FOURTH ORDER: NEZIKIN ("Damages")

Of the 10 books all but one deal with civil and criminal law. The 10 are:

- Bava Kama (the first gate)
- Bava Metz'ah (the middle gate)
- Bava Batra (the last gate)
- Sanhedrin (the high court)
- Makkot (punishment by flogging)
- Shevu'ot (oaths)
- Eduyot (testimonies)
- Avodah Zarah (idolatry)
- Pirkei Avot (sayings of the fathers)—does not relate to civil or criminal law
- Horayot (erroneous decisions)

FIFTH ORDER: KODASHIM ("Sacred Things")

11 books on the laws of sacrifice and the dietary laws:

- Zevachim (animal sacrifices)
- Menahot (flour offerings)
- Hullin (unconsecrated animals)
- Bekhorot (first-born)
- Arakchin (ovalulations)
- Temurah (exchanges of sacrificial cattle)
- Kor'ot (divine punishment)
- Me'ilah (inadvertent sacrilege)
- Tamid (daily sacrifice)
- Middot (measurements)
- Kinnim (bird offerings)

SIXTH ORDER: TOHOROT ("Purifications")

12 books:

- Kelim (vessels)
- Oholot (tents)
- Nega'im (leprosy)
- Parah (the red cow)
- Tohorot (cleanliness)
- Mikva'ot (ritual baths)
- Niddah (the menstruating woman)
- Makshirin (prerequisites for non-kashrut)
- Zavim (bodily discharges in illness)
- Tevul Yom (post-immersion uncleanness)
- Yada'im (uncleanliness of hands)
- Uktzin (stalks and ritual uncleanness)