

WHEN THE RABBIS CHANGED G-D

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Table of Contents	4
1. Introduction	7
1.1. Where We Are Today.....	7
1.2. The Talmudic Roots of This Secular-Religious Polarity.....	9
1.3. Fundamental Questions about the Jewish Religion.....	11
1.4. A Thesis on the Role of the Rabbis	13
1.5. Purpose and Cautionary Disclaimer	15
2. The Ethos and Ethics of Rabbinic Judaism Thesis.....	17
3. Morality: Judaism's Ethical and Moral Code	18
3.1. What is the Jewish Religion's Core Credo?.....	18
3.2. How Should We Understand Such Diversity in Meaning.....	19
3.3. Judaism as Changing Theology.....	20
3.4. Talmud Rabbinic Rationalizations.....	28
3.5. The Significance of a Checklist of Change	30
4. Theology: Biblical or Yahweh Judaism	32
4.1. The Nature and Immediacy of Yahweh.....	32
4.2. Chronicle of Theology in the Biblical Text.....	35
4.3. Truth within the Foundations of Pre-Sinai Oral Law	39
4.4. Transmission of Pre-Sinai and Post-Sinai Knowledge	43
4.5. The Apostles and the Rabbis: Competing Social Media	45
5. Religious Transformation: Rabbinic Judaism.....	48
5.1. Yahweh vs. Rabbinic Judaism	48
5.2. Mishnah and Gemarrah	50
5.3. Yerushalmi (Israel) and Bavli (Babylonian) Talmuds.....	54
5.4. Early Hebrew Christianity.....	54
5.5. Mishnah and Midrash.....	56
6. New Fields and New Fences: When the Rabbis Changed God	58
6.1. Judaism as Civilization Theology.....	58
6.2. Transformation: What	59
6.3. Transformation: How.....	62
6.4. Transformation: Where	63
6.5. Transformation: Who.....	64
6.6. Transformation: How Much.....	65
6.7. Neither in His Name Nor Without Our Consent	67
6.8. Transformation: Why.....	69
6.9. What If there Had Been No Oral Law?	70
6.10. Non Rabbinic Jewish Theologies.....	72
6.11. Neither Ritual Nor Compliance is Ethics.....	74
6.12. The Transformation Thesis Summary.....	75
6.13. The Special Case of <i>Tikkun Olam</i>	76
6.14. Lamentable Legacy: The Absence of a Systematic Theology.....	79
7. Tenets and Tension: A Chronology of Competition with Christianity.....	81
7(A). 50-199 CE	82
7(B). 200-399 CE	87
7(C). 400-599 CE	91
7(D). 600 CE and on	93

8. Why Aren't There More Jews: Historical Points of Commission and Omission.....	98
8.1. Failure to Call the Original Jesus our Own	99
8.2. A Break with Traditional Military-Political Competence	101
8.3. Low Marks for Lobbying and Political Science	103
8.4. Julian and Rebuilding the Third Temple in Jerusalem.....	106
8.5. Dismantling the Traditional Authority and Status of Women	108
8.6. Weak Command of Mercantile or Commercial Leadership	110
8.7. Governance Inadequate to Educational Leadership Needs	112
8.8. Proselytizing Lite	113
8.9. Turning Points: A Confluence of Unmet Challenges	116
9. Mission: Our Role Today as a Righteous Light Unto the Nations	119
9.1. Righteous Purpose, Ritual and Seriousness in Jews	119
9.2. Embracing Fraternal Factionalism	121
9.3. Ending Fraternal Factionalism	122
9.4. Divine Power and Humans Hobbling YHWH.....	123
9.5. <i>Tzimtzum</i> : Yahweh Hobbling the Self	125
9.6. Accepting Yahweh as Capable of Evil	126
9.7. Limits to Human Free Will in Biblical Judaism	130
9.8. Reigniting the Yahweh Flame	134
10. Recalling Yahweh: An Approach for Post-Holocaust Meaning.....	137
11. Renewing Tradition Through <i>Mesorah</i>	141
11.A. Transformation of Theology From Human Perspective.....	141
11.B. Covenant, Distance and Chosenness From a Divine Perspective.....	143
11.C. <i>Mesorah</i> as Dialogue	145
11.D. A <i>Mesorah</i> Study Guide	145
11.1. God	146
11.2. Humankind	146
11.3. Jews	147
11.4. Theology	149
11.5. Family.....	150
11.6. Nature	150
11.7. Ethics	151
11.8. Ritual Practice	151
11.9. Chosen-ness	152
11.10. Leadership	152
11.11. Intentionality of YHWH.....	153
11.12. Conversation with the Divine:	153
11.13. Practicing Good and Evil.....	154
11.14. The Heavenly Realm	154
11.15. Human Choices	155
11.16. Structures of Covenantal Intermediation	155
11.C. Covenant, Distance and Chosenness From a Divine Perspective	156
11.D. <i>Mesorah</i> as Key To an Answer:	156
12. Judaism without the Rabbis' Version of Oral Torah.....	157
13. Glossary	159
List of Tables.....	169
Notes	172

BIBLIOGRAPHY	186
Primary Bible Sources.....	186
Secondary Print Sources	188
Tertiary Internet Sources.....	197
Hebrew Language/Grammar & Others	198
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	199
Rabbinic Judaism.....	200
Karaites Supplemental Bibliography.....	200