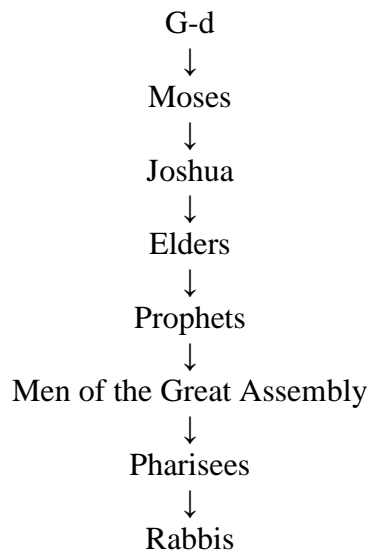


Welcome to 10 Minute Topics

This week's topic is: What is the Talmud

The Talmud is a basis of Jewish Law. The Talmud consists of the Mishnah and Gemara. The Written and Oral Torahs was handed down through the successive generations from the time of Moses.



Mishnah (Oral Torah)

The Mishnah was transmitted to Moshe Rabbenu (Moses our Teacher) from G-d at Mount Sinai at the time that the Written Torah was transmitted. The Mishnah was kept in the oral tradition until it was written down in the time of Rabbi Judah the Holy (aka Rabbi Judah the Prince) ca. 130-220CE. It was written down to help ensure that in the time of duress and danger that it would survive. The Mishnah is divided into established law and rejected law. Established law is the law that was given directly from Moshe Rabbenu who received it directly from G-d. Rejected law is a side of the argument that was recorded but rejected as law.

The Mishnah is divided into six seders (orders).

Seder Zeraim ("The Order of Seeds") - agriculture and prayer

Seder Moed ("The Order of Festivals") - Shabbat, festivals, and fasts

Seder Nashim ("The Order of Women") - infidelity, marriage, and divorce

Seder Nezikin ("The Order of Damages") - civil and criminal law, government, and ethics

Seder Kodashim ("The Order of Holy Things") - Temple, sacrifices, kashrut

Seder Tohorot ("The Order of Purity") - ritual purity and impurity

Gemara

The Gemara is made up of rabbinic commentaries and contain 21 components.

Tosefta ("Addition") is a form of mishnaic material not included in the Mishnah.

Beraitha ("Outside Material") is all the other mishnaic material (other than that contained in the Tosefta) compiled and transmitted by sages after the Mishnah was given.

Peyrush ("Explanation") is the explanation by the Gemara on topics in the Mishnah.

She'eyla is a request for a ruling where the law is determined by the given explanation.

Teshuva is the answer give in the She'eyla upon which the law is established.

Difficulty is an objection brought against the opinion of an Amora (Sage).

Resolution is the answer given to resolve the Difficulty that is accepted as law if it is not disputed.

Refutation is a ruling that is refuted by proofs and the law is determined based upon the strengths of these proofs.

Support is a source used to strengthen a ruling and support the ruling's acceptance.

Contradiction is when an apparent contradiction is pointed out between two equivalent sources.

Necessity is a determination that two or more similar statements in a source are needed.

Attack is a raised objection.

Case is the citation of an occurrence on which a decision is reported.

Tradition is a saying that has information contained in it on a halakhic (Jewish legal) subject.

Sugya is a passage that contains a series of questions and answers.

Hilchetha is a decision that is rendered in a case of a dispute.

Teyku is a matter that is left with out a decision.

Interpretation is when a sage attempts to reinterpret a source so that it no longer conflicts with his opinion.

Aggada is everything mentioned that is not directly connected with the halakhic piece of a mitzvot.

Teaching is the mitzvot of sages teaching to their students.

Shitta is a number of individual sages holding a similar opinion that are cited together.

The Talmud is divided into 6 seders (orders) and 39 different tractates.

Zeraim	זרעים	Seeds - agriculture and prayer
Berachot	ברכות	prayers and benedictions
Peah	פאה	laws of gleaning and charity
Demai	דמאי	doubtfully tithed produce
Kilayim	כלאים	various kinds of seeds, trees, and animals
Shevi'it	שביעית	laws of the sabbatical year
Terumot	תרומות	produce contributions to the priests
Ma'aserot	מעשרות	tithes for the Levites and the poor
Ma'aser Sheni	מעשר שני	the second tithe and bringing it to Jerusalem
Challah	חלה	the dough offering to the Priests
Orlah	ערלה	prohibition against harvesting tress for four years
Bikurim	ביכורים	offerings of the first fruits at the Temple

Moed	מועד	Festivals - Shabbat, festivals, and fasts
Shabbat	שבת	sabbath laws
Eruvin	עירוב	rabbinical decrees regarding the sabbath
Pesachim	פסים	laws of hametz and matzah and the paschal sacrifice
Shekalim	שקלים	the shekel dues for the Temple and Temple ceremonies
Yoma	יומא	sacrifices and the fast on Yom Kippur
Sukkah	סוכה	the building of a sukkah, the four species, and the festival in the Temple
Beitzah	ביצה	rabbinical decrees concerning the festivals
Rosh Hashannah	ראש השנה	fixing the months and years, blowing the shofar, and the Rosh Hashannah prayers
Taanit	תענית	public fast days
Megillah	מגלה	laws of Purim
Moed Katan	מועד קטן	laws of the intermediate festival days
Chagigah	חגיגה	halakhot for pilgrimage festivals

Nashim	נשים	Women - infidelity, marriage, and divorce
Yebamot	יבמות	Levirate marriage, prohibitions on marriage, testimony on the death of the husband
Ketubot	כתבהת	the marriage contract and special agreements
Nedarim	נדרים	various types of vows
Nazir	נזיר	the nazirite laws
Sotah	שטה	laws concerning adulteress, murder in which the perpetrator is unknown, and war
Gittin	גטין	divorce, writing and sending the get
Kiddushin	קדושין	the marriage act, laws of genealogy

Nezikin	נזיקין	Damages - civil and criminal law, government, and ethics
Bava Kamma	בבא קמא	damage to person and property, loans and interest, stolen goods
Bava Metzia	בבא מציעא	lost and found property, embezzlement, fraud, usury, sales, rentals, rights of hired laborers
Bava Batra	בבא בתרא	real estate, possessions, inheritance, partnership, evidence, testimony
Sanhedrin	סנהדרין	the judiciary, judicial procedure, capital punishment
Makkot	מכות	false witnesses, cities of refuge, corporal punishment
Shevuot	שבועות	oaths
Eduyot	עדויות	a collection of testimonies on various subjects and erroneous rulings of the courts and their rectification
Avodah Zarah	עבודה זרה	idolatry and superstitions
Avot	אבות	Ethics of the Fathers
Horayot	הוריות	erroneous judicial rulings

Kodashim	קדשים	Holy Things - Temple, sacrifices, kashrut
Zevachim	זבחים	animal and bird sacrifices in the Temple
Menachot	מנחות	flour offerings and wine libations
Chullin	חולין	laws of non-sacred animal slaughter and dietary laws
Bechorot	בכורות	redemption of firstborns (human and animal)
Erachin	ערכין	consecration of personal worth to the Temple
Temurah	תמורה	exchange of sanctified things
Kereitot	כריתות	spiritual excision and sin-offerings
Me'ila	מעילה	sacrilegious treatment of Temple property
Tamid	תמיד	daily morning and evening sacrifice
Middot	מידות	Temple architecture
Kinnim	קנים	birds (nests) offerings

Tohorot	טהורת	Purity - ritual purity and impurity
Kelim	כלים	ritual uncleanness of utensils and garments
Oholot	אהלית	defilement caused by a corpse to houses
Negaim	נגעים	complex laws of tzareet
Parah	פרה	regulations concerning the red heifer
Tohorot	טהורת	lesser degrees of uncleanness lasting until sunset
Mikavot	מקואות	ritual baths and immersion
Niddah	נדה	laws of family purity
Machshirin	מחשרין	liquids and foods that are susceptible to ritual uncleanness
Zavim	זבים	secretions which render a person unclean
Tevul Yom	תואל יום	cleanness acquired at sunset after daytime immersion
Yadayim	ידים	defilement of the hands and their purification
Uktzin	עוקצין	fruits and plants susceptible to uncleanness