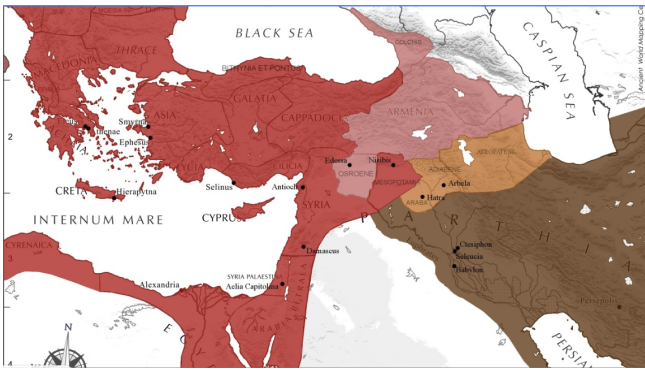
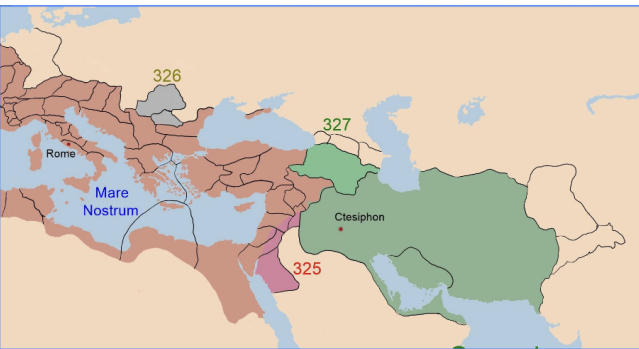


500 Years of Hazal in an Hour

Dr. Jeremy Tabick – tabick@hadar.org

MWLS 5785/2025

1.

Rome vs Parthia 3rd BCE - 3rd CE	Rome vs Sasanian Persia 3rd CE - 7th CE
	

2. Glossary

Hakhamim = rabbis of this Rabbinic era Tannaim = rabbis of the Mishnah and other early works (Tosefta, Mekhilta etc) Amoraim = rabbis of the Talmuds and later <i>midrashim</i>	Mishnah = earliest code of Jewish law Tosefta = companion collection to the Mishnah Talmud Yerushalmi = earlier talmud from Eretz Yisrael Talmud Bavli = later talmud from Bavel
---	--



3. Zugot

From Hasmoneans (2nd BCE) to Herod (1st CE)	NASI	AV BEIT DIN
- Remembered for their roles in various sanhedrins - Always two in every generation - Most only mentioned in Pirkei Avot - Shemayah and Avtalyon = Samaias and Pollion, lived during the reign of Herod according to Josephus	Yose ben Yoezer Yehoshua ben Parahiah Yehudah ben Tabbai Shemayah	Yose ben Yoḥanan Nitai (Mattai) ha-Arbeli Shimon ben Shatah Avtalyon

4. T1

1st Generation (1st CE)	Hillel
- Lived before or through the Great Revolt and the destruction of Jerusalem - Hillel and Shammai are the last of the Zugot - Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai? - Rabban Gamliel is mentioned in Acts	Shammai Rabban Gamliel ha-Zakein Rabban Yoḥanan ben Zakkai

5. T2

2nd generation (late 1st-early 2nd CE)	R. Eliezer (ben Hyrcanus)
5 students of Rabban Yoḥanan ben Zakkai mark the end of the chain from Moshe through the Zugot (in Avot)	R. Yehoshua (ben Ḥananyah) R. Elazar ben Arakh R. Yose ha-Kohen



• The earliest generation to be well-represented in the Mishnah • Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel is mentioned by Josephus	R. Shimon ben Netanel Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel
---	--

6. T3

3rd generation (2nd CE)	R. Akiva
• Vineyard in Yavneh • R. Akiva was the prized student of both R. Eliezer and R. Yehoshua • Many rabbinic legends about him: – Poor – Rabbinic outsider – Martyr in the revolt of Bar Kokhba – Students died during the Omer • R. Yishmael and R. Tarfon were both priests	R. Yishmael R. Tarfon Rabban Gamliel of Yavneh

7. T4

4th generation (late 2nd century)	R. Meir
• Usha • 4 students of R. Akiva, each transmit the teachings of R. Akiva differently or have their own interpretations • R. Meir is the most strict, R. Shimon is the most lenient • R. Yehudah is the most cited authority in the Mishnah • All 4 make up the core of the tannaitic tradition	R. Yose (bar R. <u>Hal</u> afta) R. Yehudah (bar R. <u>Il</u> ai) R. Shimon (ben Yo <u>h</u> ai)



8. T5

5th generation (late 2nd to early 3rd CE)	Rabbeinu ha-Kadosh (Rabbi)
• Last generation of the Mishnah • Centred around Rabbi and his circle • Rabbi was the inheritor of the entire tannaitic tradition and taught the most important Amoraim • Babylonian influence felt strongly for the first time • Many 5th generation sages are sons of 4th generation sages • R. <u>Hiyya</u> and Shmuel's father you might call "transitional"	R. Natan Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel R. Yose bar R. Yehudah R. Yishmael bar R. Yose R. Elazar bar R. Shimon R. <u>Hiyya</u> Shmuel's father Bar Kappara

9. YA1

Eretz Yisrael 1st generation (3rd CE)	
• R. <u>Hanina</u>, R. Yannai, sons of R. <u>Hiyya</u> were important students of Rabbi • Some early Amoraim appear in tannaitic literature (e.g. R. Yehudah Nesiah) • Taught the tannaitic tradition but no longer felt that they were a part of it • Links between the Tannaim and Amoraim • Jews became citizens of the Roman Empire	R. Hoshayah R. <u>Hanina</u> Hizkiyah and Yehudah (sons of R. <u>Hiyya</u>) R. Yehudah Nesiah R. Yannai



10. YA2

Eretz Yisrael 2nd generation (3rd CE)	R. Yoḥanan
• By far the most important: R. Yoḥanan, and his younger colleague: Reish Lakish • Wonderful story about them in the Bavli • Urbanisation of Eretz Yisrael really takes off—Jews (and Hakhamim) move from small towns into big cities like Tiberius, Sepphoris, Caesarea	R. Shimon ben Lakish (Reish Lakish) R. Elazar (2nd-3rd) R. Yehoshua ben Levi (1st-2nd)

11. YA3

Eretz Yisrael 3rd generation (late 3rd to early 4th CE)	R. Abahu
• The main Hakhamim of this generation are all students of R. Yoḥanan • Synagogues become increasingly popular and important—so do churches	R. Hiyya bar Abba R. Zeira R. Asi R. Ami R. Yehudah Nesiah (grandson of R. Yehudah Nesiah)

12. YA4

Eretz Yisrael 4th generation (mid-4th CE)	R. Yose bar R. Bun
• Beginnings of the formation of the Talmud Yerushalmi • R. Yose bar R. Bun and/or R. Yose ben Zevida are found on almost every page of the Yerushalmi! • R. Yirmiyah is famous in the Bavli for being a nudnik	R. Yose (ben Zevida/Zavda) R. Yirmiyah R. Yonah



- R. Yose bar R. Bun is son of Rabin, and loved Bavel

13. YA5

Eretz Yisrael 5th generation (late 4th CE)	R. Mana
• Last Hakhamim to be mentioned in the Yerushalmi • End of the amoraic period in Eretz Yisrael • Emperor Julian tried and failed to rebuild the Temple • Roman empire solidifies as Christian • Status of Jews remains protected but controversial	R. Yudan R. <u>H</u> ananyah

14. BA1

Bavel 1st generation (3rd CE)	Rav (= R. Abba)
• Foundational teachers of Torah in Bavel • Rav studied with Rabbi in Eretz Yisrael • Shmuel probably represents a more native Babylonian tradition (although his father also had contact with Rabbi) • Pathian Empire replaced with the Sassanian Empire	Shmuel

15. BA2

Bavel 2nd generation (3rd CE)	Rav Yehudah (bar Yehzekel)
• Students of Rav and/or Shmuel • The Jews happen to live on the doorstep of the Sassanian capital Ctesiphon	Rav Huna Rav <u>H</u> isda (2nd-3rd) Rav Na <u>h</u> man (2nd-3rd)



• The Sassanians decided they wanted a representative of the Jews in the royal court: the Exilarch (reish galuta) • Persian culture and the Hakhamim who live there are insular	
--	--

16. BA3

Bavel 3rd generation (late 3rd to early 4th CE)	Rav Yosef
• The early Torah of Bavel is filtered via Rav Yosef and Rabbah to Abbaye • Rabbah raised Abbaye and Rav Yosef forgot his learning in his old age • The age of Nahotei ("those who descend"), bringing traditions back and forth between Eretz Yisrael and Bavel	Rabbah (bar Nahmani) Rabin Rav Dimi

17. BA4

Bavel 4th generation (mid-4th CE)	Abbaye
• Large populations of Jews from the Roman West were repopulated in the Persian East • Hakhamim in Bavel suddenly are inundated with new traditions from Eretz Yisrael and begin to change their behaviour • Abbaye and Rava form the core of the Talmud (according to the Talmud) • But they probably rarely (if ever) actually met each other	Rava



18. BA5

Bavel 5th generation (late 4th CE)	Rav Pappa
• Students of Abbaye and Rava • Continue the sea change in teaching and behaviour from the 4th generation	Rav Nahman bar Yitzhak Rav Kahana Rav Huna bar Rav Yehoshua

19. BA6

Bavel 6th generation (early 5th century)	Rav Ashi
• All of the learning of Bavel came through Rav Ashi and his younger colleague, Ravina • Rav Ashi supposedly taught students for 60 years, covering the whole Talmud multiple times • He is often considered the last Amora—but this is not true!	Ravina

20. BA7+

Bavel 7th-8th generations (5th to early 6th CE)	Mar bar Rav Ashi
• Various students of Rav Ashi and Ravina I • A later Amora called Ravina, maybe indeed (one of) the last, according to Rav Sherira Gaon died in 501 CE • Probably it was around this time that the academies of Bavel formed • We don't know why the period of Amoraim ended • Very little history of pre-Islamic Persia	Mareimar Ravina II

