

Transmission of the Oral Law

Era	Dates	Propagators of the Law	Works		
First Temple	950–586 BCE	Father to Son Elders Priests Prophets <i>Tofsei Torah</i> (learned in Torah)	<i>J, P, E, D</i>		
	490 BCE	Ezra	Redaction of Torah		
Second Temple	Knesset Gadolah (Great Assembly)	539–332 BCE	Sofrim: • collected holy writings • decided writings to be canonized • finalized Bible's structure • began to codify oral law Simon haZedek (360 BCE) Last of the Great Assembly	Tanakh	
		332–140 BCE Greek period	<i>Zugot</i> : "pairs" — political authority shared with scholars. The term " <i>Zugot</i> " refers to the two heads of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the successor to the Great Assembly, and it functioned as the legislative body of the Jewish people. At the head of the Sanhedrin was the Nasi (President) and second to him was the Av Bet Din (Father of the Assembly). For a period of about two hundred years, the <i>Zugot</i> were the spiritual guides of Jewish life and the transmitters of the Oral Law. • Jose ben Joezer of Sereda and Jose ben Johanan (167–c. 140 BCE)		
	Zugot	140–37 BCE Hasmonean dynasty	• Joshua ben Perachyah and Nittai of Arbela (134–104 BCE), reign of John Hyrcanus • Judah ben Tabbai and Simeon ben Shetach (103–76 BCE), reign of Alexander Yannai • Shemaiah and Abtalion (79–40 BCE), Hyrcanus II, high priest and then king		
			• Hillel HaZaken (the Elder) (c.30 BCE–10 CE) (n) and Shammai (c. 30 BCE–c.30 CE), Herod the Great, Roman client-king of Judea		
	Tannaim	Roman period	20–40 CE Before the destruction of the Second Temple	<i>Tanna</i> (Aramaic: pl. <i>tannaim</i> , "to learn") is the plural term for the rabbinic sages whose views are recorded in the Mishnah, from c. 70 to 200 CE. The Mishnaic period can be divided into eight periods according to generations. There are approximately 120 known <i>Tannaim</i> . ¹	
			37 BCE–380 CE First generation	Rabban ² Gamaliel HaZaken (the Elder) (c.5?–63 CE), grandson of Hillel R. Bava ben Buta R. Ben He He R. Jonathan ben Uziel	
40–80 Second generation			The generation of the destruction Rabban Shimon ben Gamaliel (c.50–70?) (n), son of Rabban Gamaliel HaZaken Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai (c.60–90)		
		80–110 Third generation	Between the destruction of the Temple to the revolt of Bar Kokhba Rabban Gamaliel of Yavneh (Gamaliel II) (n), son of Shimon ben Gamaliel, first person to lead the Sanhedrin as <i>nasi</i> R. Elazar ben Arakh R. Eliezer ben Hyrcanus (Eliezar the Great) R. Tarfon R. Joshua ben Hananiah		

		110–135	R. Akiva ben Yosef (a) R. Elazar ben Azaria (Nasi briefly after Gamaliel II was removed from his position for a short time) R. Ishmael ben Elisha R. Yossi haGelili	(a) Systematic organization of <i>halakha</i>	
		135–170	After the revolt Rabban Simon ben Gamaliel (II) (n) R. Meir (Reb Meir Ba'al HaNess) R. Shimon bar Yochai (b) R. Nathan haBavli R. Yossi ben Halafta R. Judah bar Ilai (c)	(b) <i>Mekhilta</i> , <i>Sifrei</i> , attrib. <i>Zohar</i> (c) <i>Torat Kohanim</i>	
		170–200	Compilers of the <i>Mishnah</i> Rabbi Judah HaNasi ("Rabbi") (n), son of R. Simon (d) R. Elazar ben Shimon R. Chama ben Bisa R. Shimon ben Halafta R. Shimon ben Judah R. Yishmael ben Yossi R. Shimon ben Elazar	(d) <i>Mishnah</i>	
		200–220	Transition period (completed work on <i>Mishnah</i>) R. Gamliel ben Rabbi (III) (n) R. Hiyya bar Abba, R Oshaya (c. 180–230) (e) R. Shimon ben Rabbi R. bar Kappara R. Oshaya Rabbah	(e) <i>Tosefta on Mishnah</i>	
			<i>Amora</i> (Aramaic: pl. <i>amora'im</i> ; "those who say" or "those who tell over"), were renowned Jewish scholars who "said" or "told over" the teachings of the Oral Law, from about 220 to 500 CE in Babylonia and Palestine. Their legal discussions and debates were eventually codified in the <i>Gemara</i> . ¹		
	Amoraim		Palestinian <i>Amoraim</i>	Babylonian <i>Amoraim</i>	
		220–250	• Chaninah bar Chamah (c.180–c.260), disciple of Judah HaNasi • Yannai • Joshua bar Levi (ben Sissi) (220–250) in Lydda	• Abba Arika ben Ibo (Rav) (175–247), last <i>tanna</i> , first Babylonian <i>amora</i> . Disciple of Judah haNasi. Founder of academy at Sura (219) • Samuel bar Abba (180–257), disciple of Judah haNasi and others. Founder of academy at Nehardea (it moved later to Pumbedita)	
		250–290	• Jochanan bar Napacha (R. Jochanan), (c.199–279), disciple of Judah HaNasi, Oshaya. Founded Tiberias (f) • Simon bar Lakish (Resh Lakish) (c.200–275), disciple of Yannai • Chama ben Chanina • Jacob ben Idi • Ulla ben Yishmael • Jeremiah, 320–350, disciple of R. Zeira, in Tiberias	• Huna (212–297), disciple of Rav and Samuel, successor to Rav. in Sura • Judah ben Ezekiel (247–299), disciple of Rav and Samuel, in Nehardea, moved academy to Pumbedita (259) • Chisda (d. 309), disciple of Rav, Samuel, and Huna. in Sura • Nachman bar Jacob (235–324), disciple of Samuel, in Pumbedita	(f) Began Palestinian Talmud
		290–320	• Elazar ben Pedat (c.260?–280), disciple of Jochanan, in Tiberias. • Ammi and Assi, headed academy in Tiberias (279) • Chiya bar Abba and Simon bar Abba (c.180–230), disciples of Jochanan • Abbahu (c.279–320), disciple of Jochanan, in Caesarea • Zera (or Zeira), Tiberias • Chanina ben Pappa	• Rabbah bar Huna (d. 322), in Sura. Closed 322--c.375 • Rabbah bar Nachmani (270–330), disciple of Huna, Judah and Chisda. in Pumbedita • Joseph bar Chiya (d. 333), disciple of Judah, succeeded Rabbah in Pumbedita • Dimi bar Chinena, in Pumbedita (385–388)	

Christian period	320–350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillel II (330–365) • Acha bar Jacob (320–350) • Huna ben Avin • Jonah, disciple of Ila (Hila) and Jeremiah • Jose bar Zevida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nahmani ben Kaylil (Abbaye) (278– 339), disciple of Rabbah, Joseph, and Nachman bar Jacob. in Pumbedita • Abba Ben Rav Hama (Rava) (299–353), disciple of Rabbah, Joseph, and Nachman bar Jacob. in Mahuza • Nachman bar Isaac (d. 356), disciple of Nachman bar Jacob. in Pumbedita • Rami bar Hama 		
	350–375	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avin II ben Ravin • Mana II • Tanchuma ben Abba (Yelammedenu) (c. 380)(g) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pappa bar Chanan (d. 375), disciple of Abbaye and Rava. in Naresh • Huna bar Joshua 	(g) <i>Tanchuma</i> , commentary on the Pentateuch	
	375–425	(Christian pressures forced closure of the Palestinian academies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashi bar Simai bar Ashe (355–427), Reopened Sura 375 (h) • Amemar, in Nahardea, (390–c.422) • Ravina I • Rab Zebid bar Oshaya, succeeded Rab Chama in Pumbedita (377–385) • Rafram bar Pappa the elder (Rafram I), disciple of Raba, in Pumbedita (388–394) • Kahana bar Tachlifa, in Pumbedita (394–411) • Mar Zutra, in Pumbedita (411–414) • Acha bar Raba, in Pumbedita (414–419) • Gebihah of Bei Katil, in Pumbedita (419– 433) 	(h) Began redaction of the Babylonian Talmud	
	425–460		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar Jemar (Mar'emmar), in Sura (427–432) • Idi (or Ada) bar Abin, in Sura (432–452) • Mar bar Rab Ashi Tabyome, in Sura (455–468) (i) • Rafram II, succeeded Gebihah in Pumbedita (433–443) • Rechumai (443–456) • Sama b. Rabba (456–471) 	(i) Major redactor of the Babylonian Talmud	
	460–500		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbina bar Huna (Ravina II) (d. c. 499); disciple of Ravina I and Ashi, the last <i>amora</i> of Sura (j) • Rabbah Tosafa'ah (Jose), the last <i>amora</i> of Pumbedita and the first of the <i>saboraim</i>. 	(j) Completed redaction of the Babylonian Talmud	

On dates: Many dates associated with the lifetimes of the rabbinic figures are of necessity approximate.

1. Only major rabbinic figures are shown

2. Rabban was a higher title than "Rabbi," given to the Nasi starting with Rabban Gamaliel Hazaken. Exceptions: Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai, given as an honorary appellation; Elazar ben Azaria, held office too briefly.

n = Nasi, president of academy

R. = Rabbi. Amoraim in Babylonia were not permitted to be known by this title unless they had been ordained in Palestine. Thus the title associated with most Babylonian scholars is "Rav."