

What is the Talmud?



Berakhot 2A
Babylonian 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.

The Talmud is divided into 6 seders

(orders) containing 39 different tractates.

1. Seder Zeraim—Seeds (agriculture and prayer)
2. Seder Moed—Festivals (Shabbat, festivals, and fasts)
3. Seder Nashim—Women (infidelity, marriage, and divorce)
4. Seder Nezikin—Damages (civil and criminal law, government, and ethics)
5. Seder Kodashim—Holy Things (Temple, sacrifices, and kashrut)
6. Seder Tohorot—Purity (ritual purity and impurity)

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.

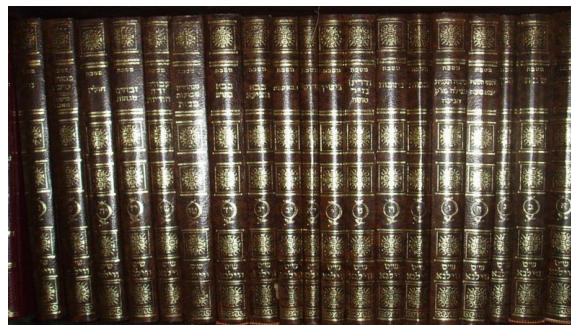
The Mishnah is divided into six seders (orders).

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



A Set of the Talmud

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Seder Kodashim ("The Order of Holy Things") - Temple, sacrifices, kashrut
Seder Tohorot ("The Order of Purity") - ritual purity and impurity

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

There are two different Talmuds. One is the Jerusalem (Yerushalayim—also called the Palestinian) Talmud that was written by Torah scholars in Israel. The Babylonian Talmud (the one most often referred to) was written by Torah scholars in Babylon.



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