

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

## Rabbinic Texts and Historical Events

**Question:** Where can I find a graphic historical overview of the eras when the classic Rabbinic texts (Mishna, Talmud, Midrash, Biblical commentaries, legal codes, etc) were written and edited?

**Answer:** I suggest you look at one of these Jewish history timelines:

**Codex Judaica: Chronological Index of Jewish History** by Mattis Kantor (Zichron Press, 2005) covers Creation to the 2000's with an emphasis on the eras of the Bible, Talmud, Rishonim and Ahronim. This volume is especially useful because it allows the reader to choose from 4 levels of detail. Timeline 1 is a simple 1-page summary. Timelines 2 and 3 (8-page and 14-page charts) position major Rabbinic texts in the context of major Jewish historical events. Timeline 4 (the bulk of the book) provides year-by-year details on Rabbinic writings and Jewish history. (REFERENCE OVERSIZE DS 114 K34 2005)

**[A Timeline of Jewish Texts](#)** is a 1-page chart highlighting the major Rabbinic accomplishments in each century in the last 2300+ years. The texts are classified by category: Bible (commentaries and translations); Mishna, Talmud and commentaries; Law Codes, Liturgy, Thought and Ethics, Mysticism, and History.

**The Timetables of Jewish History: a Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in Jewish History** by Judah Gribetz (Simon & Schuster, 1993) covers Jewish history from the events of Genesis up to the



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