

hist approach to an ahistorical theme

KIDDUSH HASHEM: BIRTH OF AN ARCHETYPE

Biblical

[Akedah/עקידה]

5. Ezek. 36:2-28: God will vindicate His honor.

Hellenistic : A public, political act

10. 2 Maccabees 6-7 by Jason of Cyrene:

Eleazar the Priest; the mother and her seven sons.

Antiochus Epiphanes

Belief in the afterlife

Rhetoric of martyrdom.

[Cf. B. Gittin 57b; Midrash on Lamentations, **17-19**]

11. Dan. 3:13-33:

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah rescued because they are blameless;

Antiochus-as-Nebuchadnezzar

Tanaitic

12. Tractate "Mourning"/Semahot:

Martyrs of Caesarea; בשעת השמד /Hadrianic persecution

Amoraic

13. B. Berakhot 61b: Martyrdom of Rabbi Akiva;
accepts suffering with love

B. Sanhedrin 74a-b: "legal" parameters of martyrdom

Byzantine [?]

22. Midrash Eleh Ezkerah: combines **10, 12, 13**

עשרה הרוגי מלכות

Nomenclature: *Harugei malkhut*: put to death for treason against Jewish king.

Medieval Ashkenaz

23. Crusade Chronicle of Solomon bar Simson;
recorded in 1140 from eyewitnesses

28. The Martyr's Prayer by Isaiah Horowitz (של"ה)

Women, God & History

Biblical

1. Covenant Curses
Deut. 28:56-57; cannibalism
3. By the Rivers of Babylon
Zion vs. Fair Babylon
4. Lamentations
1:1-2: Zion-as-a-widow
2:13: What can I compare or liken to you, O Fair Jerusalem?
2:20: Covenant curse as reality

Hellenistic

10. 2 Macc.
Nameless Mother-and-her-7 sons
resurrection linked to procreation

Tanaitic

12. Rabbinic Martyrs
Semahot 8:12: Hanina b. Tardion's daughter

Amoraic

- Midrash on Lamentations
16. Moses & Mother Rachel
 17. Martyrdom at Sea
 18. The wife of Trajan
 19. The daughter of Zadok the High Priest
 20. The parable of the ketubbah

Questions

1. Are women somehow more implicated in the covenantal scheme?
2. Does a literature produced by men essentialize womankind?
3. Is there any discernible change in the representation of women?