

Contents

Foreword	V
Introduction to the Series	1
1. The Purpose and Approach of the Annotated Editions in this Series ...	3
1.1. The editions: purpose and nature	3
1.2. The commentaries: literary and historical approaches	4
1.3. Methodological matters	7
1.3.1. The midrashic mashal	7
1.3.2. Selection of the material: where to find tannaitic meshalim? ...	9
1.3.3. Selection of the material: How to identify a mashal?	10
1.4. The ideal-typical form of the midrashic mashal	13
1.4.1. The base verse, the nimshal and the 'issue'	14
1.4.2. Meshalim that bear directly on the biblical text vs. meshalim that draw on a previous midrash	15
1.4.3. The 'midrash before the mashal' and its relation to the nimshal	17
2. Previous Research into the Rabbinic Mashal	20
2.1. Jesus' parables and rabbinic meshalim: the pioneers	20
2.2. David Flusser	22
2.2.1. The 'classical' vs. the 'late' rabbinic parable	22
2.2.2. Flusser's main views on parables	23
2.3. Annotated collections of tannaitic meshalim	26
2.4. The parables of the Rabbis: Thoma, Ernst and Lauer	29
2.5. King parables	33
2.5.1. Theodor Ziegler	33
2.5.2. Alan Appelbaum: King parables as sources for Roman historiography	34
2.5.3. David Stern and Yonah Fraenkel on king-meshalim: stereotyping and anthropomorphism	37
2.6. Form-Analysis: Arnold Goldberg and his school	39
2.6.1. The form midrash	40
2.6.2. The form mashal	41
2.6.3. Alexander Samely on the mashal	46
2.7. The contrast-parable: Talia Thorion-Vardi	48

2.8. Yonah Fraenkel and the hermeneutics of the mashal	49
2.8.1. The hermeneutical mashal	49
2.8.2. The four features of the hermeneutical mashal and Fraenkel's corresponding four-step reading method	50
2.8.3. Other ways of reading the mashal and the parables of Jesus ...	53
2.9. David Stern and Daniel Boyarin	54
2.9.1. Hermeneutics or rhetorics?	54
2.9.2. The priority of the nimshal	55
2.10. The ideology of the rabbis as reflected in midrash and mashal	57
2.10.1. Goldberg on "Die Schrift der rabbinischen Schriftausleger" ...	58
2.10.2. Stemberger on rabbinic theology in midrash	59
2.10.3. Boyarin on gap-filling as ideology in midrash and mashal	60
2.10.4. Stern on ideology in midrash and mashal	61
2.10.5. Fraenkel on the rabbinic world view	62
2.10.6. The death of rabbi Aqiva: reality through the looking glass of Scripture	62
 Introduction to this Volume	 65
 1. Mekhilta de Rabbi Yishmael (MRI) and Mekhilta de Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (MRS)	 67
1.1. MRI and MRS among the tannaitic Midrashim	67
1.2. The editions of MRI and MRS	69
1.3. The relation between MRI and MRS	70
1.4. The beginning chapters of MRS	70
 2. MRI, MRS, their Traditional Divisions, and the Divisions Followed in this Book.	 73
Divisions MRI in the Editions of Horovitz-Rabin and Lauterbach	74
 3. The Structure of this Book: Chapters, Sections and Textual Units	 75
 4. Translation	 77
 5. Textual Witnesses (The Edition)	 79
5.1. The synoptic columns	79
5.2. Textual witnesses and sigla	80
5.3. The textual witnesses of the parables in MRI and their sigla	80
5.4. The textual witnesses of the parables in MRS and their sigla	81
5.5. The transcriptions	82
5.6. Critical signs	83
 6. Versions	 84
 7. Commentary	 85

8. Parallels	86
9. Transliteration	87
10. Abbreviations	88
 Annotated Edition	 89
<i>Chapter 1: Two People with One Blow</i>	
Exod 3:7 (Sanya)	91
<i>Chapter 2: The Chosen Administrator Retracts</i>	
Exod 4:13 (Sanya)	96
<i>Chapter 3: The Slave of a Priest Flees to the Graveyard</i>	
Exod 12:1 (Pischa)	100
<i>Chapter 4: A Palanquin at the Door of the Bride</i>	
Exod 12:37 (Pischa)	104
<i>Chapter 5: First Daughter then Son & Escape from Wolf, Lion, and Snake</i>	
MRI: Exod 13:2 (Pischa); MRS: Exod 15:11 (Shirata)	107
<i>Chapter 6: Antoninus and his Sons</i>	
Exod 13:21 (Beshalach)	115
<i>Chapter 7: The Slave who Buys a Rotten Fish</i>	
Exod 14:5 (Beshalach)	121
<i>Chapter 8: The Cheaply Sold Field & The Cheaply Sold Residence</i>	
Exod 14:5 (Beshalach)	134
<i>Chapter 9: Pharaoh Hitched his Own Chariot^c</i>	
Exod 14:6 (Beshalach)	143
<i>Chapter 10: Pharaoh Went Before his Army^c</i>	
Exod 14:6 (Beshalach)	147
<i>Chapter 11: The Dove Fleeing in the Rock</i>	
Exod 14:13 (Beshalach)	152
<i>Chapter 12: The Father, his Son and his Friend</i>	
Exod 14:15 (Beshalach)	159
<i>Chapter 13: The Father Protects his Son</i>	
Exod 14:19 (Beshalach)	167
<i>Chapter 14: The Garden within the Garden</i>	
Exod 14:21 (Beshalach)	178
<i>Chapter 15: Two Sons Wake their Father</i>	
Exod 14:22 (Beshalach)	190

<i>Chapter 16: Unlike Humans, God Heals and Wounds with the Same Thing^c</i>	
Exod 14:24 (Beshalach)	202
<i>Chapter 17: The Dove Flees in the Dining Room of the King</i>	
Exod 14:27 (Beshalach)	211
<i>Chapter 18: The King is Only Human^c</i>	
Exod 15:1 (Shirata)	220
<i>Chapter 19: 19. Two Vessels^c</i>	
Exod 15:1 (Shirata)	232
<i>Chapter 20: Blind and Lame Guards</i>	
Exod 15:1 (Shirata)	238
<i>Chapter 21: The King and his Entourage Look Alike^c</i>	
Exod 15:2 (Shirata)	254
<i>Chapter 22: The King Accompanies his Son</i>	
Exod 15:2 (Shirata)	260
<i>Chapter 23: The Ashamed Bridegroom^c</i>	
Exod 15:2 (Shirata)	271
<i>Chapter 24: Six parables: God is Not like a Hero or Human King^c</i>	
Exod 15:3 (Shirata)	276
<i>Chapter 25: The Cruel Robber</i>	
Exod 15:9–10 (Shirata)	298
<i>Chapter 26: Ten Parables: God is Not like Flesh and Blood^c</i>	
Exod 15:11 (Shirata)	303
<i>Chapter 27: Fragile Eggs</i>	
Exod 15:12 (Shirata)	327
<i>Chapter 28: The Defeated Robbers</i>	
Exod 15:17–18 (Shirata)	331
<i>Chapter 29: God Repairs Bad with Bad^c</i>	
Exod 15:25 (Vayassa)	338
<i>Chapter 30: Daily Allowance for the Son of the King</i>	
Exod 16:4 (Vayassa)	346
<i>Chapter 31: Manna Compared to Haggadah</i>	
Exod 16:31 (Vayassa)	352
<i>Chapter 32: Angry with the Big One Rather than the Small One in the House^c</i>	
Exod 17:1–3 (Vayassa)	359
<i>Chapter 33: Papyrus and Reed Cannot Thrive without Water</i>	
MRS: Exod 17:7 (Vayassa); MRI: Exod 17:8 (Amalek)	366

<i>Chapter 34: The Prince is Not Allowed Through the Third Door</i>	
Exod 17:14 (Amalek)	373
<i>Chapter 35: The Higher Official Overrules the Lower^c</i>	
Exod 17:14 (Amalek)	379
<i>Chapter 36: The Beam that is Too Heavy for One Person</i>	
Exod 18:18 (Amalek)	387
<i>Chapter 37: A Man Protects his Son</i>	
Exod 19:4 (Bachodesh)	390
<i>Chapter 38: Four Parables: Like an Eagle</i>	
Exod 19:4 (Bachodesh)	395
<i>Chapter 39: The Preferred Inherited Field</i>	
Exod 19:5 (Bachodesh)	403
<i>Chapter 40: The Groom Goes Out to Honor his Bride</i>	
Exod 19:17 (Bachodesh)	406
<i>Chapter 41: The Torah is like Fire: Several Parables</i>	
Exod 19:18 (Bachodesh)	409
<i>Chapter 42: The Rich Wife Works Wool</i>	
Exod 20:1 (Bachodesh)	417
<i>Chapter 43: The King Needs to Prove Himself</i>	
Exod 20:2 (Bachodesh)	420
<i>Chapter 44: Two Administrators</i>	
Exod 20:2 (Bachodesh)	425
<i>Chapter 45: The Patient King</i>	
Exod 20:3 (Bachodesh)	429
<i>Chapter 46: The Dog named After the Father & The King Goes to War</i>	
Exod 20:5 (Bachodesh)	433
<i>Chapter 47: Debt Across Generations</i>	
Exod 20:5 (Bachodesh)	440
<i>Chapter 48: Shabbat Compared to a Wolf</i>	
Exod 20:8 (Bachodesh)	444
<i>Chapter 49: The Defaced Portraits of the King</i>	
Exod 20:2, 13 (Bachodesh)	447
<i>Chapter 50: The Accomplice of a Thief</i>	
Exod 22:3 (Nezikin)	452
Bibliography	459

Indices	469
Authors	469
Subjects	470
Rabbinic Authorities	472
Hebrew Bible	473