

## THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO JUDAISM AND LAW

*The Cambridge Companion to Judaism and Law* explores the Jewish conception of law as an essential component of the divine–human relationship from biblical to modern times, as well as resistance to this conception. It also traces the political, social, intellectual, and cultural circumstances that spawned competing Jewish approaches to its own “divine” law and the “non-divine” law of others, including that of the modern secular state of Israel.

Written by an international team of distinguished scholars, the volume’s fourteen chapters examine common themes outlined in the Introduction. Part I focuses on the emergence and development of law as an essential element of religious expression in biblical Israel and classical Judaism through the medieval period. Part II considers the ramifications for the law arising from political emancipation and the invention of Judaism as a “religion” in the modern period. Part III traces the historical and ideological processes leading to the current configuration of religion and state in modern Israel, and analyzes specific conflicts between religious law and state law.

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*(continued after the Index)*

# The Cambridge Companion to Judaism and Law

Edited by

CHRISTINE HAYES



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## Acknowledgments

In crafting the original plan for this volume, I envisaged a series of chapters ranging from biblical antiquity to the modern state of Israel, united by a common exploration of the concept of law as a vehicle for the divine-human relationship in Judaism, and of challenges to that concept arising from within Judaism and from various political and socio-historical realities. Hoping for a sustained and thorough-going narrative incorporating conceptual and historical approaches, I charted the precise terrain to be covered in each chapter. To my delight, it was not difficult to identify contributors who shared my enthusiasm for the project, and I couldn't be more pleased with the result: a stunning, collaborative effort by eminent scholars working with common purpose across a spectrum of disciplines, areas of specialty, and time periods to produce a cohesive and tightly interconnected volume that is greater than the sum of its parts.

I owe special thanks to the patient team at Cambridge University Press who allowed this project to take as long as it needed to take. I benefited from the kind attention and able assistance of a succession of editors and editorial assistants including Laura Morris, Beatrice Rehl, Alexandra Poreda and Isabella Vitti. I was fortunate to have the gloriously detail-oriented Jacqueline French as copy-editor. The logistics of publication were handled by Christina Sarigiannidou and Hannah Hiscock, with Ross Stewart carrying the project over the finish line.

It is wonderfully fitting that this volume on *Judaism and Law* reached completion on the eve of Simhat Torah – a holiday dedicated to joyful celebration in the Torah.

*Christine Hayes*  
October 23, 2016