

THE JEWISH DIETARY LAWS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

In *The Jewish Dietary Laws in the Ancient World* Jordan D. Rosenblum explores how cultures critique and defend their religious food practices. In particular he focuses on how ancient Jews defended the kosher laws, or *kashrut*, and how ancient Greeks, Romans, and early Christians critiqued these practices. As the kosher laws are first encountered in the Hebrew Bible, this study is rooted in ancient biblical interpretation. Rosenblum explores how commentators in antiquity understood, applied, altered, innovated upon, and contemporized biblical dietary regulations. He shows that these differing interpretations do not exist within a vacuum; rather, they are informed by a variety of motives, including theological, moral, political, social, and financial considerations. In analyzing these ancient conversations about culture and cuisine, he dissects three rhetorical strategies deployed when justifying various interpretations of ancient Jewish dietary regulations: reason, revelation, and allegory. Finally, Rosenblum reflects upon wider, contemporary debates about food ethics.

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For Josiah

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Finally, this book is dedicated to our son Josiah Henry Rosenblum. Josiah was born as I completed the first draft of this book. At its heart, this book explores how people justify the way they eat. Your mother and I look forward to explaining to you why we eat the way we do. In the meantime, we look forward to more sleep.

Abbreviations

rQapGen	Genesis Apocryphon
11QT ^a	Temple Scroll ^a
AB	Anchor Bible
<i>ANF</i>	<i>Ante-Nicene Fathers</i>
<i>b.</i>	Babylonian Talmud (<i>Bavli</i>)
<i>b.</i>	<i>ben/bar</i> (“son” in Hebrew/Aramaic)
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CD</i>	<i>Damascus Document</i> (Cairo Genizah copy)
Chr	Chronicles
Col	Colossians
Cor	Corinthians
Dan	Daniel
Deut	Deuteronomy
Eccl	Ecclesiastes
Esth	Esther
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
Exod	Exodus
Ezek	Ezekiel
Gal	Galatians
Gen	Genesis
<i>GLAJJ</i>	<i>Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism</i>
Hos	Hosea
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
Isa	Isaiah
<i>JAAR</i>	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JAJS	Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplement Series
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
Jer	Jeremiah
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>

List of Abbreviations

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<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JSIJ</i>	<i>Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSOTSup</i>	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
<i>JSQ</i>	<i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i>
Kgs	Kings
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
Lev	Leviticus
<i>m.</i>	<i>Mishnah</i>
Matt	Matthew
<i>NPNF</i>	<i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i>
<i>NRSV</i>	<i>New Revised Standard Version</i>
Num	Numbers
<i>OTL</i>	<i>Old Testament Library</i>
<i>OTP</i>	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i>
PGM	<i>Papyri Graecae Magicae</i> (Greek Magical Papyri)
Prov	Proverbs
Ps	Psalms
R.	Rabbi
Rom	Romans
Sam	Samuel
<i>SJLA</i>	<i>Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity</i>
Song	Song of Songs
<i>t.</i>	<i>Tosefta</i>
Tim	Timothy
TSAJ	Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism
<i>y.</i>	Jerusalem Talmud (Yerushalmi)
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>