

Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments page ix

Translations and Abbreviations xi

Introduction I

- The Second Sophistic 2
- Schools of Rhetoric: From Gaza to the Galilee and from Antioch to Elusa 6
- Rabbinic Attitudes to Greek Language and Wisdom 10
- Previous Scholarship and Methodology 15
- Philosophy and Rhetoric, Truth and Language 23
- On Rhetorical Arrangement 35
- Outline of the Book 39

1 Rabbis as Orators: The Setting and Structure

- of Rabbinic Homilies** 41
 - The Setting of Rabbinic Declamation: The Sabbath Sermon 43
 - The Structure of Rabbinic Declamation: The Proem Form 48
 - The Yelamdenu Form 57
 - The Passover Haggadah 68
 - Conclusion 73

2 Rabbis as Instructors: Rhetorical Arrangement and Reasoning in the Yerushalmi 78

- The Setting of Rabbinic Instruction 78
- Rabban Gamaliel's Nonconformity 84
- Source-Critical Analysis 86
- Rhetorical Analysis 95
- Conclusion 104

3 The Agonistic Bavli: Greco-Roman Rhetoric in Sasanian Persia 106

- Greco-Roman Rhetoric in Sasanian Persia 108

viii *Contents*

	Must a Father Feed His Daughter?	114
	Reading Four Portions in Second Adar	122
	Leaven Owned on Passover	124
	Further Examples	127
4	Progymnasmata and Controversiae in Rabbinic Literature	131
	Progymnasmata	133
	Controversiae and Hypotheticals	150
	Controversiae and the <i>Ta Shema</i> Form	163
	Rabbinic Paideia	170
5	Talmudic Topoi: Rhetoric and the Hermeneutical Methods of Midrash	174
	Midrashic Hermeneutics as Rhetorical Topoi	175
	Midrashic Hermeneutics as Anti-Sectarian Polemics	183
	The Skeptical Pushback	190
	<i>Qal va-ḥomer</i>	196
	<i>Gezerah Shavah</i>	207
	Conclusion	212
6	The Role of Lawyers in Roman and Rabbinic Courts	216
	Adversarial and Inquisitorial Courts	217
	The Roman Court System	221
	The Rabbinic Court System	222
	Conclusion	238
7	Why Are There Lawyers in Heaven?	240
	Heavenly Advocates in the Bible and Second Temple Literature	242
	Heavenly Advocates in Rabbinic Literature	247
	Plato's Heavenly Court	262
	Conclusion: Rabbinic versus Christian Approaches to Rhetoric	264
	The Rabbis and Classical Rhetoric	266
	Christianity and Classical Rhetoric	268
	Forty-Nine Ways: On Truth and Interpretation	277
	<i>Bibliography</i>	288
	<i>Index of Sources</i>	319
	<i>Index of Names and Subjects</i>	329