Contents

vii

ix

xi

111

Abbreviations

Preface and Acknowledgments

Illustrations

1 тенпе	хıı
1. Continuity and Change in Rabbinic Judaism	1
Commitment to the Bible—Freedom of Interpretation • Interpretation an Ideal • The Sources • From Second Temple Judaism to Rabbinic Jism • The Revelation at Sinai • Divine Revelation and Human Interpretion • Oral Torah • Jewish Law and Divine Truth • Seventy Faces of Torah • Study as Fellowship with God	uda- reta-
2. Tradition in the Making—The Mishnah and the Talmuds	39
The Mishnah • The Tosefta • The Talmuds • Rabbinic Literature Source for Historical Reconstruction	as a
3. Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation—Midrash	69
Assumptions about the Biblical Text • Exegesis or Ideology? • Para	ables

as Biblical Interpretation • Midrash and Rabbinic Law • Collections of Midrash • The Binding of Isaac—Theology and Biblical Interpretation

Jesus—A First-Century Jewish Torah Teacher • The Parables of Jesus and the Rabbis • Parables and Polemics • Paul—A First-Century Jewish Theologian • Paul and Jewish Biblical Interpretation • Non-Jews and the Torah—Different Approaches • The Non-Jew in Early Rabbinic Judaism

4. The Jewish Character of the Early Jesus Movement

vi Contents

5. Continuity and Change in Contemporary Judaism	145
--	-----

Movements within Contemporary Judaism • Revelation and Religious Authority in Contemporary Judaism • A Biblical Prohibition in Conflict with Modern Knowledge and Moral Sensibilities • When Bible and Tradition Offer No Guidance • The Legacy of Classical Rabbinic Judaism

Glossary	189
Bibliography	192
Index of Ancient Sources	204
Index of Names and Subjects	209