

WHAT THE MISHNAH RECORDS ABOUT GAMALIEL

1. PE'AH THE CORNERS OF THE FIELD

Gifts of cereal to the poor should be no less than 1/60 according to old law that R Gamaliel and R Simeon went to trouble to detail its origins through a scribe called Nahum –a tradition supposed to come from R Measha the Zugot(the pair of leaders of old synagogue)who got it from the prophets as **Halakah** (the way to walk) who took it from **Moses**(who incidentally was never on the land). Whilst this is policy the practice is to determine according to the size of the field its yield and the number of the poor. They decided if there were 2 threshing floors there were two PE'OTS.

2. PE'OT SERCHES The poor should search at least three times daily for corn in a field to avoid laziness and gain help-*Gamaliel*. Sometimes “goift corn” was roped off by the owner of a field.

3. SHABBAT If a non-Jew sets something up specifically for a Jew on Shabbat it is wrong to use it. But *Gamaliel* disembarked from a ship on a plank set up by a Gentile for Gentiles so that was legal

4. PESHAHIM(Passover roast) A spit or grill would not be used instead of direct fire because it absorbs besides radiating unlike direct fire. **Gamaliel** changed this because he said derivative heat is equal to direct heat. He applied a quasi scientific principle.

5. PESAHHIM On Passover Gamaliel had 3 obligations for a Jew(1) Pesah-say Hallelujah and praise honour and extol with a lamb (2)Matzah-the bread which is of course hidden and perforated(cf Christ our Passover) (3)Maror the bitter herbs-included lettuce.

Gamaliel's special contribution was "A man must think of himself AS IF he came out of Egypt-as if God did that FOR ME. Cf implications for the cross.

(6) YOMA atonement- Joshua ben Gamla-oer Gamaliel was third from last high priest serving from 35CE to 65 CE and he directed there be two caskets for the lots cast for the scapegoat-and that they be made of gold. The goat went just 3 miles south in the wilderness and probably fell over the hills to its death. It was a "sin offering" but was by R Ishmael called "an offering to the Lord"-his view did not prevail-it was a "sin offering" by common affirmation.It had a thread around its neck (red)-colour of judgment and of sin. Lots were in H Priests hand and assistant got him to raise one-"for the Lord" and the other "For Azazel" (Hell" or "Hard est of mountains".)

7.TA'ANIT atonement Gamaliel's son said it was the happiest day -when daughters of Jerusalem used to go out in white to the vineyards and dance. The women

sang “Don’t set your eyes on beauty but family background for gracwe is deceitful and besauty in vain but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised”.

7. KETUVOT-betroathal A woman alledges that after betroathal she was raped. Gamaliel said “Believe her=why destroy a potentially good marriage and no proof is fullproof and her written.

8.GITTIN –a GET is divorce paper. It had to be written and signed in the presence of a man gaining a divorce “overseas” or “at home”. The danger of forgery was why Gamaliel said not only overseas but even Rekem in East and Hagar in South or as Eliezer said Lydda which in those days was outside Palestine. Signed and written overseas because if might be a forgery.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

SHEKLIM-temple tax. There was a secret chamber in which the richy might secretly deposit and from which the poor might secretly go for help.

YOMA atonement-Bullock to be sacrificed –its head towards the south –its face west to the holy place. The priest stood on the east of the beast also facing west and placed his hands on its head as it stood between him and the holy place.

YOMA atonement- How do we know the scapegoat reached the wilderness. A. By staging posts and flags passing the message back over 3 miles. B. By a man

walking a mile and a mile back and then wait enough time for a third mile. C. By crimson thread in sanctuary turning white (cf Isaiah 1.18-which Jews tell us is missing from many MSS because more recent scholars were less superstitious or because a more miracle minded generation added it earlier.)

TA'ANIT fast days Honi the circle maker was asked to pray for rain. He drew a circle and said "O creator of the world thy children have turned to me for they think I am intimate with thee. I swear by Thy great name that I shall not move from this place until Thou have mercy on Thy children". Raindrops fell. He told them to go to see if the STONE OF LOST AND FOUND has disappeared"-that stone was where people retrieved what was lost and brought what they found.

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