

ISRAEL DIASPORA

relationship In Talmudic time

Exile as punishment

Musaf for Festivals

“Because of our transgressions we were exiled from the Holy Land and banished from its borders. We cannot therefore make our festivals pilgrimages before thee, nor can we fulfil our obligations to worship in the great Holy Temple dedicated unto thee...”

Psikta D’Rav Cabana 15:1

As with Adam, said God, so with his children: I brought them into the Land of Israel, I gave them commands, but they transgressed My commands. Thereupon I condemned them to separation, condemned them to banishment, and utter a lament over them...

Diaspora as a mix blessing

Beresbit Raba 33:6

“And he sent forth a dove... but the dove found no rest...”: R. Judah b. Nachman said in the name of Resh Lakish: Had it found a place of rest, it would not have returned. Similarly, “she dwelleth among the nations, she findeth no rest (Lam 1:3): but had she [the nation] found rest, they would not have returned [to God], again, “*and among these nations shalt thou have no repose, and there shall be no rest for the sole of thy foot*” (Deut 28:65): but had they found it, they would not have returned.

Diaspora as a blessing

Josephus Antiquity 4:11

You shall retain that land to which he hath sent you, and it shall ever be under the command of your children; and both all the earth, as well as the sea, shall be filled with your glory: and you shall be sufficiently numerous to supply the world in general, and every region of it in particular, with inhabitants out of Your stock. However, o blessed, army! wonder that you are become so many from one father: and truly, the land of Canaan can now hold you, as being yet; comparatively few; but know ye that, the whole world is proposed to be your place of habitation forever. The multitude of your posterity shall live as well in the islands as on the continent, and that more in number than are stars of heaven. And, when you are become so many, God will not relinquish the care of you, but will afford you an abundance of all good things in times of peace, with victory and dominion in times of war.

Olim in Eretz Israel

Yerushalmi B'rachot 2:8 5C

[The young] Kahana was a prodigy (in rabbinic learning). [According to legend R. Yohana caused Kahana to die. Yohanan then prayed and he was resurrected. Cf. Rashi on B.Q, 117b] When he arrived here (in the Land of Israel) a scoffer saw him and said to him, "What did you hear up in heaven? He said to him, "Your fate is sealed." And so it was. He died. Another met him and said, "What did you hear up in He said to him, "Your fate is sealed." And so it was. He [Kahana] said, "What is this? I came here to [gain] merit [and study Torah]. And now I have sinned. Did I come here to kill the inhabitants of the Land of Israel? I must go back to whence I came." He went before R. Yohanan. He said to him, "Where should a person go whose mother mocks him and whose stepmother honours him?" He said to him, "He should go to whomever honors him." So Kahana went back (o [Babytonia] whence he came. They came and told R. Yohanan, "Behold Kaliaha has gone off to Babyloiiia." He said, "How could he go without asking permission?"

They said to him, "From the words you spoke to him, he took it that he had permission [to go back to Babytonia]."

The self image of the Babylonian Diaspora

Bavli Sukkah 20

Resh Laki'sh said. May I be ail expiation for R. Hiyya and his sons. ' For in ancient times when the Torah was forgotten from Israel, Ezra came up from Babylon and established it. (Some of) it was again forgotten and Hillel the Babylonian came up and established it. Yet again was [some of] it forgotten, and R. Hi'yya and his sons came up and established it.

Bavli Kiddushin 39:b

R. Eleazdr said: Ezra did not go up from Babylon until he made it like pure sifted flour: then he went up. Rab Juclah said in Samuel's name: All countries are as dough in comparison with Palestine, and Palestine is as dough relative to Babylon.

Thanchuma Noah 3

Therefore the Holy One, blessed be He, established two Yeshivot for Israel, so that they would be discussing Torah day and night, and would come together from all their locations twice a year—in Adar and Etul— and engage in the 'wars of Torah' until they determine the correct law... Those two yeshivot have seen neither captivity nor persecution nor despoilment. Neither Greece nor Edom (Rome) has ruled over them, for twelve years before the destruction of Jerusalem the Holy One, blessed be He, removed them from Jerusalem with their Torah and learning... [He] acted righteously with Israel in that He had (he exile of Yekhonia (Jehoiachin) precede (he exile of Zidkiyah (Zedekiah), in order that the Oral Torah not be forgotten by them. And they (the Yeshivot) have dwelt in Babytonia with their Torah from that time until now...

Diaspora as a universal mission

Shir HaShirim Raba 1:3

R. Yochanan applied the verse to our father Abraham, when God said to him, "get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred" (Gen. 7:1), what did he resemble? A phial of scent put away in the corner, so that it gives off no smell, till someone comes and moves it from its place, when it's odour begins to escape. So the Holy One, blessed be He, said to Abraham: Abraham, many good deeds hast thou performed; many precepts hast thou kept. Become a wondered on the earth and thy name will become great in my world.