

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	v
INTRODUCTION	xi
Book XIV and the Treatises it Comprises	
Scriptural Basis	
Book XIV and the Mishnah	
Points of Special Interest	
The Translation	
THE BOOK OF JUDGES	I
TREATISE ONE: SANHEDRIN	3
Chapter 1. Establishment of courts in every city and every district in Palestine. Number of courts. The Great Sanhedrin, Small Sanhedrins, and courts-of-three. Localities entitled to a Small Sanhedrin	5
Chapter 2. Qualifications requisite for membership in the Sanhedrin, the Great or a Small Sanhedrin, and in a court-of-three. Appointment and promotion of judges. The status of one well-qualified judge	7
Chapter 3. Hours during which sessions are held. Reverential behavior required of judge. A judge who is unfit for office or procures the office by buying it	10
Chapter 4. Ordination. How, by whom, and where it is to be conferred. Partial authorization. Authorization for a limited period. Revival of ordination	13
Chapter 5. Jurisdiction of each court in the judicial system. Cases involving fines. Cases that may be tried outside Palestine	16
Chapter 6. A judge who renders a wrong decision in a noncapital case. A litigant who insists that his case be tried by the Supreme Court	21
Chapter 7. The right of each litigant to choose one of the judges. A litigant who accepts a kinsman, or one who is otherwise ineligible, as witness or judge. A defendant who produces proof or witnesses after judgment has been rendered against him	24
Chapter 8. A majority of one required in a civil suit, a majority of at least two for condemnation in a capital case. Addition of judges in a civil suit	26
Chapter 9. A capital case in which all the members of the Sanhedrin forthwith declare against the accused. Addition of judges in a capital case. No addition of judges in the event the Great Sanhedrin disagree	28

Chapter 10. Each judge to follow his own opinion. Words of encouragement to the defendant in a capital charge. The judge who has argued for the defendant in a capital case. Opinion heard first in a capital charge. A disciple who wishes to argue for or against the accused	29
Chapter 11. The difference in procedure between civil and capital cases. Whether trials are held on Friday or on the eve of a festival	31
Chapter 12. First questions put to witnesses. Warning. Words of admonition to witnesses in a capital case. No delay between verdict and execution	34
Chapter 13. Last attempt to save accused. Witnesses to carry out death penalty. In case one is convicted on a charge of murder. Confession. In case one who escaped after pronouncement of death sentence is captured	36
Chapter 14. Modes of execution. One who is liable to two death penalties. Condemned who offers resistance. Two burial places provided for those executed by the court. When capital cases can be tried	39
Chapter 15. Procedure in carrying out each mode of death. Those to be hanged after execution. Bodies to be buried on the day of execution. Those who die a natural death. Enumeration of those liable to each mode of death	42
Chapters 16-17. Flagellation. Beating for disobedience. Procedure in carrying out penalty of flagellation. Physical strength of offender estimated. Number of stripes inflicted. Rehabilitation of one who has been flogged	44, 47
Chapters 18-19. Negative commands the transgression of which involves the penalty of flogging. Negative commands the transgression of which does not involve this penalty. None to be put to death or flogged on one's own admission. Enumeration of those liable to flogging	50, 53
Chapter 20. Circumstantial evidence. An offense committed under duress. Mercy not to interfere with justice. Favoritism. Prejudging a litigant	60
Chapter 21. Impartiality. Order of procedure in court docket. Giving a hearing to a litigant in the absence of his opponent. Giving a lead to a litigant	63
Chapter 22. In case one of the litigants is a man of violence. Law and arbitration. Wording of the transcript of a decision	66
Chapter 23. A judge indebted to a person for a favor or a courtesy. A suit involving a friend or an enemy	68
Chapter 24. Decision to be based on evidence. In case judge suspects trickery. Judge enjoined to exercise his powers with discretion	71

Chapter 25. Proper attitude of leaders to the people and of the people to their leaders. Messenger of the court. Seasons and days when no court is held	75
Chapter 26. One who curses a judge, the president of the Sanhedrin, the king, a fellow Jew, or oneself. Reviling a scholar. Submitting a suit to a non-Jewish court	78
TREATISE TWO: EVIDENCE	81
Chapter 1. Duty of one in possession of evidence to testify. In case one possessing evidence is a great scholar or the High Priest. Inquiries, queries, and cross-examination	82
Chapter 2. In what respect inquiries and queries differ from cross-examination. In case there are more than two witnesses. Discrepancy in testimony with regard to the day or hour	84
Chapter 3. Biblical law touching witnesses in civil suits. Rabbinical law. Documentary evidence. Testimony examined by the court. Signed evidence. Witnesses who incriminate themselves. Witnesses who maintain they signed a note on trust, a deed of sale after a verbal protest has been entered by the seller, or a sale to which a condition was attached. Evidence in the absence of the defendant	86
Chapter 4. Testimony in a capital case and testimony in a monetary case. Oral testimony of one and written testimony of another in a monetary suit	89
Chapter 5. The evidence of one witness. In case one of several witnesses is found to be a kinsman or otherwise ineligible. Witness as judge	91
Chapter 6. Five ways of confirming a document. In case one of the three meeting to confirm a document dies. In case eligibility of one of the three is challenged	94
Chapter 7. Testifying to the signature of one's kinsman. If one of two witnesses signed on a bond died and there is but one witness besides the surviving signatory to identify the handwriting of the deceased	96
Chapter 8. Witness who identifies his signature but does not recall the transaction. If plaintiff reminds him of it. Documents that can be confirmed without the signatories	98
Chapter 9. Classes ineligible as witnesses. Women, slaves, minors, the mentally deficient, deaf-mutes, and the blind	100
Chapter 10. Transgressors ineligible, some by biblical law, others on rabbinical authority	102
Chapter 11. The status of one who has no knowledge of Scripture, Mishnah, and right conduct. The self-abased. The difference between one who is ineligible by biblical law and one who is ineligible on rabbinical authority	105

Chapter 12. One who has transgressed a negative command without having received warning. Witnesses to make certain accused knew he was transgressing a command. Regaining status of eligibility	107
Chapters 13-14. Kinsmen ineligible as witnesses. Different degrees of kinship. In case kinship is severed. Evidence of one come of age regarding what he saw while he was yet a minor. In case one in possession of evidence concerning another turns robber or becomes latter's son-in-law	110, 113
Chapters 15-16. Evidence from which witnesses may derive benefit	115, 117
Chapter 17. Witnesses who testify to anything they know only at second hand. Admonition in monetary suits. Evidence admitted only if those in possession of it have been asked to act as witnesses	119
Chapter 18. Plotting witnesses. Refuted evidence and contradicted evidence. No previous warning required in case of plotting witnesses. Public announcement	121
Chapter 19. Discussion of subject of plotting witnesses continued	124
Chapter 20. When false witnesses are regarded as plotting witnesses and the law of retaliation is applied to them	127
Chapter 21. Discussion with regard to the law of retaliation continued	130
Chapter 22. Two sets of witnesses who contradict each other. If one of the first and one of the second testify in another case. In the event two notes, one bearing the signatures of one set, and the other the signature of the second, are produced	134
TREATISE THREE: REBELS	137
Chapter 1. Primacy of the Great Sanhedrin. How questions of law were settled when Great Sanhedrin was in existence. Controversy concerning a scriptural law and controversy concerning a rabbinical law	138
Chapter 2. Measures by a Supreme Court that can be overridden by a later Supreme Court and measures that cannot. No decree valid, unless the majority of the people can abide by it. Meaning of the injunction <i>Thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it</i> (Deut. 13: 1)	140
Chapter 3. Defines a rebellious elder and specifies the circumstances under which the penalty of death is meted out to him	143
Chapter 4. Detailed discussion with respect to rebellious elder	146
Chapter 5. One who curses or strikes one's parent. Letting blood for one's father or operating on him. If the parent is thoroughly wicked. In case son is the court attendant	150

Chapter 6. Honoring and revering parents. Length to which these duties are to be carried. Father enjoined not to be too exacting with children. In case the father orders his son to transgress a religious command	154
Chapter 7. Defines a stubborn and rebellious son. Regulation with which death penalty prescribed for him is hedged about. First testimony. Second testimony. Public announcement	157
TREATISE FOUR: MOURNING	163
Chapter 1. Mourning for a deceased kinsman. How long mourning is to be observed. Burial on day of death. When observance of mourning begins	164
Chapter 2. Relatives for whom one is bound to observe mourning. For whom priest must defile himself	166
Chapter 3. A priest and defilement. The High Priest and defilement. <i>Met mišwah</i>	170
Chapter 4. Jewish practice with regard to the dead and their interment. Simplicity at funerals. Procedure followed in burial. One who is in a dying condition. Delaying burial	173
Chapters 5-6. Prohibitions binding during the seven days and during the thirty days (i.e., the twenty-three days following the seven)	176, 180
Chapter 7. Recent information and deferred information. Rules in each case. Part of day is reckoned as full day. In case the High Priest suffers bereavement. In case the king suffers bereavement	182
Chapters 8-9. Rending of garments for parents, for others who are near of kin. Basting and sewing up a rent. Persons other than near of kin for whom rending of garments is obligatory. Calamitous occasions	184, 187
Chapters 10-11. The Sabbath and mourning. The Pilgrim Festivals, New Year, the Day of Atonement, and mourning. Mourning rites and the intermediate days of a festival, Hanukkah, Purim, and the New Moon. In case death of a near of kin occurs during the wedding week or after preparations for the wedding feast have been completed	190, 192
Chapter 12. Funeral services. Halts for the dead. The Mourner's Benediction. The Mourner's Consolation. Funeral services for children	195
Chapter 13. Comforting mourners. Procedure. Meal of comfort. Excessive grief. Rule to be followed	197
Chapter 14. Duties characterized as deeds of loving kindness performed in person. Duties to non-Jews. Transferring remains from one grave to another. Disposition of implements of king or <i>Nasi</i> who died. Scholars' meetings	200

TREATISE FIVE: KINGS AND WARS	205
Chapter 1. Appointment of a king. Approval of the Supreme Court and prophet required. Who is eligible to serve as king. Kingship and all offices hereditary	207
Chapter 2. Bearing of people toward king. Rules king is to observe	210
Chapter 3. The king to write for himself a scroll of the Law on ascending throne. Restrictions designed to curb pride, passion, and power of kings. Kings of the House of David and kings descended from other tribes. Jurisdiction of king	212
Chapter 4. The rights, prerogatives, and duties of the king	214
Chapter 5. War for a religious cause and an optional war. Settling in Egypt. Importance of Palestine. Importance of Babylon	217
Chapter 6. Peace offer to the enemy. Proclamation by Joshua to the inhabitants of Canaan. Cutting down fruit-bearing trees. Other wanton destruction	220
Chapter 7. Priest anointed for war. Regulations relating to discharge from the army. Those who do not have to report for service	224
Chapter 8. The invading army. The law of the captive woman. Non-Jews and the Torah and commandments. The righteous among non-Jews	228
Chapter 9. The seven Noahide commandments and their implications	230
Chapter 10. Discussion regarding Noahide commandments continued. Proper attitude toward resident aliens and heathens	234
Chapter 11. The Messiah. What he will achieve. Messianic belief an integral part of Judaism. How identity of Messiah will be known	238
Chapter 12. The Messianic age. Deliverance to Israel. Acceptance of the true religion. Speculation on details. Calculating the end. Character of the Messianic age	240
NOTES	245
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	311
GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS	313
INDEX	321