

Quotations from Ari Bergmann's HLS talk, "Rabbi Yitzhak Isaac Halevy and the Development of the Oral Tradition in *Dorot ha-Rishonim*"

1. "The Jews, however, have no new Torah and no new Judaism. What was from the earliest times is what we see in the latest times, and what is found in Scripture is what is found in later homiletics, and the behavior of Elkana, Samuel and David was no different from the behavior of all Israel, until the end of the Second Temple Period and is identical with what we have inherited in the tradition and what was recorded in the Mishnah."—Y.I. Halevy, *Dorot ha-Rishonim*, vol. 6 (*Tekufat ha-Mikra*), 168, quoted in Sariel, "A Historian from the World of Torah," 52.
2. "[I]t does not matter for our sacred belief in the Oral Torah whether the Mishnah was sealed in earlier or later generations, and similarly for the Talmud."—Rav Kook, letter to Y.I. Halevy, in Kook, *Iggerot hare'iyah*, 1:193-194 (letter 149).
3. "Whatever is already mentioned in the Babylonian Talmud is binding on all Israel. And every city and country is bound to observe all the customs observed by the sages of the Gemara, promulgate their decrees, and uphold their institutions, on the ground that all the customs, decrees, and institutions mentioned in the Talmud received assent of all Israel, and those sages who instituted the ordinances, issued the decrees, introduced the customs, gave the decisions, and taught that a certain rule was correct, constituted the total body or the majority of Israel's men."—Moses Maimonides, *Mishneh Torah*, in *A Maimonides Reader*, trans. and ed. Isadore Twersky, Library of Jewish Studies (New York: Behrman, 1972), 38.
4. [Maimonides] "views the halakhic process as cumulative, each generation adding substantive norms derived by their own reasoning to the given, revealed body of knowledge."—Moshe Halbertal, *People of the Book: Canon, Meaning, and Authority* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 59.