

‘From Sacrifice to Divine Law: The formation of the Halakhic Religion of Jews under the Roman Empire.’

In terms of the perspective of religion, Jews changed its focus from the religion of sacrifice to the religion of law and/or covenant. After the two destructive wars against Roman Empire, Jews have established the identification as a religion of divine law. It has the historical significance as a forerunner of the Islamic religion of Sharia. However, it did not mean that they denounced the sacrifice as superstitious or obsolete. On the contrary the sages endeavored to give theological interpretations of the lack of temple sacrifice. Some theories will be analyzed including the theory of substitution by the deed of loving-kindness and the theory of prayer as the sacrifice of the heart and also reasons will be considered of the attitudes of the Romans that they may have shown mercy to Jews to survive with their own way of life after the wars. (144words)

Related literature

- Gedalya Alon, *The Jews in the Land of Israel*, Harvard UP 1996.
- E. Mary Smallwood, *The Jews under Roman Rule*, E.J.Brill, 1976.
- Jonathan P. Berkey, *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East 600-1800*, Cambridge UP 2003