

ABSTRACT

TANNAITIC HALAKHIC AND AGGADIC METHODOLOGY

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This article, and the project of which it is part, examines the relationships between Tannaitic Halakhic and Aggadic methodology. Review of scholarly history reveals that this question has hardly ever been asked. Classical studies discussed Halakha and Aggada together without distinction, while more recent research discusses each field separately. Either way, it is hard to find comparative studies of the two fields. In this article we will present two detailed comparisons of midrashic techniques, and the assumptions behind them, as manifested in two terms used in both Halakha and Aggada. Each of these terms represents a central area of midrashic hermeneutics. The first term (*vehalo kvar ne'emar*) is connected to the way difficulties in and contradictions between verses are presented, while the second term (*magid*) is related to biblical exegesis and the boundaries of midrashic engagement with the biblical text. The terminological discussion will thus allow us to reexamine the relations between exegetical practices and the hermeneutic assumptions of Halakha and Aggada.