

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	V
Abbreviations.....	IX
Introduction.....	1
Chapter 1: The Problem of the Original Text of the <i>Birkat haMinim</i>	9
The Earliest Evidence	9
<i>Birkat haMinim</i> in the Earliest Prayer Books and in the Cairo Genizah	13
Traces of Versions of <i>Birkat haMinim</i> in the Early <i>Piyyutim</i>	29
The Influence of the Karaites on the Genizah Texts	39
The Influence of the Term <i>Notzrim</i> on the Early Versions of the Blessing....	48
The Combination ‘Minim and Apostates [<i>Meshumadim</i>] etc.’ and its Influence on the Text of <i>Birkat haMinim</i>	62
Summary and Proposed Partial Archetype/Prototype.....	70
Chapter 2: The Story of the Writing of <i>Birkat haMinim</i> , its Date and its Context	73
Constructing <i>Birkat haMinim</i>	73
Shemuel haQatan	90
The Question of the Composition of <i>Birkat haMinim</i> in Relation to the Shemoneh Esreh Prayer	99
Establishing the Historical Framework.....	125
Summary	131
Chapter 3: At Whom was <i>Birkat haMinim</i> Aimed?.....	133
The Objects of <i>Birkat haMinim</i>	133
The ‘Kingdom of Arrogance’ and the Roman Empire.....	135
The Kingdom of Arrogance and the Christian Kingdom of Heaven	148
The <i>Minim</i> : Sources, Etymology and Time-Frame.....	164
<i>Minim</i> and <i>Minut</i> in the Mishnah: Characterisation of the Main Source	183

Chapter 4: The Struggle against the <i>Minim</i> : Warnings and Bans	187
Sources for Warnings and Bans	187
Bans in the Mishnah.....	190
Tannaitic Bans in Post-Mishnaic Literature.....	230
Books of <i>Minim</i>	250
‘Remove thy way far from her:’ This is <i>Minut</i>	277
Chapter 5: The <i>Minim</i> say: There are Many Powers in Heaven	297
Sources for Many Powers in Heaven.....	297
‘Adam was a <i>min</i> :’ The Babylonian Talmud as Test Case	301
Thrones of Judgment and Kingship	315
Late Anti-Gnostic Claims in the Babylonian Talmud.....	324
‘The Good (pl.) shall bless thee!’ This is the way of <i>minut</i> : Allusions in the Mishnah to Two Powers.....	329
Two Powers in the <i>Midrashei Halakhah</i>	336
Two Powers in <i>Midrashei Aggadah</i>	340
Summary of the Chapter	345
Chapter 6: The Christian Evidence	348
General Summary and Conclusions.....	360
Appendix I: The Original Hebrew Versions of <i>Birkat haMinim</i>	371
Appendix II: The Original Hebrew Versions of the <i>Piyyutim</i>	374
Bibliography	377
Index of Sources	388
General Index.....	406