

4Q394 (4QMMT^a), 4QHalakhic Letter^a

Frgs. 1 - 2 These fragments, published as 4Q394 1-2 i-v (4QMMT A 1-18), are in fact a different manuscript, 4Q327

Frgs. 3 - 7 col. i (= 4Q395; 4QMMT A 19 - 21; B 1 - 16) ¹ [The (twenty-)eighth of it] a sabbath. In addi[tion to] it, Su[n]day, Monday and Tuesday] ² [are to be ad]ded. And the year is complete, three hundred and si[xty-four] ³ days. *Vacat* ⁴ These are some of our regulations [...] which [...] ⁵ [the] works which we [...] they [a]ll concern [...] ⁶ and purity of [...] ... [And concerning the offering of the wh]eat of the [Gentiles which they ...] ⁷ and let their [...] touch it [...] and they de[fi]le it: you shall not eat] ⁸ of the wheat of [the Gen]tiles, [and it shall not] be brought into the temple. [And concerning the sacrifice of the sin-offering] ⁹ which they cook in vessels [of bronze ...] ¹⁰ the flesh of their sacrifices and [...] in the courtyard [...] ¹¹ with the broth of their sacrifices. And concerning the sacrifice of the Gentiles: [...] they sacrifice] ¹² to the [...] it is [li]ke who whored with him. [And also concerning the cereal-offering of the sacrifice of] ¹³ the pea[ce-offerings], which they leave over from one day to another, and also [...] ¹⁴ that the cere[al]offering should be eaten] with the fats and the meat on the day of [their] sacri[fi]ce, for] ¹⁵ the priest[s] should oversee in this matter in such a way that [they] d[o] not ¹⁶ lead the people into sin. *Vacat* And also in what pertains to the purity of the heifer of the sin-offering: ¹⁷ that whoever slaughters it and whoever burns it and whoever collects its ash and whoever sprinkles the [water of] ¹⁸ purification, *Vacat* all these ought to be pure at sun[set], ¹⁹ so that a pure man sprinkles the impure. For the sons of

Frgs. 3 - 7 col. ii (= 4Q395; 4Q397 3; 4QMMT B 17 - 20; 26 - 32) ¹ [Aaron] should [...] ² [concerning hi]des of catt[le ...] ³ their [hides] vessels [...] ⁴ [...] to the temp[le ...] ⁵⁻¹² [...] ¹³ the pr[iest]s ought [to keep] wa[tch over all these th]ings [so that they do not] ¹⁴ lead the people into sin. [And concer]ning what is written: [...] ¹⁵ [...] outside the camp a bull, or a sheep or a goat, for [... in the north of the camp.] ¹⁶ And we think that the temple [is the place of the tent of meeting, and Je]rusale[m] ¹⁷ is the camp; and out[side] the camp [is outside of Jerusalem;] it is the camp of ¹⁸ their cities. Outside the ca[mp ...] ... [...] removing the ashes from ¹⁹ [the] altar and bur[ning there the sin-offering, for Jerusalem] is the place which

Frag. 8 col. iii (= 4Q396 i - ii; 4Q397 5; 4QMMT B 36 - 50) ⁶ [...] ... [...] ⁷ [...] And concerning the eating, we think that one can eat] the fetus ⁸ [...] so and] the word is written: ⁹ [«a pregnant animal». *Vacat?* And concerning the Ammon]ite and the Moabite ¹⁰ [and the bastard and the one with crushed testicles and one whose penis has been cut off, if these enter] the assembly ¹¹ [...] and] take [wives] ¹² [to become one bone ... impurities. And also] we [thi]nk ¹³ [...] concerning these ¹⁴ [...] that one should not let] them be united [and] make them ¹⁵ [...] ... ¹⁶ [...] some of] the people ¹⁷ [...] associa]ting ¹⁸ [...] from all] uncleanness of [the] male ¹⁹ [and be respectful towards the temple ... And also concer]ning the blind ²⁰ [who cannot see: they should keep themselves from all uncleanness,] and uncleanness of

Frag. 8 col. iv (= 4Q396 ii - iii; 4Q397 6 - 13; 4QMMT B 51 - 66) ¹ [the sin] offering these do not see. *Vacat* ² [And al]so concerning the deaf who have not heard the law [and the pr]ecept and the purity regulation, and have not ³ [h]eard the precepts of Israel, for whoever neither sees nor hears, does not ⁴ [k]now how to behave. But these are approaching the pu[r]ity of the temple. *Vacat* ⁵ [And] also concerning liquid streams: we say that in these there is no ⁶ [pu]rity, and also that liquid streams can not separate impure ⁷ [from] pure, because the liquid of the liquid streams and their vessels is alike, ⁸ the same liquid. And one should not let dogs enter the h[o]ly camp, because ⁹ they might eat some of the [bo]nes from the temp[le with] the flesh on them. For ¹⁰ Jerusalem is the holy camp, it is the place ¹¹ which he has chosen from among all the tribes of [Israel, since] Jerusalem is the head ¹² of the ca[m]ps of Israel. And also concerning the plantati]on of fruit trees [pla]nted ¹³ [in the land of Israel, it is like the first-fruits, it is for the prie]sts. And the tithe of [the cattle] ¹⁴ [and the flocks is for the priests. *Vacat* And also concerning le]pers: w[e] ¹⁵ [say that they should not enter (a place) with ho]ly [purity,] but [in isolation] ¹⁶ [they shall stay outside a house. And also it is written that from the moment he sh]aves [and washes]

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(= 4Q394 3 - 7 i-ii; 4QMMT B 5 - 18) ¹ the sacri[fi]ce of the sin-offering which they cook in vessels of bronze ...] ² in it [the flesh of their sacrifices ...] ³ with [the broth of their sacrifices. And concerning the sacrifice of the Gentiles ...] ⁴ [they] sacrifice [to ...] ⁵ the

sacrifice of the [peace-offerings which they leave over from one day to another, and also ...] ⁶ that the ce[real-offering should be e]aten [with the fats and the meat on the day of their sacrifice, for the priests] ⁷ should ov[er]see in [this] matter [in such a way that they do not lead the people into sin.] ⁸ And also in what pertains to the purity of the /heifer/ of the sin-[offering: that whoever slaughters it and whoever burns it and whoever collects] ⁹ [its] as[h] and whoever sprinkles the [water of purification. At sunset, all these] ¹⁰ ought to be pure so th[at a pure man sprinkles the impure. For the sons of] ¹¹ Aaron should [...] ¹² hides of [cattle ...]

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Col. i (= 4Q394 8 iii; 4Q397 5; 4QMMT B 35 - 40) ¹ [...] they do [no]t slaughter in the temple. ² [And concerning pregnant animals: we think that one should not sacrifice t]he mother and the fetus on the same day ³ [... And concerning the eating: w]e think that one can eat the fetus ⁴ [...] so and that the word is written: «a pregnant animal» *Vacat* ⁵ [And concerning the Ammonite and the Moabite and the bastard and the one with crushed testicles and one whose] penis [has been cut] off, if these enter ⁶ [the assembly ... and] t[a]ke [wives to beco]me [one] bone

Col. ii (= 4Q394 8 iii - iv; 4Q397 6 - 13; 4QMMT B 49 - 60) ¹ and to be respectful towards the temple. [And also concerning the blind] who cannot ² see: they should keep themselves from all unclean[ess; and the uncleanness of the sin-offering] they do not ³ see. *Vacat* And also concerning the de[af who have not] heard the law ⁴ and the precept and the purity regulation, and have not heard the prec[epts of] Israel ⁵ for whoever neither sees nor hears, does not [know] how to act. But these ⁶ are approaching the purity of the temple. And also [concerning liquid str]ea[ms, we] ⁷ say that in these there is no [purity. Neither can liquid streams] ⁸ separate impure from pu[re, because the liquid of the liquid streams] ⁹ and their containers is alike, [the same] li[quid. And one should not let] dogs [enter the holy camp,] ¹⁰ because they might eat [some of the bones from the te[mple with the flesh] ¹¹ [on] them. Because Jeru[sai]l[em is the holy camp, it is the place]

Col. iii (= 4Q394 8 iv; 4Q397 6 - 13; 4QMMT B 61 - 71) ¹ which he has chosen from among all the tribes of I[srael, since Jer]usalem is the head ² [of the cam]ps of Israel.

Vacat And also con[cerning the plan]tation of fruit tree[s] planted ³ in the land of Israel, it is like the first-fruits, it is for the priests. *Vacat* And the tithe of the cattle ⁴ and of the flocks is for the priests. And also concerning lepers: we ⁵ s[ay that] they should [not] enter {the pur} (a place) with hol[y] purity, but [in isolation] ⁶ [they shall stay outside a house. And] also it is written that {on} /from/ the moment he shaves and washes [he should] stay outside ⁷ [his tent for seven d]ays. But now, even when they are still unclean ⁸ [lepers approach (a place) wi]th holy purity, the house. And you know ⁹ [...] and it is taken away from him, must bring {it} ¹⁰ [a sin-offering. And concerning him who acts offensively it is wri]tten that he is a slanderer and a blasp[he]mer. ¹¹ [And also: when they have the uncleanness of leprosy] one should not allow them to eat any of the ho[l]ly things

Col. iv (= 4Q397 6 - 13; 4QMMT B 72 - 82) ¹ until the sun sets on the eighth day. And concerning [the uncleanness of the corpse of] ² a man: we say that every bone, [whether stripped of flesh] ³ or complete, is subject to the law concerning a dead or murder[ed] person. *Vacat* ⁴ And concerning the fornications carried out in the midst of the people: they are me[mbers of ...] ⁵ (of) holiness, as it is written: «Holy is Israel». And concerning the [pure] an[imal] ⁶ it is written that he shall not let two species mate; and concerning clot[hing, that no] ⁷ materials are to be mixed; and he will not sow his field or [his] vi[neyard with two species] ⁸ [be]cause they are holy. But the sons of Aaron are the ho[l]iest of the holy] ⁹ [and y]ou know that a part of the priests and of the [people mingle] ¹⁰ [and they] unite with each other and defile the [holy] seed [and also] ¹¹ their (own) [seed] with fornications, be[cause ...]

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Frag. 3 (= 4Q394 3 - 7 ii; 4QMMT B 26 - 34) ¹ [... should keep watch over] all [these] thing[s ...] ² [... in the nor]th of the camp. [...] ³ [... and Jerusalem i]s the camp; and outside the [camp ...] ⁴ [...] ... [and remo]ving [the ashes from the altar ...] ⁵ [... the place which he chose from among] all the tr[ibes of Israel ...] ⁶ [...] ... [...]

Frag. 5 (= 4Q394 8 iii; 4Q396 i; 4QMMT B 39 - 48) ¹ [And concerning the Ammonite and the Moabite and] the bastard and the one with cr[ushed testicles and one whose penis has been cut off, if these enter the assembly ...] ² [and take wives to beco]me one bone

[...] ³ [...] impurities. And also [we] think [...] concerning these [...] ⁴ [...] that one should not let them be united and mak[e them ...] ⁵ [...] some of the people [...] ⁶ [...] from all un[cleanness of the male ...]

Frgs. 6 - 13 (= 4Q394 8 iv; 4Q396 ii - iv; 4QMMT B 56 - 81) ¹ [We say that in these there is no purity. Neither can liquid streams separate] impure from pu[re] ² [because the liquid of the liquid streams and their containers is alike, the same liquid. And one should not let] dogs [enter the h]oly [camp] ³ [because they might eat some of the b]ones from the te[m]ple with] the flesh o[n them. Because Jerusalem is the] holy camp, i[t is] ⁴ [the place which He has chosen] from among all [the tribes of] Israel, since Je[rusalem] is [the head of the camps of Israel.] And also concerning the planta[tion of] ⁵ [fruit trees planted in the land of Israe]l, it is like the first-fruits, [it is for the priests. And the tithe of the cattle] and the flo[cks] is [for] the priests. ⁶ [And also concerning lepers: we say that they should not enter (a place) with holy purity, but in isolation] they [shall] stay ⁷ [outside a house. And al]so is it wr[itten] that from the moment he shav]es and [washes he shall sta]y outsi[de his tent for seven days. But now] ⁸ [even when they are still uncl]ean le[pers approach (a place) with hol]y purity, the house. [And you know ...] ⁹ [... and it is taken aw]ay from him, [must bring] a sin-offering. And con[cerning him who acts offensively it is written that h]e is a sl[anderer and a] blasph[emer.] ¹⁰ [And also: when they have the un]cleanness of le[prosy one should not] allow them to eat [any of the holy things until the sun sets on the] eig[hth] day. And concerning] ¹¹ [the uncleaness of a corpse] of a man we s[a]y that every [bone, whether stripped of flesh or complete is subject to the l]aw concerning a dead or murde[red person.] ¹² And concerning the fornications ca[rr]ied out in the midst of the peop[le: they are members of ... holiness,] as it is written: «Holy is [Israel].» ¹³ [And concerning the pu]re [animal], it is written that he shall n[ot] let [two species] mate; [and concerning clothing, that no] materials [are to be mixed;] and he will n[ot sow] ¹⁴ [his field or his vineyard with two speci]es be[ca]use th[ey are holy. But the sons of Aaron are the holiest of the holy, and y]ou kn[ow] ¹⁵ [...] ... [...]

Frgs. 14 - 21 (= 4Q398 14 - 17 i; 4QMMT C 1 - 17) ¹ [...] ... [...] ² [...] ... [...] who comes [...] ³ and who ... [...] will be ... [...] ⁴ And concerning the wom[en ...] and the disloyalty [...] ⁵ for in these matters [...] because of] violence and fornication [many] ⁶ places have been ruined. [And also] it is writ[ten in the book of Moses:] you shall [no]t bring an abomination in[to your house for] ⁷ abomination is an odious thing. [And you

know that] we have segregated ourselves from the multitude of the peop[le ...] ⁸ [and] from mingling in these affairs, and from associating wi[th them] in these things. And you k[now that there is not] ⁹ to be found in our actions disloyalty or deceit or evil, for concerning [these things] we give [...] ¹⁰ to you we have [written] that you must understand the book of Moses [and] the book[s of the pr]ophets and Davi[d ...] ¹¹ [the annals of] each generation. And in the book is written [...] ... not ¹² [... and the former times ...] ... And further it is written that [you shall stray] from the pa[t]h and evil will encounter [you]. And it is writ[ten: and it shall happen] ¹³ [when a]ll [these] thing[s shall befall you at the e]nd of days, the bles[sing and] the curse ¹⁴ [then you shall take it to] your [heart] and will turn [to him with a]ll your heart and with [a]ll [your] soul at the end [of time] ¹⁵ [And it is written in the book] of Moses and in the b[ook of the prophet]s, that there will come [...] ... [...] ¹⁶ [...] ... [...] ... [...]

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Frag. 11 - 13 (= 4QMMT C 18 - 24) ¹ [the bles]sing[s ...] ... [...] in the days of Solomon the son of David and also the curses ² [which] came in the days of [Jer]oboam son of Nebat and up to the ex[i]le of Jerusalem and of Zedekiah, king of Juda[h] ³ [that] he should bring them in [...]. And we are aware that part of the blessings and curses have occurred ⁴ that are written in the b[ook of Mos]es. And this is the end of days, when they will return in Israel ⁵ to the L[aw ...] and not turn bac[k] and the wicked will act wick[edly] and ... [...] ⁶ and [...] remember the kings of Israe[l] and reflect on their deeds, how whoever of them ⁷ was respecting [the ... La]w was freed from afflictions; and those were the se[ek]ers of the Law

Frag. 14 - 17 col. i (= 4Q397 14 - 17 i; 4QMMT C 9 - 16) ¹ [in our actions disloyalty or deceit or evil, for concerning these things we gi]ve ² [...] we [have written that you must understand the bo]ok of Moses ³ [and the books of the prophets and David and the annals of each] generation [and in] the book is written ⁴ [...] and the former times ... ⁵ [it is writ]ten that you [shall stray from the path and evil will encounter] you. And it is written: and it shall happen when ⁶ [all] these [things shall befall] you at the en[d] of days, the blessing ⁷ [and the] curse, [then you shall take it] to your he[art] and will turn to him with all your heart ⁸ [and with a]ll [your] soul [at the en]d [of time] and ... [...]

Frag. 14 - 17 col. ii (= 4Q399 i-ii; 4QMMT C 25 - 32) ¹ [forgiv]en (their) sins. Remember David, who was a man of the pious ones, [and] he, too, ² [was] freed from many afflictions and was forgiven. And also we have written to you ³ some of the works of the Torah which we think are good for you and for your people, for we s[a]w ⁴ that you have intellect and knowledge of the Law. Reflect on all these matters and seek from him that he may support ⁵ your counsel and keep far from you the evil scheming{s} and the counsel of Belial, ⁶ so that at the end of time, you may rejoice in finding that some of our words are true. ⁷ And it shall be reckoned to you as justice when you do what is upright and good before him, for your good ⁸ and that of Israel.

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Col. i (= 4Q398 14 - 17 ii; 4QMMT C 26 - 27) ¹⁻⁸ [...] ⁹ [Remember David, who was a man of the pious ones, and he, too, was] freed ¹⁰ [from many afflictions and was forgiven. And also] to you we [have written] ¹¹ [some of the precepts of the Law which we think are good] for you *Vacat* For we saw

Col. ii (= 4Q398 14 - 17 ii; 4QMMT 28 - 32) ¹ [that you have intellect and knowledge of the Law. Reflect on all these matters and seek] from him ² [that he may support your counsel and keep far from you the] evil scheming ³ [so that at the end of time, you may rejoice] in finding that some of our words ⁴ [are true. And it shall be reckoned to you as justice when you] do what is upright *Vacat* before him, ⁵ [for your good and that of Is]rael. *Vacat* ⁶⁻¹¹ *Vacat*

[Col. iii 1 - 4 *Vacat*]