**Jewish-Christian Polemics in Talmudic Interpretation of the Book of Daniel**

Despite the considerable potential for the development of a Judeo-Christian polemic on the Book of Daniel, such a polemic is rare within Talmudic literature. Surprisingly, the central themes of this text that were subjects of the debate with Christianity—such as the identity of the four kingdoms and the apocalyptic interpretation of the "Seventy ‘sevens’ (שָׁבֻעִים שִׁבְעִים)" (Dan 9:24)—are not presented in polemic form in Talmudic literature.

The difficulty in determining whether a Talmudic passage constitutes a polemic or not, is widely acknowledged. Alon Goshen-Gottstein has proposed several essential criteria for identifying covert polemics, which I find particularly useful for my research objectives.

The focus of this paper is on polemic passages in Chapters 3 and 7 of the Book of Daniel. The first deals with Nebuchadnezzar’s statement: "I see four men… and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the god" (Dan 3:25) and its subsequent, rephrased version: "Blessed be the God… who hath sent His angel, and delivered His servants" (28). The second relates to the interpretation of the prophecy "like a Son of man [[כְּבַר אֱנָשׁ" (Dan 7:13). Given that this prophecy became one of the principles of Christianity, it is of particular interest to explore the Sages’ attitude towards it.