# Table of Contents

Abstract א-ב

Introduction 1-10

Five Fundamental Distinctions 4

The State of Hebrew Astronomy and Astrology before the Appearance of the Hebrew Encyclopedias 8

Chapter One: The Emergence of Hebrew Encyclopedias in the 13th Century: Historical and Social Background 11-21

Chapter Two: *Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah* 22-87

Introduction 22

*Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah* and al-Biṭrūjī 28

Summary of al-Biṭrūjī’s *On the Principles of Astronomy*: Contents and Judah ben Solomon’s Usage of the Arabic Original 31

Judah ben Solomon’s Introduction to the Section Devoted to al-Biṭrūjī’s Astronomy 32

The Order of the Planets’ Orbs in *Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah* 35

Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah and Ptolemy’s Almagest 41

The Arabic Translation of the *Almagest* Used by Judah ben Solomon 50

*Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah*, Astrology and Ptolemy’s *Tetrabiblos* 53

The *Tetrabiblos* in *Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah*: Structure and Contents 56

Judah ben Solomon’s Critique of Ptolemy’s *Tetrabiblos* 59

Astronomical and Astrological Terminology in *Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah* 76

Glossary of Technical Terms 81

Chapter Three: *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* 88-139

Introduction 88

Astrology and Ptolemaic Astronomy in Falaquera’s Oeuvre 92

Editorial Principles underpinning the Critical Edition of *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* VII.C 93

The Manuscripts of *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* 95

Sigla 97

A Critical Edition of *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* VII.C 98

Falaquera’s Use of Sources: Redaction of Sources and its Signifiance 115

Chapter Order: Why does Falaquera place the Discussion of the Configuration of the Stars before the Discussion regarding the Identities of Celestial Bodies in a State of Movement? 115

Redaction within the Individual Chapter: *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* VII.C.3 116

Omissions of Texts from his Sources 120

Remarks about Falaquera’s Logical Argumentation in *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* VII.C 125

Falaquera’s Hebrew Terminology in *De‘ot ha-Filosofim* VII 127

Falaquera’s Methodology in Formulating New Hebrew Terms 127

Several Technical Terms Characteristic of Falaquera’s Work 132

Glossary of Technical Terms 134

Chapter Four: *Livyat Ḥen* 140-228

Introduction 140

Location and Date of Composition of the Astronomical-Astrological Section of *Livyat Ḥen* 143

A Few Insights into Two Lost Sections of *Livyat Ḥen* 144

The Connection Between *Livyat ḥen* and Levi ben Abraham’s Rhymed Poem *Battei ha-nefeš ve-ha-leḥašim* 147

The Manuscripts of the Astronomical-Astrological Section of *Livyat ḥen* 149

Astronomy in *Livyat ḥen* 157

The Motion of the Eighth Orb (Precession) and the Theory of Trepidation 158

Catalogue of Constellations, Fixed Stars and Lunar Mansions 171

Lunar Spots 184

*Livyat Ḥen*’s Astrological Chapter: Structure, Contents and Sources 189

Levi ben Abraham’s Attitude towards the Theory and Practice of Astrology, and the Connection between Astronomy and Astrology 191

Non-Astrological Contents in the Astrological Chapter of *Livyat Ḥen* 197

World Cycles 197

Astral Magic and *Segullot* 200

Levi ben Abraham’s Scientific Sources and his Use of Sources 204

A List of Scientific Sources 204

Use of Sources in the Astrological Chapter of *Livyat Ḥen*: Levi ben Abraham’s Rearrangement of Source Texts 209

Three Aspect’s of Levi ben Abraham’s Use of His Astrological Source 212

Was the Astronomical-Astrological Section of *Livyat Ḥen* influenced by Christian Scholars? 216

Scientific Terminology in *Livyat Ḥen* 221

Glossary of Technical Terms 224

Chapter Five: *Sha‘ar ha-Shamayim* 229-271

Introduction 229

The Vatican and Munich Manuscripts: Codicological and Paleographical Features 232

Contents and Sources of the Astronomical Section 234

Table of (Scientific) Sources 237

Might the Astronomical Section of *Sha‘ar ha-Shamayim* Have Included More Than Twenty Chapters? 238

Contents and Sources of Each of the Twenty Astronomical Chapters 240

Insights into Gershom ben Solomon’s *modus operandi* 259

Scientific Terminology in the Astronomical Section of *Sha‘ar ha-Shamayim* and Additional Insights into Gershom’s *modus operandi* based on his Use of Terms 262

Glossary of Technical Terms 267

Chapter Six: *Sefer ha-Kolel* 272-296

Introduction 272

The Author’s Possible Identity 273

The Connection Between the Chapters in the Paris Manuscript and Those in Other Manuscripts 275

Remarks on the Structure of *Sefer ha-Kolel* and its Division into Five Parts 276

The Manuscripts of *Sefer ha-Kolel* 276

Contents and Sources of the Fifth Part of *Sefer ha-Kolel* (Chapters 36-40) 282

A List of Sources Used by the Author 292

Insights into the Profile of *Sefer ha-Kolel* 295

Chapter Seven: *Tractatus Particulares* 297-305

The Period in Which the Hebrew Original was Composed 298

*Tractatus Particulares*: One Four-Part Work or a Collection of Separate Astrological Treatises? 300

*Tractatus Particulares* in the Encyclopedic Context: Insights into the Appearence of the Work in Jewish Society and its Dissemination in the Latin World 303

Conclusions and Insights: The Place of the Hebrew Encyclopedias in the Process of Transmission and Inculcation of Scientific Knowledge in Medieval Jewish Communities 306-309

Bibliography 310-340

Manuscripts 310

Primary Sources 313

Secondary Sources 321

Appendices 341-427

Appendix A: Critical Editions of Selected Texts 341

Sigla 341

Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah 342

Livyat Ḥen 362

Sefer ha-Kolel 377

Al-Qabīṣī and *Sefer ha-Kolel* 392

Three Hebrew Fragments of Al-Qabīṣī’s *Introduction to Astrology* found hidden in a Manuscript in Napoli 405

Two Hebrew Fragments of Al-Qabīṣī’s *Introduction to Astrology* alongside a Commentary to the Text found hidden in a Manuscript in Jerusalem 408

Appendix B: The Astrological Chapter of *Livyat Ḥen*: Its Contents and Sources 412

English Abstract i-iii