

AFTER THE GEMARA

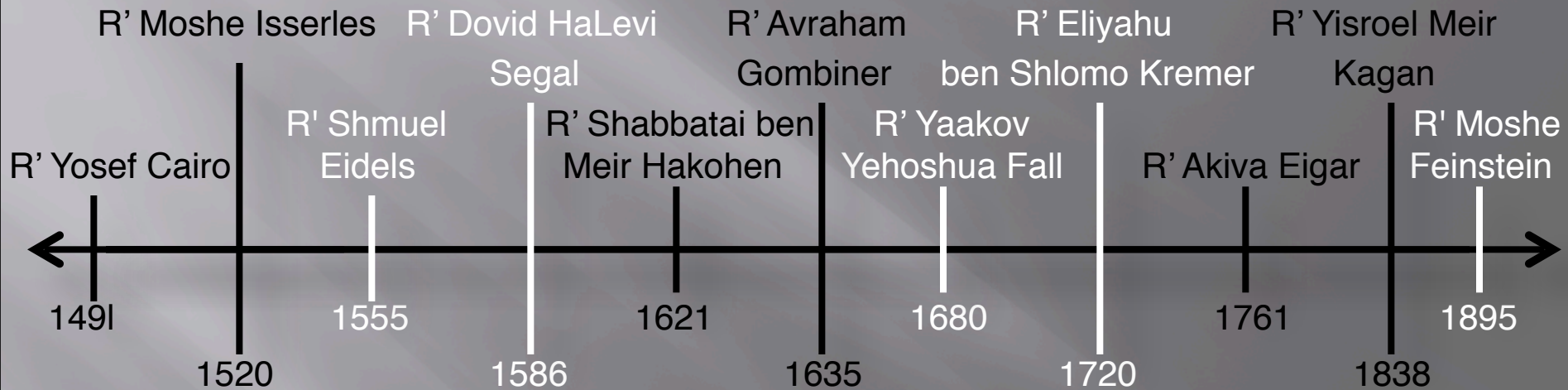
The Achronim

Bryant, Donny, Elad, Nathaniel

The Acharonim

- The Acharonim were a group of Rabbis living between 1500 and the late 19 hundreds.
- They lived after the Rishonim.
- The creation of the Shulchan Aruch was the transition from the time period of the Rishonim to the time period of the Acharonim.
- They were commentators on the Talmud, Rashi, and Tosofot, as well as authors of Halackik books.

Timeline of the Achronim



R' Akiva Eiger

- 1761-1837
- Hungary
- He was educated by his uncle, and changed his name to his uncle's out of respect for him.
- His works:
 - **Gilyon Hashas**- notes on the margin of the talmud
 - **Tosfot Rabbi Akiva Eiger**- super commentary on the commentators of the mishnah
 - **Shu"t Rabbi Akiva Eiger**- collection of responsa
 - **Hagahot Rabbi Akiva Eiger**- super commentary on the Shulchan Aruch



R' Yaakov Yehoshua Fall

- 1680-1756
- Cracow, Poland
- Wife, child, and mother were killed in a gunpowder explosion, destroying the house they lived in. R' Yaakov just barely escapes death.
- Works:
 - P'nei Yehoshua



R' Shmuel Eidels

- 1555-1631
- Cracow, Poland
- Also known as the Maharsha
- Works:
 - Chiddushei Halachot- commentary on the Talmud, Rashi, & Tosfot.
 - Importance: It is said that if one grasps the Maharsha, they have a complete understanding. This shows that the Maharsha is has a key role in the understanding of Tosofot.



R' Yosef Cairo

- 1492-1575
- Portugal
- He was born in Spain, but due to the Jewish expulsion in Spain, he was forced to leave with his family when he was young.
- Works:
 - Shulchan Aruch-
 - “Code of Jewish Law”
 - The most widely accepted compilation of Jewish law
 - Importance: The Shulchan Aruch is the book of law that most Jews go by. It lists all of the laws in an organized way, making it very simple and easy to look up any laws.



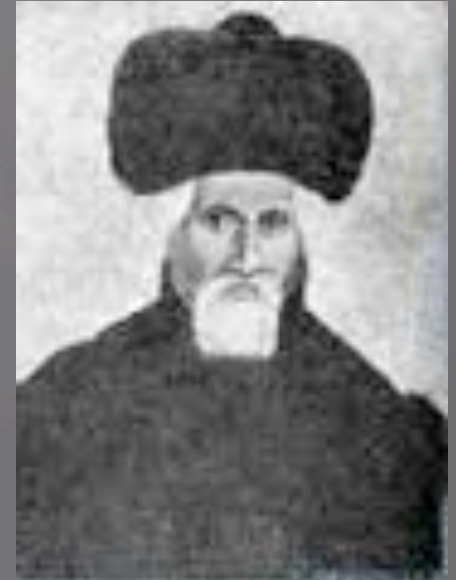
R' Moshe Isserles

- 1520-1572
- Cracow, Poland
- Works:
 - Hamapah-
 - A book that discusses different cases where Sefardi and Ashkenazi customs differ.
 - Hamapah is the “tablecloth” for the Shulchan Aruch, the “set table”.
 - Importance: Just like the Shulchan Aruch, the Mapah lists and clarifies all the differences between the Ashkenaz and Sephardic traditions.



R' Shabbatai ben Meir Hakohen

- 1621-1662
- Lithuania
- He learned from his father
- Also known as “Shach”
- Works:
 - Siftei Kohen
 - He is also quoted in the Kabbalah



R' Dovid HaLevi Segal

- 1586-1667
- Volhynia
- Taught by his brother, Isaac
- Works:
 - Commentary on the Shulchan Aruch
 - Importance: His opinion is held first rank in Halackik authority.
- All works were published after his death



R' Avraham Gombiner

- 1635-1682
- Was the head of the religious authority in Poland
- Works:
 - Shulchan Aruch Orulach Chayim
 - Commented on the Orach Chayim
 - Zayit Ra'anan
 - Importance: Rabbis relied on him for deciding certain kabalic practices. He was a major player in the decision about when the rabinic hours of the day are, that affects davning and many other mitzvot.
 - Magen Avraham- a commentary on the Shulchan Aruch and the Orach Chayim



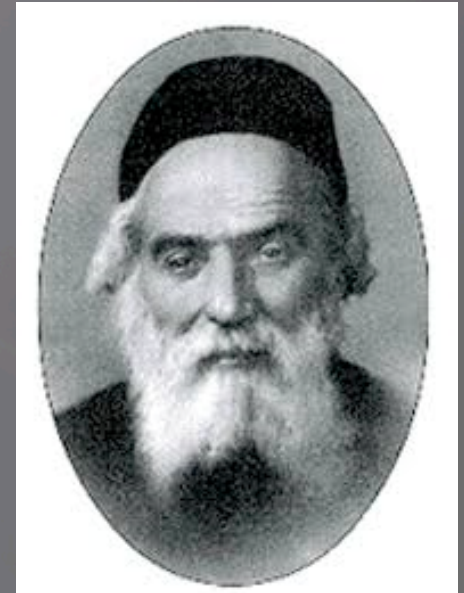
R' Eliyaha Ben Shlomo Kremer

- 1720-1797
- Lithuania
- Is considered to be one of the Acharonim, but many authorities after him hold his rulings even though that belongs to the Rishonim.
- Also known as the “Vilna Gaon”
- Works:
 - Bi'urei HaGra- commentaries consisting of the Babylonian Talmud and the Shulchan Aruch



R' Yisroel Meir Kagan

- 1838-1933
- Poland
- Works:
 - Chafetz Chaim- Deals with the biblical laws of gossip and slander.
 - Mishnah Brerura-
 - “Clarified Teachings”
 - Made of 6 volumes
 - Commentary on the Orach Chaim
 - Importance: This book is probably the most applicable to our life, as it's about Lashon Harah. He provides legal text, legal arguments, and ethical reasoning.



R' Moshe Feinstein

- 1895-1986
- Russia
- Born on the same day Moshe Rabbeinu
- Works:
 - Igros Moshe-
 - work of responses about Halachic rulings
 - Seven volumes
 - Importance: He made a huge affect on modern judaism, he responded to a wide range of issues concerning the Modern Jewish Era.

