Through the Lens of Rabbinic Thought & Literature

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In pre-Christian times it took the relatively simple form of hostility to strangers, a   like of the   like. In the early Christian centuries it became a religious phenomenon: anti-Judaism. In the Middle Ages it was transmuted into a series of myths whose common theme was that Jews were the cause of all bad things. Following the Enlightenment, religious or mythical justifications were no longer acceptable to secular public discourse, and the last racial antisemitism was born (the word antisemitism itself was only coined in 1879, by the German journalist Wilhelm Marr). The prestige given to prejudice by sacred texts was replaced by the new guarantor of truth: science. A pseudo-science of race was created, designed to pron