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First choice for an intellectual – preferably mature

The Hirsch Psalms
Hirsch, Rav S.R.
The work closest to Rabbi Hirsch’s heart, giving his basic ideas and concepts full expression. Full Hebrew text of the Psalms, with an English translation and commentary. 1,024

For the average person interested in studying Tehillim

GROWTH THROUGH TEHILLIM
By Rabbi Zelig Pliskin
Exploring Psalms for Life Transforming Thoughts

Very good for all intellectual levels looking for inspiration

TEHILLIM TREASURY
By Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer
Inspirational messages and uplifting interpretations of the Psalms of David.

Israel
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A good choice for someone looking for a VERY basic Torah perspective on Israel

Judaism in a Nutshell: Israel
By Shimon Apisdorf

For an intelligent person looking for deeper appreciation of Jewish Attachment to Israel

JERUSALEM, EYE OF THE UNIVERSE
By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan

**Landskapes of the Spirit**
*Naiman, Rabbi Abba Zvi*

In this book, the reader is taken on a remarkable journey through the spiritual dimensions of Eretz Yisrael. The author examines twenty-five areas of the Land of Israel, examining their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and charting their course through Jewish destiny. 177pp. Targum Press

More of a *history* of Jerusalem and Jewish devotion to this sacred place – not a study text

**Where Heaven Touches Earth: Jerusalem From Medieval Times to the Present**
*Rossoff, Dovid*

Only for someone with background in Chumash and Jewish History

**If I Forget Thee**
*Ben Ish Chai*

A look at Jerusalem and the Holy Land, their unique spiritual qualities, and the reason for the special place they occupy in the hearts of the Jewish People. 314 pp.

**Festivals**

Thematic – for all levels – best for *intelligent* beginners with *some* background

**LIVING BEYOND TIME**
*The Mystery and Meaning of the Jewish Festivals*
*By Rabbi Pinchas Stolper*

Thematic – for all levels – best for *simple* beginners with *little* background

**Holidays in a Nutshell**
*by Shimon Apisdorf*

Thematic – excellent for someone who loves *nature*, spirituality, mysticism

**Seasons of Life**
*Sifkin, Nosson*

Explores the manifestations of the Torah in the natural world, this work examines the Jewish year and its reflection of plant, animal, and seasonal cycles. With photographs. 300 pp. Targum Press

Thematic – Only for *advanced* students – very thought-provoking

**Emanations**
*Kahn, Rabbi Ari D.*

Using a wealth of Midrashic, Aggadic, and mystical sources, this book examines the many facets of each Jewish holiday. Delving into the meaning beneath the surface, the author brings to light an intriguing tapestry of novel insights and fresh perspectives. 328 pp. Targum Press

Thematic – nice ideas but only for someone who can’t use the above suggestions

**A GIFT FOR YOM TOV**
*By Rabbi Yisroel Miller*
Provocative and penetrating insights on the Festivals - Pesach, Shavuos, Succos, Purim and Chanukah

Themes and laws – good for someone looking to start practicing Yom Tov

**Menucha V'Simcha: Basic Laws and Themes of Shabbos and Yom Tov**
*Katz, Rabbi Mordechai*

Themes and Laws – Very comprehensive – needs background and a smart mentor to know what to skip – a bit expensive

**Book of Our Heritage**
*Kitov, Eliyahu - Translator: Bulman, R’ Nachman*
Explores the holidays, Festivals and fast days of the Jewish calendar and explains their laws and customs. 1,126 pp.

Laws – *Sections* on each holiday - good for person looking to really observe Yom Tov

**Shaarei Halachah**
*Greenwald, Rabbi Ze’ev*
Clearly written and easy to read summary of Jewish law, based on the Mishnah Berurah. Among the many topics included in this work are: Tzitzis, the daily routine, prayer, Tefillin, blessings, the Sabbath, festivals and special days, the dietary laws, and mourning. Shaarei Halachah has been hailed as the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch for our time! 448 pp.

Laws – Only for an *advanced* student looking to keep Yom Tov

**THE LAWS OF YOM TOV**
*By Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen*
A comprehensive halachic guide to the laws and practices of the Festivals.

Only for an *advanced* student looking to study these laws

**MUKTZEH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE**
*By Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen*
A comprehensive treatment of the principles and common applications of the laws of muktzeh

Suggestions below are thematic *(unless otherwise noted)* for a specific Yom Tov and suitable for all levels

**Chanukah**

**Chanukah: Eight Nights of Light, Eight Gifts for the Soul**
*by Shimon Apisdorf*

**Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur**

**Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur Survival Kit**
*by Shimon Apisdorf*

**Pesach**

**Judaism in a Nutshell: Passover**
*by Shimon Apisdorf*

Laws - For *highly advanced* students only
Halachos of Pesach - 1 volume edition
Eider, Rabbi Shimon D.
An authoritative, complete guide to the laws of Passover, as well as its various procedures, and terms, from an acclaimed author, now available in one, convenient volume. 496 pp.

Laws – For beginner students and advanced
Guidelines: Pesach
Barclay, Rabbi Elozar; Jaeger, Rabbi Yitzchok
Laws and customs of Pesach in a lucid, concise and organized fashion. Includes a detailed index to make it easy to find specific Halachos, and a listing of Hebrew sources for each law to assist those who want to go more deeply into a question. 187 pp. Targum Press.

Purim
Great study-text to review the Megillah
127 Insights into Megillas Esther
Weinbach, Rabbi Mendel
This is the gripping drama of Purim, told from a refreshing, dramatic perspective. 193 pp. Targum Press

Succos
Not for a real beginner
Guidelines: Succos
Barclay, Rabbi Elozar; Jaeger, Rabbi Yitzchok
In-depth, reader-friendly guide to the holiday of Succos, Topics discussed include building a Sukkah, the four minim (species) and hoshanos. 159 pp. Targum Press

Shabbos
For intellectual beginners
SABBATH: DAY OF ETERNITY
By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan
Very good for someone who seeks to keep Shabbos
Friday Night and Beyond: The Shabbat Experience Step-by-Step
by Lori Palatnik
A practical book that guides the reader through the Sabbath day in a warm and user-friendly manner

Good for someone looking to learn about or keep Shabbos and not scared off by the Halachos
Menucha V'Simcha: Basic Laws and Themes of Shabbos and Yom Tov
Katz, Rabbi Mordechai

Only for a student interested in this and already Shomer Shabbos
MUKTZEH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE
By Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen
A comprehensive treatment of the principles and common applications of the laws of muktzeh

This document was compiled by Partners in Torah. It may be reproduced or used only with permission. Please call 973-221-3650
Only for a Shomer Shabbos looking to improve – otherwise suggest Menuchah V'Simchah above

THE SHABBOS HOME
By Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen
A comprehensive halachic guide to the laws of Shabbos as they apply throughout the home

**Basic Judaism**
Good for providing a basic outline of Judaism – especially for an intellectual

**Masterplan: Judaism--Its Program, Meaning & Goals**
Carmell, Rabbi Aryeh

Good for providing a basic outline of Judaism – especially for a beginner

**UNDERSTANDING JUDAISM**
By Rabbi Mordechai Katz
A basic guide to Jewish faith, history, and practice

Especially helpful for someone who wants “answers” before committing to studying Judaism

**L’hovin Ul’haskil: A Torah Guide to Hashkafah**
Gevirtz, Eliezer
Honest answers to honest questions on Creation, evolution, interpersonal relations, and more. 156 pp. A JEP book.

Excellent for studying Chumash on a basic level utilizing the commentaries

**THE STONE EDITION OF THE CHUMASH**
The Torah, Haftaros, and Five Megillos with a commentary from Rabbinic writings
By Rabbi Nosson Scherman

For someone looking for a simple but good overview of the Torah

**The Bible for the Clueless But Curious**
by Nachum Braverman

Good for intellectual starting to inquire about Judaism and the meaning of life interested in reading about someone’s journey

**ANATOMY OF A SEARCH**
By Akiva Tatz

Great stimulant for someone proud of Jewish identity but not ready to take any steps

**Living Inspired**
Tatz, Akiva

Great stimulant for someone proud of Jewish identity but not ready to take any steps

**The Thinking Jewish Teenager’s Guide to Life**
Tatz, Akiva

Excellent introduction to the Ten Commandments – will shatter stereotypes

**ASERES HADIBROS / THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**
A new translation with a commentary anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and rabbinic sources
By Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer

For someone with serious background looking to gain deeper appreciation of important days and seasons in Jewish calendar

**Book of Our Heritage**
*Kitov, Eliyahu* - Translator: Bulman, R’ Nachman
This beloved classic, completely revised and annotated for the contemporary reader, explores the holidays, Festivals and fast days of the Jewish calendar and explains their laws and customs. Midrashic commentaries and insights of great Jewish thinkers and spiritual leaders enhance the heartwarming, inspiring text. 1,126 pp.

Not a study text but good resource for someone looking to understand the conversion process

**Jewish Conversion: Its Meaning and Laws**
*Schwartz, Rabbi Yoel*
An authoritative compilation of all the relevant principles, laws, and the Torah's outlook on the convert's monumental achievement. 85 pp.

The best Halachah Sefer for a person convinced and ready to follow Halachah but knows minimal amounts and wants to learn quickly

**Shaarei Halachah**
*Greenwald, Rabbi Ze’ev*
This masterpiece fills a great need for our generation--a generation characterized by a thirst for the eternal values of Judaism. Now, the English-speaking reader can enjoy a clearly written and easy to read summary of Jewish law, based on the Mishnah Berurah. Among the many topics included in this work are: Tzitzis, the daily routine, prayer, Tefillin, blessings, the Sabbath, festivals and special days, the dietary laws, and mourning. Shaarei Halachah has been hailed as the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch for our time! 448 pp.

**Oral Law** See also “Basic Judaism” Return to top of page
A short but very helpful introduction to the process of Mesoras HaTorah – who got it and who did they teach it to etc. From Moshe until the Rambam

**Rambam’s Introduction to Mishnah Torah**
Available for free via email from Rabbi Meisels

Not a study text but a very helpful resource for someone who doubts authenticity of Mesorah

**Permission to Receive**
*Kelemen, Lawrence*

Good but lengthy review of Mesorah process – not very practical as study text but good resource

**Legacy of Sinai**
*Fendel, Rabbi Zechariah*
The history of Torah transmission from creation through the close of the Gaonic Era.

For someone with an analytical mind who really wants to understand how the Gemara came into existence

**Gateway to the Talmud**
*By Rabbi Meir Tzvi Bergman*
A Rosh Yeshivah introduces the history, development and principles of Torah She'b'al Peh - from Moses to the Besht and Vilna Gaon.

Not particularly on Mesoras HaTorah but very compelling Emunah discussions and proofs
**The Kuzari**
Rabbenu Yehuda Halevi – Feldheim edition

**Metsudah Kuzari** – Metsudah edition – *Better for most than Feldheim edition*
Translated by Rabbi Avrohom Davis

**Gemara Intro**
For someone looking to study Gemara for first time
**Artscroll Gemara Berachos – Vol 1**
If they're going to study Gemara for the first time they may as well start at the beginning

For someone with an analytical mind who really wants to understand how the Gemara came into existence
**GATEWAY TO THE TALMUD**
*By Rabbi Meir Tzvi Bergman*
A Rosh Yeshivah introduces the history, development and principles of Torah She'b'al Peh - from Moses to the Besht and Vilna Gaon.

Not really a study guide but helpful resource for newcomer to Gemara
**Ohr Somayach Gemara Companion**
*Kaplan, Dovid*
For anyone seeking the skills to get going learning Gemara, look no further. This is a beautifully structured, step-by-step guide which will overcome the beginner's challenge to Gemara learning.

Not really a study guide but helpful resource for newcomer to Gemara looking to build skills
**Aiding Talmud Study**
*Carmell, Rabbi Aryeh*
Contains key Aramaic words, phrases, and abbreviations, with English translation. With Rabbi Shmuel ha-Naggid's 'Introduction to the Talmud,' in English. 92 pages and five fold-out charts.

**Pirkei Avos**
First choice for intellectual who seeks to study Pirkei Avos – very thought-provoking – especially for liberals
**MAHARAL ON PIRKEI AVOS**
*By Tuvia Basser*
A commentary based on selections from Maharal's Derech Chaim.

Good for mature person who thinks allot
**Chapters of the Fathers**
*Hirsch, Samson Raphael - Translator: Hirschler, Gertrude*
The complete Hebrew text of Pirkei Avos with an English translation and Rabbi Hirsch's insightful commentary to illuminate the words of our Sages. 120 pp.

**Very good overall commentary for anyone**

**PIRKEI AVOS**  
*By Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz*

**Good for artsy, spiritual types and those seeking mysticism**

**PIRKEI AVOS: SFAS EMES AND OTHER CHASSIDIC MASTERS**  
*By Rabbi Yosef Stern*

**Weekly Parshah**  
*First choice* as a study text - see note below

**Artscroll Stone Chumash**  
Very good for basic review especially if student looks it over first and then they discuss commentaries on bottom of page – this way student can continue to study after session

**Shem Mishmuel**  
*by Rabbi Shmuel Bornstein (Admore of Sochatchov)*  
Selections from the monumental work *on all the Sidrahs.*

**Explorations**  
*Kahn, Ari D.*  
This book captivates the reader-learner with its focus on he existential-intellectual dilemmas of our time, through the teachings of the Midrash. Provides in-depth analyses of the weekly Parshah through the prism of rabbinic perspective.

**Lilmode Ulelamade: From the Teachings of Our Sages**  
*Katz, Rabbi Mordechai*  
Insights on the weekly Torah portions in an attractive presentation. 192 pp

**The Shmuz on the Parsha - Life Transforming Insights on the Weekly Torah Reading**  
*Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier*  
An engaging, motivating weekly shiur that deals with real-life issues in a unique style that captivates readers and inspires growth and change. The book features transcripts of the famous weekly Shmuz and is very suitable for a student who seeks to examine a Torah concept on the parshah in-depth.
**Chumash**
First choice for gaining a basic overview of Chumash

*Artscroll Stone Chumash*
Hebrew-English with commentary

*Very basic introduction and good for difficult concepts*

*The Bible for the Clueless But Curious*
by Nachum Braverman

*Good choice for someone interested in learning Rashi*

*SAPIRSTEIN EDITION RASHI*
*By Rabbi Yisrael Herczeg*
The Torah with Rashi’s commentary translated, annotated, and elucidated

*Good choice for someone interested in learning Rashi*

*Metsudah Chumash/Rashi: A New Linear Translation, Vol. 2: Shemos*
by Avrohom Davis

*First choice for someone who wants to study Chumash in-depth*

**BEREISHIS / GENESIS 2 VOLUME SET**
*By Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz*
A new translation with a commentary anthologized from talmudic, Midrashic, and rabbinic sources

**Mitzvos**
Excellent presentation of each Mitzvah’s basic laws and selection of commentaries explanations of the Mitzvah – Great way to get acquainted with Mitzvos

**The Commandments**
*Abraham Chill*

*Good for someone interested in obligations of women - technical*

**Women and the Mitzvot - Vol. 1 - Serving the Creator**
*Ellinson, Rabbi G.*
Anthologies of halachic sources dealing with women’s duties and prerogatives regarding the performance of Mitzvot.

*For someone already excited about Mitzvos and looking for added inspiration*

**This I Behold: The Chofetz Chaim on Mitzvos**
The timeless, fiery words of the Chofetz Chaim are collected in this book, culled from his writings. Discover the meaning behind the Mitzvos, the reward for fulfilling them, and the far-reaching effects they have on the entire universe.

*Helpful in presenting many Mitzvos in a very positive light*

**Set in Stone: The Meaning of Mitzvah Observance**
*Levene, Osher Chaim*
Brought down in fire and set in stone, the commandments are inscribed, too, in the soul of every Jew. This fascinating work reveals the magnificence of Jewish living as experienced through mitzvah observance. The author presents profound insights into many of the commandments that define and enrich Jewish life. Topics include: Tzitzis, Mikveh, arbah minim, kashrus, and Lashon hara. 375 pp.
Concise is the operative word here – only for someone looking to familiarize himself with the Mitzvos and not in need of reasons and explanations

**Concise Book of Mitzvot/Sefer ha-Mitzvot ha-Katzar**  
*Chofetz Chaim - Translator: Wengrov, Charles*

All the commandments applicable in our time, including those contingent upon the Land of Israel, with invaluable commentary and explanation. Hebrew text with facing English translation. 338 pp.

**Jewish Law**  
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First choice for someone looking to learn basic Jewish Law

**Shaarei Halachah**  
*Greenwald, Rabbi Ze'ev*

Clearly written and easy to read summary of Jewish law, based on the Mishnah Berurah. Among the many topics included in this work are: Tzitzis, the daily routine, prayer, Tefillin, blessings, the Sabbath, festivals and special days, the dietary laws, and mourning. Shaarei Halachah has been hailed as the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch for our time! 448 pp.

Second choice for studying Halachah – both are by Metsudah – important because that way student can review and study ahead of time

**Kitzur Shulchan Aruch**  
*2 Volume Set*

Hebrew on one side – English on the other side

**5 Volume Set**  
Hebrew and English on the same page line by line  
*by Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried - Translated by: Avrohom Davis*

Good introduction for a beginner not ready to take it all on

**Lishmor V'Laasos: A Guide to Basic Principles of Jewish Law**  
*Katz, Rabbi Mordechai*


Good study text for someone interested in knowing Hilchos Brachos – not for a beginner

**Halachos of Brochos**  
*Bodner, Rabbi Yisroel Pinchos*

A clear, concise work which provides a detailed understanding of the blessings we recite over foods and beverages. New edition includes both previous volumes plus the Brochos Handbook, a quick reference guide to the proper blessings and after blessings for over 700 foods. 688 pp.

Very helpful resource for the newly religious

**The Brochos Handbook**  
*Bodner, Rabbi Yisroel Pinchos*

A quick reference guide to the fore-blessings and after-blessings of over 700 foods!

Only for advanced student – otherwise recommend Shaarei Halachah

**THE LAWS OF YOM TOV**  
*By Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen*
Partners in Torah Book List

A comprehensive halachic guide to the laws and practices of the Festivals.

**Tzedakah**
Good for someone interested in this particular area

**THE TZEDAKAH TREASURY**
*By Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer*
An anthology of Torah teachings on the mitzvah of charity - to instruct and inspire

**Teffilin**
Concise work good for someone interested in understanding and appreciating this mitzvah

**TEFILLIN**
*By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan*

Very lengthy and deep work explaining mitzvah of Teffilin – not a study text – only for somewhat advanced student

**Teffilin: The Inside Story**
*Emanuel, Rabbi Moshe Shlomo*
A fascinating and insightful look at the mitzvah of Teffilin that symbolizes Jewish closeness to G-d. 462 pp. Targum Press

Concise work good for someone interested in understanding and practicing this mitzvah

**Teffilin: Making the Connection**
*Ehrman, Rabbi Yisroel*
A practical, concise guide to the laws and significance of Teffilin, appropriate for beginning Teffilin wearers of all ages. With illustrations and photographs, this user-friendly book takes the baffling mystery out of this special mitzvah, and opens our eyes to its beauty. A perfect bar mitzvah gift, or memento!

**Halachos of Teffilin: Student Edition**
*Eider, Rabbi Shimon D.*
Includes instructive photographs. 244 pp.

**Prayer**
First choice for a beginner to prayer – Hebrew on one side English on the opposite side – easy to flip through and read only the English

**Artscroll Siddur**
Good for someone looking for deep insights into prayer
The Hirsch Siddur
Hirsch, Rav S.R.
Hebrew text of the Siddur, prayerbook, with Hirsch's translation and unique commentary in English.

Very helpful for one looking to appreciate prayer in all its dimensions – beginners and advanced will enjoy this Sefer

The Art of Jewish Prayer
by Rabbi Yitzchok Kirzner with Lisa Aiken

Very helpful for someone looking to know what and why he's saying Shmoneh Esrei

SHEMONEH ESREI / THE AMIDAH
By Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer
Inspirational expositions and interpretations of the weekday Shemoneh Esrei

For someone serious [advanced] about studying the deeper meaning of prayers

World of Prayer
Munk, Rabbi Elie
The daily (vol.1) and Sabbath & Festival (vol. 2) prayers are clearly translated and thoroughly explained, revealing deeper levels of meaning. 590 pp. 2-volume gift-boxed set.

Helpful for one seeking to understand role of women in prayer etc. – not for beginner

Rigshei Lev: Women and Tefillah
Nissel, Rabbi Menachem
Explores women's role in prayer, from its halachic and philosophic perspectives. Topics include: a woman's obligation of prayer, what to say if her time is limited, bringing young children to Shul, the nature of prayer and women's vital role concerning it. 324 pp. Targum Press

Women’s Issues see also “Women – Dating..”
Good for someone bogged down by stereotypes re: Orthodox treatment of women

Women in the Talmud
By Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt
An anthology of the Talmud's stories about women, from Seder Zeraim and Moed, as explained by the classic commentators

Good for someone with stereotypes re: Orthodox treatment of women particularly re: prayer

Women and the Mitzvot - vol. 1 - Serving the Creator
Ellinson, Rabbi G.
Anthologies of Halakhic sources dealing with women's duties and prerogatives regarding the performance of Mitzvot.

Will help an open-minded person appreciate Judaism’s view of the male/female roles

Why Should I Stand Behind the Mechitzah if I Could Be a Prayer Leader?
Goodman, Marina

Good for demonstrating that Judaism addresses the particular needs of the woman
Our Bodies, Our Souls  
Heller, Tziporah  
Beyond the stereotypes, the boundaries, and the restricting self-definitions, we are women who seek to actualize our potential in all spheres: career, relationships and in our hearts. The author shows how the traditional Jewish paths can help lead women to spiritual awareness. 151 pp. Targum Press

Best resource for explaining the Issur of Negiah [separation of sexes] to a skeptic

The Magic Touch  
Manolson, Gila  
Good introduction to how Orthodox women see things – very differently

Jewish Women Speak About Jewish Matters  
Editor: Kornbluth, Doron & Sarah Tikvah  

Very good presentation of Jewish view of women and the concept of “Modesty” for all levels

Outside/Inside  
Manolson, Gila  
Skeptics won’t like it – but open-minded women with very good background and serious about prayer will appreciate it

Rigshei Lev: Women and Tefillah  
Nissel, Rabbi Menachem  
Explores women's role in prayer, from its halachic and philosophic perspectives. Topics include: a woman's obligation of prayer, what to say if her time is limited, bringing young children to Shul, the nature of prayer and women's vital role concerning it. 324 pp. Targum Press

No Greater Treasure  
Stories of Extraordinary Women Drawn from the Talmud and Midrash

Shoshana Lepon  
Sixteen true Jewish heroines come to life in this descriptive and detailed, beautifully written collection of stories. Shoshana Lepon's No Greater Treasures tells the inspiring tales of extraordinary women from the Talmud and Midrash: of Yehudit who risked her life in a Greek general's private chambers to save her people, Mar Ukva's wife who came out unscathed from a burning oven, Abba Chilkiyah's wife who merited to put an end to a drought. These women's contributions to our legacy of faith are unforgettable; in this beautifully-written book they're celebrated as an inspiration to all Jewish women today.

Marriage – Modesty – Dating  See also “Women’s Issues”

Excellent introduction of Torah approach to marriage – for beginners and advanced

THE SACRED TRUST  
Love, dating, marriage: The Jewish view.  
By Rabbi Pinchas Stolper

Excellent introduction of Torah approach to marriage – for beginners and advanced
The Death of Cupid: Reclaiming the Wisdom of Love, Dating, Romance and Marriage  
by Nachum Braverman and Shimon Apisdorf  
Good for single person looking for sensible and easy to digest advice on dating Jewishly  
Head to Heart  
Manolson, Gila  

Best resource for explaining the Issur of Negiah [separation of sexes] to a skeptic  
The Magic Touch  
Manolson, Gila  

Very good presentation of Jewish view of women and the concept of “Modesty” for all levels  
Outside/Inside  
Manolson, Gila  

Good but technical and not for most but helpful for “religious” conservative who thinks she knows what she’s talking about  
The Modest Way - vol. 2  
Ellinson, Rabbi G.  
Anthologies of Halakhic sources dealing with women's duties and prerogatives regarding the performance of Mitzvot.  

Very helpful guide for planning a Jewish wedding and understand the customs etc.  
Made in Heaven  
A Jewish Wedding Guide  
by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan  

Intermarriage  
Good book about intermarriage – good resource for mentors and students alike  
Why Marry Jewish?  
Kornbluth, Doron  

Second choice for dealing with intermarriage  
Interrmarriage Alert  
by Yerachmiel Landy  

Audio Cassette about Intermarriage from Rabbi Eliezer Gewirtz available through Partners in Torah office  

Family Purity  
Excellent introduction to concept of Mikvah for all levels [not laws]  
Waters Of Eden  
The Mystery Of The Mikvah  
By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan  

First choice for women looking to begin studying Halachos – Very – with worldwide Mikvah list  

Return to top of page
Foundations: The Laws of Family Purity  
*Sprung, Rabbi Yaakov Z.*
This practical, all-inclusive guide to the laws of Taharas Hamishpachah, family purity, is perfect for beginners and experienced couples alike. Explanations and annotated sources, as well as a Worldwide Mikveh List 112 pp.

*Only for advanced students already keeping Halachos who want to understand them better*

A Woman’s Guide To The Laws Of Niddah  
*By Rabbi Binyomin Forst*

Laws of TH for Sefardim – very well done

Rose of the Valley  
*Sultan, Rabbi Rahamim Shaul*
A beautiful, sensitive portrayal of the laws of Taharas Hamishpachah (family purity) according to the Sephardic custom. 338 pp. Sephardic Legacy Press

**Tzitzis**

**Concise helpful guide to laws of Tzitzis for a newcomer to this Mitzvah**

Laws of Tzitzis  
*Pollack, Rabbi Aharon*
The Tzitzis worn by every Jewish boy and man is a badge of honor, a tangible statement of his belief in Hashem and the Torah. But are we as scrupulously careful with this mitzvah as we should be? Do we know the proper size for the garment, how to check if the strings are tied correctly, or what to do with a worn-out pair? This short, clearly written pamphlet offers a concise and practical look at this important mitzvah. 30 pp. Targum Press.

**Excellent introduction to concept of Tzitzis for all levels [not laws]**

Tzitzith: A Thread of Light  
*Aryeh Kaplan*
A deeper look into the mystery of the commandment of Tzitzith, focusing on mans ability to overcome sin and reach towards God.

**Mysticism**

**Excellent for all levels interested in mysticism**

THE WISDOM IN THE HEBREW ALPHABET
The sacred letters as a guide to Jewish deed and thought.  
*By Michael L. Munk*

**Good choice for someone with some background looking for mysticism**

BAAL HATURIM CHUMASH - BEREISHIS
The Torah with the Baal Haturim classic commentary translated, annotated, and elucidated  
*By Rabbi Avie Gold*

**Only for a patient intellectual with at least a bit of background**

The Juggler and the King  
*Feldman, Rabbi Aharon*
An exciting expansion of the Vilna Gaon's powerful ideas on the purpose of Creation, the Jewish People and its history and destiny, and the coming of Mashiach. 272 pp.

Good for someone wondering about these concepts and interested in mysticism
**IMMORTALITY, RESURRECTION, AND THE AGE OF THE UNIVERSE**
Arye Kaplan

For someone who knows basics already – this is an excellent Sefer – written with them in mind
**PERCEPTIONS**
Contemporary reflections on the weekly Torah reading.
By Rabbi Pinchas Winston

Good for a thinker without background
**ARYEH KAPLAN READER**
Collected essays on Jewish themes from the noted writer and thinker
By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan

Good for a thinker with some background
**Worldmask**
Tatz, Akiva

Topic matter may scare some off – otherwise very good for a woman
**WATERS OF EDEN**
The mystery of the Mikveh
By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan

Background necessary – but could be helpful
**Emanations**
Kahn, Rabbi Ari D.
Using a wealth of Midrashic, Aggadic, and mystical sources, this book examines the many facets of each Jewish holiday. Delving into the meaning beneath the surface, the author brings to light an intriguing tapestry of novel insights and fresh perspectives. 328 pp. Targum Press

Good introduction to concept of God – why he created the world etc. – Actually a synopsis of Derech Hashem
**If You Were God**
Arye Kaplan

Too advanced for most but for those who want it – use this one – preferably suggest If You Were God [above] which is a synopsis of this work
**Derech Hashem (The Way of God)** –
Moshe Chaim Luzzatto - translation and commentary by Aryeh Kaplan
The latest version of this book contains updated text and analysis and is available through Feldheim Publishers at http://www.feldheim.com

Second choice for Derech Hashem – First choice is Rabbi A. Kaplan’s
**Way of G-d--Derech Hashem**
Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto
Partners in Torah Book List


**Science & Torah**

Collection of *articles* on topics of science and Torah – very good for *scientific mind* – but only available in *size small* so hard for some to read

**Challenge: Torah View on Science**

*Editor: Carmell, Aryeh; Domb, Cyril*

Brilliant and compelling but *tedious* – only for scientifically inclined

**FINGERPRINTS ON UNIVERSE**

Searching for belief and meaning in today's turbulent world.

*By Louis Pollack*

Good for someone who questions *modernity* of Torah in light of scientific advances – very *detailed*

**The Science in Torah**

*Levi, Yehudah*

Have you ever wondered if the Talmudic sages were also scientists? And if so, why? Does today's scientific knowledge clash with the science of the Talmud? Do modern scientific discoveries influence Halachah? For the first time, an eminent Talmid Chacham and renowned scientist delves into these vital issues. Topics include, among others, the shape of the earth, astrology and horoscopes, development of the fetus, and medicine. A detailed index and table of contents included. 182 pp.

Good for someone who questions whether Torah and science conflict – good even for less scientifically inclined

**The Science of Torah**

*Silfkin, Rabbi Nosson*

A fascinating study of the nature of scientific laws, the age of the universe, and the development of life. The author reviews the various accepted approaches to Torah and science and presents his own, unified approach to these issues. 258 pp. Targum Press

**Evolution by random development is tackled in this work**

**Not By Chance!**

*by Dr. Lee M. Spetner*

Reconciles Torah account of creation with evolution – good for all levels though background in math and physics helps

**Genesis and the Big Bang: The Discovery of Harmony Between Modern Science and the Bible**

*by Gerald L. Schroeder*

**Child Raising**

*Insightful guide that will be eye-opening for secular parent**

**To Kindle a Soul**

*Kelemen, Rabbi Lawrence*

Increasingly, forward-looking scientists and psychologists researching issues of childrearing are finding themselves looking...backwards! After years of failed
experiments in education, it is the Torah’s eternal wisdom that is proving itself the most effective, most humane, and most sensible way of teaching our children. In this fascinating, extensively-researched, and beautifully written work, Rabbi Kelemen, best-selling author, world-renowned lecturer, and acclaimed teacher, sets out a wonderfully practical Torah-based model for raising ethical, moral, and well-adjusted children, backing up his insights with over 400 scientific studies. This book is must reading for Kiruv professionals and for parents, both observant and non-observant alike. 256 pp. Targum Press

**Conceptual and less practical but good resource for religious students**

*Planting & Building in Education: Raising a Jewish Child*

Wolbe, Rabbi Shlomo - Translator: Kelemen, Rabbi Leib

**God**

Good for a *beginner* who *believes* but wants to understand concept better

**The Infinite Light**

Arye Kaplan

Good for *beginner* who *isn’t sure* of God and *isn’t ready* for a full intellectual exercise

**Judaism in a Nutshell: G-d**

by Shimon Apisdorf

Good for someone who *truly doubts* God’s existence but willing to read and think

**Permission to Believe**

Kelemen, Lawrence

Doubter for more than one reason – *holocaust* – *Sinai* – *Science* – *Olam Habbah* – *lazy* - This is the best book – For students suggest the Outreach edition

**Beyond a Reasonable Doubt**

This book was written for the Jew who seeks evidence and proofs that the principal beliefs of Judaism are indeed true. Readable and friendly, inspiring and refreshing, this book presents the main issues of Judaism in depth. It includes compelling evidence to there being a Creator, evidence to the Divine origin of our Torah, to there being a spiritual soul and the World To Come, and Divine guidance throughout Jewish history. It discusses the problems with Evolution, and it deals with the Holocaust and human suffering. It also provides many other sources for further reading, and a glossary of terms

**Outreach Edition** – Suggest this for *students* use

This is a newly adapted edition of the original work, tailored to meet the needs of beginners to Judaism. This volume contains website references and an added appendix on the origins of Christianity and Islam. 313 pp.

**Believes** in God but *doesn’t understand* how He works – synopsis of Derech Hashem

**If You Were God**

Arye Kaplan

**Philosophy – Mussar**

This beautifully written and designed work contains the compiled Mussar lectures of...
**Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler**, written by his esteemed Talmid, student. A major work of contemporary Torah thought, now available as a complete set of six volumes.

**Path of the Just--Mesillas Yesharim**
*Luzzatto, Rabbi Moshe Chaim - Translator: Leibler, Yosef*
A completely redone version of a treasured classic. This newly translated volume, complete with facing Hebrew-English text and shoulder captions for clarity, revitalizes the study of Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto's classic ethical work.

**LIGHTS ALONG THE WAY / MESILLAS YESHARIM**
Timeless lessons for today from Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto's Mesillas Yesharim
*By Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski*

**The Kuzari**
*Rabbenu Yehuda Halevi*
The powerful, compelling logic and immortal wisdom of Rabbenu Yehuda Halevi are now yours to imbibe. This English translation of Ha-Kuzari Ha-Meforash is the first of its kind--flowing, readable, and eminently faithful to the text of the contemporary Hebrew rendition of the 12th century classic written originally in Arabic. The very foundation of Judaism is examined in this epic work, written as a dialogue between the King of the Khazars and the Chacham.

**Christianity**

**The Real Messiah**
*Arye Kaplan*

**Permission to Receive**
*Kelemen, Lawrence*

**Afterlife – Moshiach**
*Good for people [Reform] who doubt existence of the Afterlife and need proof of it*
*Soul Searching: Seeking Scientific Ground for an Afterlife*
*Astor, Yaakov*

For *doubters* and people seeking to *understand* it better

**IMMORTALITY, RESURRECTION, AND THE AGE OF THE UNIVERSE**
*Arye Kaplan*

For people seeking to *expand* their understanding of these difficult subjects

**On Eagles' Wings: Moshiach, Redemption, and the World to Come**
*Brand, Rabbi Herschel*
Awaiting the Moshiach is one of the underpinnings of Jewish belief, one of Maimonides's Thirteen Principles of Faith. In this important and groundbreaking work, the author gathers together the teachings of the Sages on this subject in an illuminating and thought-provoking question-and-answer format.

**Deep and not for beginners – good for Sefardim**

**Days of Peace**
*Ben Ish Chai*
A look at the future redemption and the final period in human history: the days of peace and joy, after the coming of the Messiah. 300 pp.

Only for people willing to invest in a lengthy and involved examination of the Jewish view on life, Judaism, Moshiach, etc.

**The Juggler and the King**  
*Feldman, Rabbi Aharon*  
An exciting expansion of the Vilna Gaon's powerful ideas on the purpose of Creation, the Jewish People and its history and destiny, and the coming of Mashiach. 272 pp.

**Only for a very advanced student**  
**Secrets of the Redemption**  
*Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto - Translator: Nissim, Rabbi Mordechai*  
This book provides compelling insight into the process of redemption, which we so desperately hope for each day. Featuring 98 short passages, each revealing secret mystical concepts in the unique style of the Ramchal, it encapsulates the esoteric with rational, practical life-lessons. A work of mystical depth and understanding. 178 pp.

**Death – Suffering**  
see also “Holocaust”  
*Return to top of page*

**DEATH AND BEREAVEMENT**  
A Halakhic Guide  
*By Rabbi Abner Weiss, Ph.D.*  
*Sensitively written book with authentic Jewish perspective*

**ILLNESS AND CRISIS**  
Coping the Jewish way  
*By Rabbi Dr. Tsvi G. Schur*

**First choice for someone struggling with the loss of a loved one**  
**Remember My Soul**  
What To Do in Memory of a Loved One  
*by Lori Palatnik*  
Provides the comforting voice of wisdom at life's most painful moment. People who have suffered a recent loss--and those for whom a distant loss continues to be a struggle--find in these pages insight, inspiration and resolution. Paperback

**Good for someone who questions why people undergo adversity**  
**Yissurim: A Blessing in Disguise**  
*Seligson, Leib Gershon*  
How do we understand suffering? In this sensitive, profound book, the author, who himself underwent countless Yissurim and challenges, shows us twenty-four “blessings” that a person derives from misfortune. Along with its forceful message, this book also offers the reader a much-needed measure of comfort to help him cope with difficulties. 168 pp. Targum Press

**Holocaust**  
see also “Death-Suffering”  
*Return to top of page*

Most people aren't looking for answers but for one who is, this is a good choice
Partners in Torah Book List

**SHOAH / A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON THE HOLOCAUST**
A Jewish perspective on tragedy in the context of the Holocaust.
*By Rabbi Yoel Schwartz  Yitzchak Goldstein*

Good for students who need to *realign* their thinking about the Holocaust [*common among secular Jews who were taught that Holocaust remembrance is all there is to Judaism]*

**The War Against G-d and His People**
*Burstein, Rabbi Shmuel*
A guide to the Holocaust for young people. This sensitive work gives the reader a Torah perspective on Jewish suffering, anti-Semitism, and heroism. Gives a meticulously accurate history of the Holocaust--from the life that was before, through the shattering years of the Nazi era, and then the rebirth of Judaism from the ashes of destruction. 278 pp. Targum Press

**Kosher**
Good *overview of subject for a newcomer to Kosher observance*

**KASHRUTH / A REFERENCE GUIDE**
A comprehensive background and reference guide to the principles of Kashruth.
*By Rabbi Yacov Lipschutz*

Nice practical *pictorial guide for newcomer to Kosher observance*

**The Kosher Kitchen**
*Rabbi Zeev Greenwald*
A comprehensive, illustrated guide to kashrus. Contains a special detailed section on checking vegetables for insects. 224 pp.

Only for *advanced student already keeping kosher*

**THE LAWS OF KASHRUS**
A comprehensive exposition of their underlying concepts and applications.
*By Rabbi Binyomin Forst*

**Lashon Harrah**
Good *choice for all levels*

**CHOFETZ CHAIM: A DAILY COMPANION**
The concepts and laws of proper speech as formulated by Sefer Chofetz Chaim
*By Michael Rothschild  Rabbi Shimon Finkelman*

Good *choice for all levels*

**CHOFETZ CHAIM: A LESSON A DAY**
The concepts and laws of proper speech arranged for daily study.
*By Rabbi Shimon Finkelman  Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz*

**Baal Teshuvah Support**
For someone *already observant* struggling to do it right and minimize familial stress

**After the Return**
*Becher, Rabbi Mordechai; Newman, Rabbi Moshe*
An essential work for the newly observant on how to ease into a religious lifestyle and maintain good family relations. This practical halachic guide discusses real-life...
situations, such as dealing with parental requests that are contrary to Jewish law, attending family ceremonies in non-Orthodox settings, and how to solve Kashruth dilemmas. 200 pp.

**Inspiration – General**

Especially good for the non-intellectual *beginner*

**The Maggid of Dubno and His Parables**
*Translator: Heinemann, Dr. Benno*

The first comprehensive anthology in English. Arranged according to subject. 304 pp.

Especially good for the non-intellectual but *not afraid of sharp & strong ideas*

**Communicating Through Parables, Chofetz Chaim Volumes 1 & 2**
*Compiled by Machon Beis Yechiel*

Another compilation of the beautiful parables told by the Chofetz Chaim. With insight, depth, and clarity, the Chofetz Chaim's words transmit powerful messages to the reader through analogies, parables, and the stories of our Sages. Written in an warm, engaging style, this book is both vital and highly readable. 317 pp.

Very compelling if studied with a good mentor

**IGGERES HARAMBAN / A LETTER FOR THE AGES**
*The Ramban's ethical letter with an anthology of contemporary Rabbinic expositions.*
*By Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer*

Light but deep – very good intro for someone who is *totally clueless*

**Heaven on Earth**
*Translator: Coopersmith, Nechemia; Simmons, Shraga*

Eye-opening and stimulating – *all it needs is a thinking mind – all levels*

**The Thinking Jewish Teenager's Guide to Life**
*Tatz, Akiva*

Deep and inspiring – Good for intellectual at all levels

**Living Inspired**
*Tatz, Akiva*

**Mentor Resources**

Helpful for articulating our discomfort with popular form of media

**What They Don't Want You to Know About Television & Videos**
*Kelemen, Lawrence*

Abridged from the best-selling *To Kindle a Soul*, this student-edition pamphlet offers a fascinating, and powerful, look at the effects of television and video viewing. Based on hundreds of scientific studies, this is must reading for concerned parents — and, especially, for young people who care about the quality of their lives and about their future. 59 pp. Targum Press.


**Kiruv Files**
*Rabbi's Elimelech Meisels – Dovid Kaplan*

Solid answers to questions often asked by secular Jews
The Eye Of a Needle
Yitzchak Coopersmith
Feldheim

A short but very helpful introduction to the process of Mesoras HaTorah – who got it and who did they teach it to etc. From Moshe until the Rambam

Rambam’s Introduction to Mishnah Torah
Available for free via email from Rabbi Meisels

Audio Cassette about Intermarriage from Rabbi Eliezer Gewirtz available through Partners in Torah office
Doubter for more than one reason – holocaust – Sinai – Science – Olam Habbah – lazy - This is the best book – For students suggest the Outreach edition

All around guide to Kiruv issues and confidence inspiring

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
This book was written for the Jew who seeks evidence and proofs that the principal beliefs of Judaism are indeed true. Readable and friendly, inspiring and refreshing, this book presents the main issues of Judaism in depth. It includes compelling evidence to there being a Creator, evidence to the Divine origin of our Torah, to there being a spiritual soul and the World To Come, and Divine guidance throughout Jewish history. It discusses the problems with Evolution, and it deals with the Holocaust and human suffering. It also provides many other sources for further reading, and a glossary of terms