

Partners in Torah Book List

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Tehillim

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

By Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan

Only for someone with *background* in Chumash and Jewish History

Landscapes 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, David

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

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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

Slifkin, Nossan

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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

A guide to basic laws and themes of Shabbos and Yom Tov and their applications in theory and in practice. A JEP book. 188 pp.

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

Partners in Torah Book List

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 Elozor; 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

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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

A guide to basic laws and themes of Shabbos and Yom Tov and their applications in theory and in practice. A JEP book. 188 pp.

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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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 Nossan 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

Partners in Torah Book List

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"

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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, David

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

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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

Good resource for someone looking for *mystical* insights into weekly Torah portion

Shem Mishmuel

by Rabbi Shmuel Bornstein (Admore of Sochatchov)

Selections from the monumental work *on all the Sidrahs*.

Challenging ideas - Very good text for study and discussion – best for someone *already familiar* with basic Parshah information

Explorations

Kahn, Ari D.

This book captivates the reader-learner with its focus on the 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.

Challenging ideas – very good text for study and discussion – good for all levels especially *beginners*

Lilmode Ulelamad: From the Teachings of Our Sages

Katz, Rabbi Mordechai

Insights on the weekly Torah portions in an attractive presentation. 192 pp **Thinking**

Challenging ideas – very good text for study and discussion – good for all levels - only on Bereishis & Shmos

Outside the Box - Bereishis

by Yochanan "Jeff" Kirshblum

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.

Partners in Torah Book List

Chumash

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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

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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.

Partners in Torah Book List

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

A JEP book with illustrations, diagrams and glossary. 160 pp.

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

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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

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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!

Only Halachos – no explanations of concepts – good resource

Halachos of Teffilin: Student Edition

Eider, Rabbi Shimon D.

Includes instructive photographs. 244 pp.

Good resource to get educated on Teffilin – nice for a beginner

Teffilin and Mezuzos: A Pictorial Guide

Askotzky, Yerachmiel

Treat yourself to a close-up look as a sofer shows you how to choose, maintain, and understand your Teffilin, Mezuzos, and Torah scrolls! This is a wonderfully illustrated consumer guide along with a clearly delineated outline of the laws of *Stam*. With more than four hundred illustrations, this book makes a perfect gift for the bar mitzvah boy and for everyone else as well. 299 pp. Targum Press

Prayer

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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*

Rigshai 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.." [Return to top of page](#)

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

Partners in Torah Book List

Our Bodies, Our Souls

Heller, Tzipporah

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”

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

Intermarriage Alert

by Yerachmiel Landy

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

Family Purity

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

Explores Divine regulation of the world. With Rabbi Yosef Begun's marginal notes. Vowelized, facing Hebrew and English texts. 443 pp.

Science & Torah

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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

Slifkin, 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

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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

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Strive for Truth!

This beautifully written and designed work contains the compiled Mussar lectures of

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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The Real Messiah

Arye Kaplan

Permission to Receive

Kelemen, Lawrence

Afterlife – Moshiach

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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 – Sufferring see also “Holocaust” [Return to top of page](#)

Laws – not philosophy

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

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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

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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

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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

Partners in Torah Book List

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

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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: Coopernsmith, 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

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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.

Very light - short inspiring stories – sensible advice – feel good book

Kiruv Files

Rabbi's Elimelech Meisels – Dovid Kaplan

Solid answers to questions often asked by secular Jews

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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