

# Studies in Maimonides

*The life, work and legacy of one of the most influential figures in Jewish history, Rabbi Moses Maimonides (1135-1204).*

## Bibliography

The following is a bibliography for the topics discussed in the course on the life and teachings of Rambam (Maimonides):

Rambam's ***Commentary on the Mishnah*** appeared in a new and complete Hebrew translation by Rabbi Joseph Kafich, Jerusalem 1963-1968.

Its lengthy and *very important* introduction, as well as the commentary on tractate *Berachot*, have been translated into English by Dr. Fred Rosner, Feldheim: New York 1975

A popular edition of the ***Mishneh Torah***, with a simple running commentary, is the *Rambam LeAm* edition, published by Mossad Harav Kuk in Jerusalem.

An English translation of the important introduction, and the first two books was produced by Moses Hyamson, Jerusalem 1962, and the other volumes were published in English translation by Yale University Press. There is also a more recent multi-voluminous English translation of many parts of the *Mishneh Torah* by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger, published by Moznayim, New York.

A popular Hebrew edition of the ***Sefer Hamitzvot***, with a simple running commentary, is part of the aforementioned Rambam leAm edition.

An English translation, called ***The Commandments***, 2 volumes, was produced by Rabbi Charles B. Chavel, Soncino Press, London 1967.

The last volume in the *Rambam LeAm* edition, contains the Hebrew versions of his ***Igeret Hashmad*** (also known as ***Ma'amar Kidush Hashem***), the ***Igeret Teiman*** (also known as ***Petach Tikvah***), and the ***Ma'amar Techiyat Hameitim***. These three appear also in Rabbi I. Kafich's ***Igrot Harambam*** (Jerusalem 1987), the latter two in Arabic original and a new Hebrew translation.

A critical edition of the ***Igeret Teiman - Epistle To Yemen*** was published by Abraham Halkin, with an English translation by Boaz Cohen, American Academy for Jewish Research, New York 1952.

The ***Milot Higayon (Treatise on Logic)***, was published, with English translation, by Israel Efros, New York 1938.

There are two English translations of the ***Guide for the Perplexed***, an older one (but still excellent, with enlightening notes) by M. Friedlander, and more recently by Shlomo Pines, University of Chicago Press. Both have extensive and valuable introductions analyzing the contents of that particular work.

Rambam's letters and short treatises have appeared in several collections, most notably:

- a) ***Kovets Teshuvot Harambam***, ed. A. Lichtenberg, Leipzig 1859 (republished by Gregg International Publishers, England 1969). This is a most valuable collection in three parts (the last one with the broadsheets and responses about the Maimonidean controversy after Rambam's passing), with comprehensive introductions, as well as a good biography.
- b) ***Teshuvot Harambam***, ed. J. Blau, 3 volumes, Jerusalem 1986. A comprehensive collection of Rambam's response with critical notes and good indices.
- c) ***Igerot Harambam***, ed. I. Shailat, 2 volumes, Jerusalem 1995. Rambam's letters and essays are presented here in chronological order, each one with good introductions, critical comments, and biographical data, placing them in historical context.

A number of letters, including ***Igeret Hashmad*** (also known as ***Ma'amar Kidush Hashem***), were translated into English by Leon D. Stitskin, Yeshiva University Press, New York 1982, with specific introductions. Some letters and responsa appear in English translation (in whole, or mere excerpts) in various anthologies of Rambam's writings or other works.

There are quite a few anthologies of Rambam's writings in English. Two commendable ones are Abraham Cohen's ***The Teachings of Maimonides***, Ktav Publishing House, New York 1968, and Isadore Twersky's ***A Maimonides Reader***, Behrman House, New York 1972. Also recommended, is Isadore Twersky's ***Introduction to the Code of Maimonides***, Yale University Press 1980, a valuable analysis of the *Mishneh Torah*, though essentially of academic nature. This book also has an extensive bibliography of relevant publications (books and articles) relating to Rambam and his thought and works.

Most of the above works contain much of Rambam's biographical data. An excellent biography is A. Heschel's ***Maimonides – Eine Biographie***, Berlin 1935, but unfortunately only available in German.