

Metaphysics

- I. **CHAPTER ONE** - This chapter explains that God, Lord of the universe and Master of the world, existed before anything else did, that He has no body, and that there is none other beside Him.
 - a. Eternal Existence of God
 - b. Reality dependent on Continuous Existence
 - c. God of the world guides the [uppermost] sphere with a power that is never-ending
 - d. Positive commandment to know these matters
 - e. Unity (therefore no body or disparate parts)
 - f. Anthropomorphic Biblical passages aren't realistic.
 - g. Anthropopathic Biblical passages aren't realistic.

- II. **CHAPTER TWO** - This chapter explains that it is a commandment to love God, that all creations consist of three parts, and starts the discussion of mystical and esoteric speculation.
 - a. It is a commandment to love and fear God
 - b. Love = contemplation of creations (knowledge)
 - c. Fear = realization of human insignificance
 - d. Three classes of Creation
 - i. Shape and Form that always exist and can be spoiled; e.g., bodies of men and animals, plants and the molten images
 - ii. Shape and form which does not vary from body to body or in appearance, but their shape is fixed by their form and can never change; e.g., spheres and the stars contained therein.
 - iii. Form but no shape; e.g., angels, which have no bodies, but whose form vary from angel to angel.
 1. Therefore all descriptions are allegorical
 2. To have form is to be on different levels
 3. Hierarchy: Holy Chayot, Ophanim, Erelim, Chashmalim, Seraphim, Malachim, Elohim, Benei Elohim, Cheruvim, Ishim.
 4. Ishim appear in prophetic visions. Even Chayot can't fully comprehend God.
 - e. God and His intellect and His life are one.
 - f. Difficulty of this subject

Physics

- III. **CHAPTER THREE** - This chapter names the spheres and discusses their physics, and also discusses the nature and physics of the four elements.
 - a. Nine Spheres: Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Stars, that which moves from east to west every day, and which encloses and encircles everything.
 - b. First eight are split up, rotate in different directions.
 - c. No mass or appearance.

- d. Eighteen spheres surround the world
- e. Ninth sphere has a pattern of stars = Zodiac.
- f. Relative sizes of stars, moon, planets.
- g. Stars and spheres possess souls, intellect (less than angels more than man) and understanding, and they are alive, exist and recognize God.
- h. Four Elements: Fire, wind, water, and earth.

IV. **CHAPTER FOUR** - This chapter explains that all creations are made from the four elements, discusses the form of the soul, and the difference between mystical and esoterical speculation and the Action of Creation.

- a. These four elements - fire, wind, water and earth - are the foundations of all the creations under the heavens.
- b. All bodies except for these four elements, consist of a combined form and shape, the shape of which consists of the four elements, but each of the four elements consists of just a combined shape and form.
- c. Fire and wind = up. Water and earth = down. All without their knowledge.
- d. Hot + Dry = fire. Hot + wet = wind. Cold + dry = earth. Cold + wet = water.
- e. Decomposition.
- f. Change and exchange of material which happens because of the rotation of the spheres.
- g. Form without shape is invisible, known only by wisdom.
- h. Form of man = soul. Extra intellect = man's soul. This is the meaning of "in our image."
- i. Soul is not made of elements.
- j. Love of God = recognition of the greatness of creation. Fear = realization of his smallness.
- k. These four chapters are the Pardes of mystical speculation.

Everything Else

- V. **CHAPTER FIVE** - This chapter explains that all Jews are commanded to sanctify God's Name, when to transgress when under a death a threat and when to die, and defines a what constitutes a desecration of God's Name.
- VI. **CHAPTER SIX** - This chapter explains that it is forbidden to erase any of the Holy Names, and states which Names may be erased.
- VII. **CHAPTER SEVEN** - This chapter discusses prophecy and who warrants it, and explains the difference between the prophecy of Moses and that of the other Prophets.
- VIII. **CHAPTER EIGHT** - This chapter discusses the signs that Moses performed and why he performed them, and that he did not do so to make the people believe in him.
- IX. **CHAPTER NINE** - This chapter explains that a prophet may not make any changes whatsoever in the Torah and the commandments contained therein.
- X. **CHAPTER TEN** - This chapter discusses which signs a prophet has to perform before we believe him.