

## Source Sheet Class 10-“2000 Years of Jewish History”-Rabbi Menachem Levine

### Source 1

The greatest misfortune that has befallen me during my entire life—worse than anything else—was the demise of the saint, may his memory be blessed, who drowned in the Indian sea, carrying much money belonging to me, him, and to others, and left with me a little daughter and a widow. On the day I received that terrible news I fell ill and remained in bed for about a year, suffering from a sore boil, fever, and depression, and was almost given up. About eight years have passed, but I am still mourning and unable to accept consolation. And how should I console myself? He grew up on my knees, he was my brother, and he was my student.

### Source 2

...At this time, the sufferings of our people have increased. The pressing need of the moment supersedes every other consideration. The wisdom of the wise has vanished, and the wisdom of our learned men is concealed.

Hence, the commentaries, compilations of laws and Response of the *Gaonim*, which they thought were easy to understand, have in our times become difficult to understand, and there are only a few individuals who are able to comprehend them properly...

**For this reason, I, Moshe ben Maimon, the Sephardi, have girded my loins and relying on the help of the Almighty, blessed be He, have thoroughly studied all their works and decided to compile the results derived from them as to what is prohibited and what is permitted, what is clean and what is unclean, and all the other laws of the Torah, all in clear language and concise style, so that the entire oral Torah will be systematically arranged for all. I shall not quote the questions and answers or the differences of opinion discussed... but only the laws themselves in a clear and succinct manner, in accordance with the conclusions derived from all these treatises and compilations existing since the time of Rabbi Yehudah HaNassi until the present day – so that all the laws shall be accessible to young and old, whether they are Biblical precepts or enactments by the sages or Prophets.**

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**Rambam, Introduction to Mishneh Torah**

### Source 3

1. The existence of G-d
2. G-d's unity
3. G-d's spirituality and incorporeality
4. G-d's eternity
5. G-d alone should be the object of worship
6. Revelation through G-d's prophets
7. The preeminence of Moshe among the prophets
8. G-d's law given on Mount Sinai
9. The immutability of the Torah as G-d's Law
10. G-d's foreknowledge of human actions
11. Reward of good and retribution of evil
12. The coming of the Jewish Messiah
13. The resurrection of the dead

**Summary of Rambam's 13 Principles of Faith-Introduction to 10<sup>th</sup> Perek of Sanhedrin**

### Source 4

**"... it seems most strange that... the Creator of Heaven and Earth resorted to the womb of a certain Jewish lady, grew there for nine months and was born as an infant, and afterwards grew up and was betrayed into the hands of his enemies who sentenced him to death and executed him, and that afterwards... he came to life and returned to his original place. The mind of a Jew, or any other person, simply cannot tolerate these assertions. You have listened all your life to the priests who have filled your brain and the marrow of your bones with this doctrine, and it has settled into you because of that accustomed habit. I would argue that if you were hearing these ideas for the first time, now, as a grown adult, you would never accept them."**

**Ramban, Disputation at Barcelona in 1263**