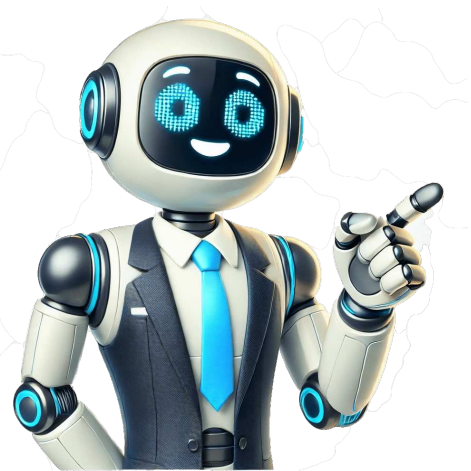


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Raphael [1843] One of the first English translations of a substantial portion of the Mishna, the treasure-house of Jewish law and tradition. The Wisdom of the Talmud by Ben Zion Bokser [1951] A great introduction to the Talmud for contemporary readers. The Talmud by Joseph Barclay [1878] Seventeen representative tracts from the Talmud. The Talmud. Selections by H. Polano [1876] A Talmud miscellany. The Babylonian Talmud in Selection by Leo Auerbach [1944] An original mid-20th century translation of selections from the Talmud. Sayings of the Jewish Fathers (Pirke Aboth) tr. by Charles Taylor [1897] A beautiful extract from the Talmud, which has been used as liturgy. Devoted to ethics with some mystical touches, the Pirke Aboth is distinguished for its transparency and simplicity. This was one of the first English translations in modern times of any portion of the Talmud. Hebraic Literature Edited by Maurice Harris [1901] Extracts from the Talmud, Midrash and Kabbalah. The Wisdom of Israel by Edwin Collins [1910] A short look at Jewish wisdom literature from the Talmud and Midrash. Tractate Sanhedrin, Mishnah and Tosefta by Herbert Danby [1919] A key portion of the Mishna dealing with crime and punishment. Tractate Berakoth by A. Lukyn Williams [1921] The Mishna about prayer. Haggada Legends of the Jews by Louis Ginzberg [1909]. A huge collection of traditional stories which have grown up around the Bible narrative. Kabbalah The Kabbalah Unveiled S.L. MacGregor Mathers, Translator. [1912] An extensive introduction to the Kabbalah. Includes translations of three texts from branch of the Kabbalah known as the Zohar: The Book of Concealed Mystery, The Greater Holy Assembly, and The Lesser Holy Assembly. Sepher Yezirah translated by Isidor Kalisch [1877] Includes English translation and pointed Hebrew for this key text of the Kabbalah. Kabbalah - Sepher Yetzirah W.W. Westcott tr. [1887] 26,374 bytes The Zohar: Bereshith to Lekh Lekha by Nurho de Manhar (pseud.) [1900-14] The Zohar is a Kabbalistic commentary on the Hebrew Bible. This is the only extensive English translation of a portion of the Zohar currently in the public domain. Covers Adam to Abraham. Jewish Mysticism by J. Abelson [1913] The Kabbalah in the context of the history of Jewish Mysticism. The Kabbalah, or the Religious Philosophy of the Hebrews by Adolphe Franck [1926] Did the Kabbalah originate from Zoroastrianism? The Cabala by Bernhard Pick [1913] A short critical introduction to the Kabbalah. Midrash Tales and Maxims from the Midrash by Samuel Rapaport [1907] A popular Midrash compilation. This is the (unattributed) source for the next two entries' Midrash extracts. This book has the references for each of the passages quoted lacking in the texts below, which makes it the best source if you wish to quote some of this material. The Sacred Books and Early Literature of the East, Vol. IV: Medieval Hebrew [1917] Some sizeable extracts from the Midrash, medieval collections of Jewish Biblical lore and legend. Midrash Tanhuma 60,529 bytes Haggadah The Union Haggadah ed. by The Central Conference of American Rabbis. illus. Isidore Lipton [1923] A guide to the celebration of Passover. Haggada For Pesach According To Chabad-Lubavitch Custom 66,858 bytes Prayer Books (Siddur) The Standard Prayer Book by Simeon Singer [1915] Complete English translation of a Jewish Prayer Book, or Siddur, including prayers, holidays, ceremonies, and important texts. Other texts from late Antiquity and Middle Ages The Works of Flavius Josephus by Josephus, tr. by William Whiston [1737] Josephus was a Jewish historian, soldier and scholar who lived in the first century [37-100 C.E.]. His works are primary historical sources of information about the doomed Jewish revolt of 66-9 C.E. The Kitab al Khazari of Judah Hallevi, translated by Hartwig Hirschfeld [1905] A classic of Medieval Jewish philosophy, set in a legendary (but historical) central Asian kingdom. The Guide for the Perplexed by Moses Maimonides, M. Freidländer, tr. (2nd Ed.) [1904] Maimonides' masterful summation of theology, natural philosophy and divine law. Selected Religious Poems of Solomon ibn Gabirol by Solomon ibn Gabirol, tr. by Israel Zangwill [1923] A key medieval Jewish Spanish poet and philosopher's devotional poetry, some of which was adopted into liturgy. The Fountain of Life by Solomon ibn Gabirol, tr. by Harry E. Wedeck [1962] An extract from the Jewish writer Solomon ibn Gabirol's philosophical treatise on the First Cause, misattributed for centuries to an Islamic or Christian author named Avicbron. Original Hebrew of a Portion of Ecclesiasticus by A.E. Cowley and A. Neubauer [1897] Includes the Alphabet of Ben Sira. Modern The Duties of the Heart by Rabbi Bachye, tr. by Edwin Collins [1909] A 12th Century Spanish Rabbi's systematic treatment of Ethics as a universal. Ancient Jewish Proverbs by Abraham Cohen [1911] A treasury of Jewish proverbs from the Mishna and Talmud. Jewish Magic and Superstition. A Study in Folk Religion by Joshua Trachtenberg [1939] A comprehensive study of medieval Jewish folk magic, a primary source of modern ceremonial magic. A Rabbi's Impressions of the Oberammergau Passion Play by Joseph Krauskopf [1901] A Rabbi examines the tangled narrative of the Crucifixion, and the roots of anti-Semitism in the early Church. Folk-lore of the Holy Land; Moslem, Christian and Jewish by J. E. Hanauer [1907] Moslem, Christian and Jewish tales from old Palestine. Jewish Fairy Tales and Legends by "Aunt Naomi" (Gertrude Landa) [1919] A well-told collection of Midrash and Talmudic lore for children. The Great March by Rose G. Lurie [1931] A wonderful children's book of post-biblical Jewish stories, with great illustrations, that adults can learn a thing or two from. The Golden Mountain by Meyer Levin [1932] Magical realist Hassidic tales, lovingly retold by a master storyteller. Reform Judaism - 1885 Pittsburgh Conference 4,588 bytes Articles of Faith from the Jewish Encyclopedia 29,628 bytes The Columbus Platform: The Guiding Principles Of Reform Judaism [1937] 8,706 bytes Reform Judaism - A Centenary Perspective 11,054 bytes Maimonides: Ani Maamin - I believe... 34,307 bytes Solomon Schechter - Studies in Judaism - The Dogmas of Judaism 64,107 bytes The Thirteen Wants by Mordecai M. Kaplan 2,127 bytes Links Jewish Virtual Library [External Site] TanakhTorah, Prophets, and Writings, which together make up the Hebrew Bible, Judaism's foundational text.MishnahFirst major work of rabbinic literature, compiled around 200 CE, documenting a multiplicity of legal opinions in the oral tradition.TalmudGenerations of rabbinic debate about law, ethics, and Bible, structured as commentary on the Mishnah with stories interwoven.MidrashInterpretations and elaborations upon biblical texts, including stories, parables, and legal deductions.HalakhahLegal works providing guidance on all aspects of Jewish life. Rooted in past sources and growing to address changing realities.KabbalahMystical works addressing topics like God's attributes and the relationship between God's eternality and the finite universe.LiturgyPrayers, poems, and ritual texts, like Siddur and Haggadah, recited in daily worship or at specific occasions.Jewish ThoughtJewish philosophy and theology, ranging from medieval to contemporary, analyzing topics like free will and chosenness.ToseftaCompanion volumes to the Mishnah, containing laws and discussions that were not included in the Mishnah's redaction.ChasidutSpiritual revival movement founded in the 18th century, focusing on communion with God and divinity in the material world.MusarVirtue-based instruction for moral and spiritual character development, ranging from medieval to contemporary.ResponsaAnswers and decisions written by rabbinic leaders in response to questions, demonstrating the application of Jewish law to actual cases.Second TempleWorks compiled around the time period of the Second Temple, which stood for several centuries and was destroyed in 70 CE.ReferenceDictionaries, grammar works, and encyclopedias, from medieval to contemporary. How does one choose the hundred best Jewish books? How can one even begin to compare books like Exodus (the second book of the Torah), and Exodus (the novel about the creation of the State of Israel by Leon Uris)? To avoid these sorts of problems, I have divided Jewish books into 10 categories and offer 10 important Jewish books in each category.Bible1. Tanakh. No need to justify this one.2. Rashi's Commentary on the Bible. He deserves his own space, even though he is included in the following entry.3. Mikraot Gedolot on the Humash. All the classical commentators in conversation on a single page; what else can you say? Help us keep Jewish knowledge accessible to millions of people around the world. With your help, My Jewish Learning can provide endless opportunities for learning, connection and discovery. 4. Legends of the Jews, written by Louis Ginzberg and typed and edited by Henrietta Szold. Magnum opus of legend and midrash with extensive notes.5. Jewish Publication Society Torah Commentary. A lot of conversation between the different editors of the different volumes.6. The Five Books of Moses, translated by Everett Fox.7. Studies in the Weekly Portion, Nehama Leibowitz.8. The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis, Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg. Exciting, original essays on the stories of Genesis.9. Midrash Tanhuma. Easier to read and more fun than Midrash Rabbah.10. Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer. Edgy narrative midrash with unusual legendary material Jewish Law1. Talmud. Discussion of Jewish law. Argument on the discussion of Jewish law. Commentaries on the arguments. Comments on the commentaries. You get the idea.2. Mishneh Torah of the Rambam. Maimonides' way of preventing people from "wasting time" studying Talmud by laying down the law.3. Shulchan Arukh. A "world Jewry" perspective on Jewish law incorporating both the Sephardic approach of Rabbi Yosef Caro (Safed, 1500's) and the Ashkenazic comments of Rabbi Moshe Isserles (Poland).4. A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice, Isaac Klein. An easy to read, detailed, referenced, English language compendium of Jewish law and practice.5. The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning, Maurice Lamm. As a Congregationalist minister friend of mine says, "Jews really understand how to mourn."6. Practical Medical Halachah, Fred Rosner & Moshe Tendler.7. The Challenge of Wealth: A Jewish Perspective on Earning and Spending Money, Meir Tamari. Some philanthropist should provide free copies for corporate executives.8. Women & Jewish Law: An Exploration of Women's Issues in Halakhic Sources, Rachel Biale.9. The Right and the Good: Halakhah and Human Relations, by Daniel Z. Feldman. Persuasive, detailed, and incredibly well-researched.10. Evolving Halakhah: A Progressive Approach to Traditional Jewish Law, Moshe Zemer.Liturgy/Home Practice1. Prayer Book (Siddur). Crib notes for communing with God, mixed with popular philosophy and poetry.2. Machzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.3. A Different Night (Passover Haggadah), Noam Zion. Lots of questions, fewer answers, for people who like to talk.4. The Jewish Catalog, compiled and edited by Michael and Sharon Strassfeld, the best of 1970s "do-it-yourself-ism"; where else to find out how to tie-dye tallitot (prayer shawls).5. It's a Mitzvah!: Step-By-Step to Jewish Living, Bradley Shavit Artson. Sort of a Jewish Catalog for the '90s.6. Voices of Wisdom, Francine Klagsbrun. A great anthology.7. Words that Hurt, Words that Heal: How to Choose Words Wisely and Well, Joseph Telushkin. One of the most powerful books I know. Rabbi Telushkin spices his books with examples and includes chapters about how we talk to members of our own family, the ethics of what we say, and much more.8. Mourning and Mitzvah, Anne Brenner.A guided journal for helping people walk through the valley of the shadow of death.9. To Be a Jew: A Guide to Jewish Observance in Contemporary Life, Hayim Halevy Donin. Basic guide to Jewish observance and practice from a very traditional point of view.10. The Jewish Religion: A Companion, Louis Jacobs. Reliable, trans-denominational.History1. The Jewish War, Josephus. Can we learn history from a turncoat traitor?2. A Social and Religious History of the Jews, Salo Baron. Can we learn history from someone who does not subscribe to the "oy vey" theory of Jewish history?3. History of the Jews, Heinrich Hirsch Graetz. Can we learn history from...never mind, of course we can, and historiography too.4. The "Shabbes Goy," Jacob Katz. A thoughtful look at Jewish-Gentile relations in the Middle Ages.5. Jews in America: Four Centuries of an Uneasy Encounter, Arthur Hertzberg.6. Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia,Paula Hyman. Examines the role of Jewish women in American life.7. War Against the Jews, Lucy Davidowicz. Definitive history of the Holocaust.8. The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State, Shlomo Avineri. A study of modern Zionist thought.9. A History of the Jewish People, edited byH. H. Ben-Sasson.10. Jerusalem: A History of Forty Centuries, Teddy Kollek and Moshe Pearlman. Includes beautiful colorful photographs.Philosophy1. A Guide for the Perplexed, Maimonides.2. The Kuzari, Yehuda HaLevi. A medieval Jewish philosopher contrasts Judaism, Aristotelianism, Christianity, and Islam.3. Faith and Doubt, Norman Lamm.4. The Sabbath, Abraham Joshua Heschel. A philosophical and spiritual look at sacred time and Shabbat.5. Questions Jews Ask, Mordechai M. Kaplan.6. A Living Covenant, David Hartman.7. Standing Again At Sinai, Judith Plaskow.8. When Bad Things Happen to Good People, Harold Kushner.9. Lonely Man of Faith, Joseph B. Soloveitchik.10. Not in Heaven: The Nature and Function of Halakha, Eliezer Berkovits.Mysticism1. Zohar attributed to R. Shimon bar Yochai.2. The Ladder, Yehuda Ashlag. A modern, accessible commentary on the Zohar.3. The Holy Letter (Iggeret Hakodesh) of Nachmanides. Sanctifying eros.4. Likutei Maharan, Nahman of Bratslav.5. Collected Sayings (Likkutei Amarim), also known as Tanya, Shneur Zalman of Lyady.6. To Heal the Soul: The Spiritual Journal of a Chasidic Rebbe, Kalonymus K. Shapira, translated by Yehoshua Starratt.7. 13 Petaled Rose, Adin Steinsaltz. 8. The Book of Words, Lawrence Kushner.9. A Call to the Infinite, Aryeh Kaplan.10. The Religious Thought of Hasidism, edited by Norman Lamm.Novels1. The Chosen, Chaim Potok.2. Exodus, Leon Uris.3. As a Driven Leaf, Milton Steinberg.4. Night, Elie Weisel.5. Inside, Outside, Herman Wouk.6. Jephthe's daughter, Naomi Ragen.7. The Love of Elspeth Baker, Myron Kaufmann.8. The Rise of David Levinsky, Abraham Cahan. An immigrant success story, written by the long-time editor of the Yiddish Forward.9. Badenheim 1939, Aharon Appelfeld.10. Goodbye Columbus, Philip Roth.(The biblical book of Esther, in my opinion, can also be included for this category. I consider it the first book of Jewish historical fiction, but that is a discussion for another time and another article.)Poetry/Drama/Short Stories1. Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse, edited and translated by T. Carmi. Great anthology.2. Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems, Yehuda Amichai. A broad and a bilingual collection.3. The Dybbuk, Ansky. Bless my soul; I am stuck on this play.4. The Shawl, Cynthia Ozick.5. Favorite Tales of Shalom Aleichem, selected and translated by Julius and Frances Butwin.The "Jewish Mark Twain" in English.6. Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World, Howard Schwartz.7. America and I: Short Stories by American Jewish Women Writers, Joyce Antler (Editor).8. Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul: Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit, Jack Canfield (Editor).9. Twenty-One Stories, S. Y. Agnon.10. Shirot Bialik, Hayyim Nahman Bialik. Steven Jacobs (Editor).Children's Books1. Something from Nothing, Phoebe Gilman, simply the best introduction for small children to the Jews of Eastern Europe, and it does not even mention Eastern Europe!2. Jeremy's Dreidel, Ellie Gellman. "Being blind is not about how you look, it is about how you see."3. When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest.4. About the Bnai Bagels, E. L. Konigsburg.5. The Return, Sonia Levitin. Escape from Ethiopia.6. Diary of A Young Girl, Anne Frank.7. The Devil's Arithmetic, Jane Yolen.8. All of a Kind Family, Sydney Taylor.9. The Feather Merchants and Other Tales of the Pools of Chelm. Retold by Steve Sanfield. Antics of the sages of Chelm.10. The House on the Roof: A Sukkot Story, David Adler. "Then the judge said to the old man, 'I'll give you just 10 days to take your Sukkah down.'"Misc. Great Books1. Back to the Sources: Reading the Classical Jewish Texts, Barry W. Holtz.2. The Last Trial, Shalom Spiegel. The binding of Isaac from midrashic perspectives.3. Living Each Day, Abraham J. Twerski.4. This is my God, Herman Wouk.5. Sacred Fragments, Neil Gillman.6. My Life, by Golda Meir. Powerful autobiography from one of the 20th century's greatest Jewish women.7. Tales of the Hasidim, Martin Buber.8. Maus Art Spiegelman. Holocaust story in comic book form.9. Big Book of Jewish Humor, William Novak and Moshe Waldoks.10. Basic Judaism, Milton Steinberg. Pronounced: ah-ha-RONE, Origin: Hebrew, Aaron in the Torah, brother of Moses. Pronounced: MIDD-rash, Origin: Hebrew, the process of interpretation by which the rabbis filled in "gaps" found in the Torah. Pronounced: moe-SHEH, Origin: Hebrew, Moses, whom God chooses to lead the Jews out of Egypt. Pronounced: roshe hah-SHAH-nah, also roshe ha-shah-NAH, Origin: Hebrew, the Jewish new year. Pronounced: seh-FAR-dik, Origin: Hebrew, describing Jews descending from the Jews of Spain. Pronounced: sue-KOTE, or SOOH-kuss (oo as in book), Origin: Hebrew, a harvest festival in which Jews eat inside temporary huts, falls in the Jewish month of Tishrei, which usually coincides with September or October. Pronounced: TALL-mud, Origin: Hebrew, the set of teachings and commentaries on the Torah that form the basis for Jewish law. Comprised of the Mishnah and the Gemara, it contains the opinions of thousands of rabbis from different periods in Jewish history. Pronounced: TORE-uh, Origin: Hebrew, the Five Books of Moses. Pronounced: yuh-HOO-dah or yuh-hoo-DAH (oo as in boot), Origin: Hebrew, Judah, one of Joseph's brothers in the Torah. Get Jewish wisdom & discovery in your inbox

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