

Are you respecting others based on their "religious" garb? Then read Radak, Tzefania 1:8, he disagrees. Does reputation outweigh their lack of intelligence? Then read Chovas HaLevayos' introduction. Are you attracted to the nonsensical ideas of your "religious" neighbors, even though it runs contrary to our Sages? Are you not thinking into ALL your beliefs and affairs, following only what is intelligent? God gave us EACH intelligence with which to think. Make time to learn diligently, following only God and the Rabbis - not your idolatrous co-religionists. Wisdom alone will show you the TRUTH.

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Parshas Vayetzai

RABBI BERNARD FOX

"And Hashem stood by it. And He said, 'I am Hashem, the G-d of Avraham your father and the G-d of Yitzchak your father. I will give you and your descendants the land that you lie upon. Your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth. You shall spread to the west, east, north and south. All the families of earth will be blessed through you and your descendants.'" (Beresheit 28:13-14)

Yaakov flees his father's home in order to escape the anger of his brother, Esav. He is traveling to Charan. He seeks refuge in the home of his uncle, Lavan. Evening comes before Yaakov has left the land of Canaan. Yaakov makes a camp and falls asleep. He has a vision. In this vision, the Almighty addresses him. Our pesukim contain a portion of this prophecy. Hashem promises Yaakov that he and his descendants will possess the land that he sleeps upon. His descendants shall multiply. They will become as numerous as the dust of the earth. They will expand in all directions. There seems to be a contradiction in these promises. First, Hashem promises Yaakov that he and his descendants will possess the land that Yaakov now sleeps upon. This seems to refer to a specific area. Sforno explains that it refers to the land of Canaan. Rashi quotes the Talmud and offers a similar

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The famous Midrash, "Rocks arguing over the righteous one", means that the physical world finds its true purpose only when utilized by a person for righteousness and Torah. Midrashim are not literal - rocks cannot talk. (Stated by Maimonides' son and other Sages.)



SUGGESTED READINGS: SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE.

www.mesora.org/13principles.html

God's Existence Belief or Proof?

www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html

God's Land Without God?

OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:
www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html

Understanding Rashi

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Reader: I am an Orthodox Jew and I have a problem. If you can believe it, I don't like Rashi! At all! I regret to say this. It would be so much easier if I could be in awe of his knowledge. But he causes me to distrust the whole concept of the Mesorah. I feel he asks us to believe fantastic things in order to accommodate Midrashic interpretations or his world view

The Uniqueness of the Nation

RIVKA OLENICK

"And I will take you to Me for a people, I will be to you a God, and ye will get to know that I am 'H your God, Who bringth you out from the burdens of Egypt." (Exodus 6:7) "I am the God Who took you out of Egypt, now I will be a God to you and you will get to know Me as your God, and I will take you to Me as my people" seems to make better logical sense. However, the Torah was not written to satisfy anyone's expectations. What is the importance of stating first, "I will take you to Me for a people?" Li L'am, My people you will be to Me. What are we supposed to understand having established first that we are His people? We have not come to Mt. Sinai yet. We are to be as His entity of "My people" His, with no land, nothing that is rightfully ours, just us, a people. Shouldn't we first understand that God took us and brought us out of Egypt? Wouldn't it make sense that first we would see what God did for us?

In Egypt we had no freedom, we were treated as aliens, and were oppressed in every way. Harsh laws and taxes were imposed on us. What did we have there besides all of these heavy burdens? What was our existence there? We, the descendents of Abraham who sunk into the depths of helplessness living in the most pathetic state - as slaves! Slaves of the most corrupt, materialistic and animalistic nation. We were total "strangers" and hated with no one to take up our cause.

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