



*"Would it be that My people listen to me, if Israel would go in My ways, I would subdue their enemies in a instant, and turn My hand against their foes."*

*King David, Psalm 81*

ESTD  
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*Dedicated to Scriptural and Rabbinic Verification  
of Jewish Beliefs and Practices*

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## SUGGESTED READINGS:

SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

### Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE. WE URGE YOU TO READ THEM:  
[www.mesora.org/13principles.html](http://www.mesora.org/13principles.html)

### God's Existence Belief or Proof?

[www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html](http://www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html)

### God's Land Without God?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:  
[www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html](http://www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html)

## Passover Questions and Answers

RABBI REUVEN MANN

1) Was Moshe a good negotiator? At first glance it would seem he wasn't a good negotiator. The 2nd plague, frogs seemed to bring Paroh to his knees. (Sh'mos 8:3) Phroh asks Moshe to pray to God to remove the frogs and promises to allow the Jews to leave. Moshe proceeds to pray and God responds by removing the frogs. When Paroh saw that the frogs were gone he hardened his heart and refused to release the Jews. Why didn't Moshe insist on concessions before removing the pressure? Did Moshe learn from this mistake? The same pattern is repeated. See (Sh'mos 8:13). Paroh promised to free the Jews under the pressure of wild beasts. Moshe warns Paroh to be serious, prays to God, the plague is removed and Paroh again hardens his heart. Moshe still does not learn. He repeats the same "mistake" by hail and by the plague of locusts. (Sh'mos 10:

Question: Why didn't Moshe use the leverage he had to pressure Paroh with concessions - instead of accepting his worthless promises? Did Moshe actually trust Paroh?

Answer: We see from this that the purpose of the makkos, plagues was not to beat Paroh into submission. God had the power to save the Jews without any makkos, plagues. Or He could have gone straight to the slaying of the firstborn. See the verses in Sh'mos. The purpose of the makkos was not to destroy but to teach that there is a supreme being outside the scheme of the universe Who created the world and had adequate control over its true purpose of the makka (plague) was to break down the false idolatrous ideas of Egypt ad to teach them about Hashem - the Creator of Heaven and Earth Who brought the world into being from nothingness and retained absolute control over everything that happened. God wanted Paroh to use his free will

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## ASK YOUR CHILDREN:

"Can God want there to be more than one religion?"  
Have your children email us with their answers: [questions@mesora.org](mailto:questions@mesora.org)

## Freedom & Religious Expression - A Contradiction

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Reader: Hi. I'm an American Jew living near Boston. I appreciate all the work that goes into Mesora.org, and am 100% behind Israel and the elimination of the Arab threats to our homeland. The one thing I have a problem with is in the Mesora Must Reads section of your homepage. Is it really necessary, or helpful to our cause in any way, to have a link to "Jesus cannot be God: Disproving All Other Religions"? That just seems like a ill-conceived notion. Inches below that on the page is a like called "Protest French anti-Semitism". I get a disturbing sense of hypocrisy when I see calls to disprove "all other religions". I thought the point of freedom was to allow people to believe whatever they thought to be true, as long as it didn't hurt others. We can't defend our land and our people by literally attacking the religion of others'. Judaism and the Jewish people have no need to try to diminish the beliefs of other people. We can easily stand strong on our own beliefs while letting other people enjoy their own.

I urge you to reconsider that article. We can do much more with a teaspoon of honey than a gallon of vinegar. Thank you.

Mesora: I appreciate input as yours. But let me be clear, Mesora's goal - as should be the goal of any person - is to understand absolute truth about reality, by definition meaning truth about God. This truth carries with it a conviction and the defense of such truth, as one who perceives truth is disturbed that another human being is bereft of that knowledge. He desires truth desires it for all mankind. Such were Abraham's goals. Therefore, the platform you hold of allowing others their freedom to practice what they wish, although not practically removed via our position, yet, we must oppose it verbally, so as to teach the truth. There is only one best way for man to live according to a God who doesn't change is mind - according to God who has absolute knowledge of truths - which refer to eternally, unchanging principles. Therefore, tolerance of any system but the one given divinely by God Himself with proofs of that event, must be opposed, for the sake of mankind. Opposing other religions is not an attack on people, but on principle. Religion must not be treated different than science - both are based on rational principles, as both emanate from God Himself, the Designer of all sciences, and religion is what I would term, the "science of life".

Freedom is a goal, and I defend it. But would you defend freedom unconditionally? You surely support the US's move to capture bin-Laden and bring him to trial, as should be done with Arafat. So you yourself would not suggest that freedom is an absolute - we do not allow terrorists freedom to express themselves. Now while freedom of religion at least today hurts no one - compared to the crusades - we must not falsely evaluate the death of one's body via homicide explosions as more evil than the death of one's soul through living a life of lies. certainly the soul's death is far worse, as it is an eternal ruin of man, whereas physical death is not. We do not force others to choose their beliefs, as God's will is that each man retain and express his freewill.

We will continue to speak out against France, the PLO, terrorism, and most importantly, false ideas - be they false religions or false practices - which lead the blind astray, losing for them their one chance of a short life, learning the truth about God's one plan for man.

## Israel's Independence Day Festival

DR. ALAN KEYES

□  
Los Angeles, California April 21st, 2002

I am often asked why it is that I am such a strong supporter of Israel. And I have to confess that when folks ask me that, it takes me aback a little bit, because it is not how I think of myself. Or, at least, it's not how I think of what I do. What I have been trying to do over the course of a couple of decades - I have a little more opportunity to do it right now on my television show - is as best I can simply to speak the truth as I understand it.

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