



Even at 55 million light-years, the galaxy is larger than Hubble's field of view,

**"Praise Him sun and moon, praise Him all bright stars....  
for He commanded, and they were created."**

*King David: Psalm 148*

The Hubble telescope's best images yet of our "neighbor" Mars - a mere 43 million miles from Earth



ESTD 1997

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

# JewishTimes

Volume I, No. 26...Aug. 1, 2002

WWW.MESORA.ORG/JEWISHTIMES.PDF

Download and Print Free

## IN THIS ISSUE:

PARSHA: BLESSINGS & CURSES	I, 2
TALMUD VS. SCIENCE	I, 3
LOVE OF GOD-WHOSE OBLIGATION?	I, 4
APPEARING BEFORE GOD	2, 4
GOD CANNOT BE PHYSICAL	3
THE JEW - BY MARK TWAIN	3
SUBJECTIVISM II	4
WHY GOD MADE THE ISRAELITES	4

## 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)

## Talmud vs. Science

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

**Reader:** In a recent edition of the "The Jerusalem Report," there was an article, entitled, "The Heretic." It is the story of a man, named Yaron Yadan, living in Israel, who is an ex Ultra Orthodox Yeshiva head. He is an EX orthodox Jew because of the following reasons. Using his logic, he thought that if the Talmud was the word of G-d, and that it was originally taught to Moshe, and had been passed down until it was written down by Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and later rabbis, then the science that it talks about would be accurate according to today's science. So for example, he took a look at what our Sages have to say about Kashrut and family purity laws. He also studied human, animal biology. He came to the conclusion that the Sages understanding of animal biology was wrong and therefore the laws of Kashrut are flawed. He reached the same conclusion when he studied female anatomy and he now believes that the family purity laws are flawed as well. One more example is that of fish, and he claims that some early rabbis ate non kosher fish due to their ignorance of maritime life. And finally, since our sages thought that the world was flat, the times for the beginning and end of Shabbos are wrong.

I'm very sorry that I am being so ambiguous and I'm also sorry that I can't find this article on the internet, but this article is in the June 17th issue of "The Jerusalem Report." I'm very sorry to bother you but I am very interested in hearing your thoughts on this matter. Is this man correct in the the Talmudic Sages are flawed in their science, and therefore the Talmud could not have been from G-d? This man, Yaron Yadan, talked to Yeshayahu Leibowitz, the famed orthodox scientist, who agreed with Mr. Yadan, that the science of the Talmud is wrong. So what is



### ALAN AND JOCELYN KEYES VISITING THE VICTIMS

An example of the highest level of human love, visiting the sick. See our special section, "Response to Terror", with a documentary by Connie Hair, producer.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JASON SALAMON

Jason's father and I learn regularly. Jason recently asked his father of the meaning behind our placement of the right shoe first as we dress each morning. His wish to understand such an "insignificant" topic, lead to his father and I uncovering some beautiful ideas this entire week. "Thank you Jason!"

Have your children email us with their questions: [questions@mesora.org](mailto:questions@mesora.org)

## Blessings and Curses Upon the Mountains

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

What is the concept intended by Moses commanding the Jews to receive both blessings and curses upon Mt. Grizzim and Mt. Eval respectively?

There are a number of questions to be addressed:

1) What were these specific areas of blessing and curse? 2) What is a "blessing" and what is a "curse"? 3) Why at this time? 4) Why on 2 mountain tops? 5) Why six tribes on each mountain top? 6) Why were the priests, Levites and the Ark remaining in the valley between these mountains, and what was achieved by these individuals

(continued on page 2)

## Love of God - Whose Obligation Is It?

RIVKA OLENICK

Shimon the Righteous was one of the last of the Men of the Great Assembly. He used to say: "The world stands on three things on the Torah, service and deeds of kindness." Pirkei Avos 1:2

In developing one's love of God, avas Hashem men and women have to be involved in the three things that the world stands on Torah, service and good deeds. There is no other way to love God. A person can have an appreciation for the entire system of Torah, but how can one have an appreciation without real knowledge? A person must learn what the system is. How can anyone be involved in service, performing the commandments if we don't understand what the commandments mean? If performing deeds of kindness are based on the Will of The Creator than every person has to know what His will is, and why and how we perform it. So, doesn't everyone, male and female have a chiyuv, an obligation of avas Hashem, love of God?

"But how come I don't have an obligation to learn Torah? Women often ask. Why does one need an obligation to obtain knowledge? Obtaining this knowledge is voluntary. Do you involve yourself in learning and love of God only because of obligation? Isn't it important to know how your purpose in life relates to love of God?"

After the Torah reading on the Sabbath we say: "It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and its supporters are praiseworthy. Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace. Lengthy days are at its right; at its left are wealth and honor. Hashem desired for the sake of its righteousness, that the Torah be made great and glorious." Didn't God give the Torah to us to maintain its, greatness and to continuously glorify it's greatness? The Creator has given us all the wonderful gifts life has to offer, family, our homes, our physical needs met and the means to sustain our lives. The Sabbath, the holidays, and the opportunity for continuous enjoyment that thought and wisdom provide are also gifts! We express our appreciation for the greatest gift of

(continued on page 4)