



Academy of Shem



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**Yehoshua ben Parachyah says, “Accept a teacher upon yourself; acquire a friend for yourself.”
(Pirke Avot 1:6).**

Rashi suggests that our Mishna means that one should acquire *books* — they are the best companions and are essential for acquiring Torah knowledge. These are the books on the Torah and the Tanach that should be the foundation of every Noahide library.

The Stone Chumash. Rabbi Nosson Scherman. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1994. The most popular Torah today. Excellent translation, excellent commentary. No Noahide should be without this book.

The Soncino Chumash. New York: The Soncino Press, 1985. An oldie but goodie, this is the book that the Stone Chumash replaced in most of the orthodox shuls. The English translation of the Hebrew is the archaic 1917 JPS translation. The commentary, however, is top-notch: Abraham Ibn Ezra, Gersonides, Kimchi, Nachmanides, Rashi, Sforno, and Rashbam. Includes the Haftorahs with commentary.

The Stone Tanach. Rabbi Nosson Scherman. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1996. A wonderful and quite readable translation of the Hebrew Scriptures.

The Pentateuch (T’rumath Tzvi). Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. New York: The Judaica Press, 1986. The commentary is profound, and Rabbi Hirsch uses copious amounts of Hebrew in his commentary, but it should be required reading for every Noahide.

Bereishis. Translation and commentary by Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz, with overviews by Rabbi Nosson Scherman. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1986. Artscroll’s massive (over 2200 pages) two-volume work is worth every penny. An in-depth look at the book of Bereishis (Genesis).

The Hirsch Psalms. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. New York: Feldheim Publishers, 1997. No one, with the possible exception of Rambam, wrote more commentary on the *B’nai Noah* than Rabbi Hirsch. “Of all the books of the Holy Scriptures, save the Five Books of Moses themselves, the Book of Psalms has had the greatest influence upon the development of the Jewish mind and spirit...Even as it [the Torah] has taught us to acquire the proper, thoughtful appreciation for nature through G-d, and for the place of man in nature, so it also demonstrates to us that the founding and the destiny of our people is most intimately linked with the course of the history of mankind as a whole, which is no less guided by G-d than is our own. It teaches us to recognize that the purpose of our founding and our introduction into the midst of the nations was that we might teach mankind, and reclaim mankind for, the knowledge and recognition of G-d, and of its own destiny and task as assigned it by Him...For, far beyond the confines of the Jewish people, even today, the psalms still serve to lift up to G-d the emotions of all those who seek Him, to bring them enlightenment, consolation and strength, and to inspire them to show self-sacrificing devotion in their conduct on earth.” (From the introduction to *The Hirsch Psalms*).

The Schottenstein Talmud: Sanhedrin Vol. 2. Artscroll. Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, Ltd. 2003. The English translation to the *Mishna* and the *Gemara* is set up like a yeshiva lesson with additional commentary. This volume (vol. 2) contains the section of the Noahide Laws (56a-60b).

The Complete Artscroll Siddur. Rabbi Noson Scherman, Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz. Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1985. Probably the most popular Hebrew/English Siddur on the market, this Siddur has plenty of commentary that will help you understand the depth of Jewish prayer. Also contains the Pirkei Avot.

Books on the Seven Laws of Noah

The Rainbow Covenant. Michael Ellias Dallen. Springdale, AR: Lightcatcher Books (2003). This is the most popular book available about the Seven Laws of Noah, particularly for beginners. This is not to say that it is without problems; often the author will mix in personal opinion with *halacha*, such as the chapter on *Dietary Laws*, where he tells the Noahide that they should avoid pork and shellfish, both of which are perfectly legal for a Noahide to eat as well as discouraging Noahides from eating meat with milk products, saying that “the combination of the foods is fatty and gross”.

The Seven Laws of Noah. Aaron Lichtenstein. New York: The Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Press, 1986. One of the first books on the Noahide Laws; Rabbi Lichtenstein’s book is a valuable resource for understanding the categories of the *mitzvot* contained in the Seven Laws.

General Books on Judaism

There are books that augment the understanding of Torah and Judaism.

The Aryeh Kaplan Reader. Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan. Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1985. A series of Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan’s essays on Judaism and the Torah. Artscroll.

The Aryeh Kaplan Anthology. Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan. New York: NSCY, 1994. A two-volume set of Rabbi Kaplan’s books on the Torah. *Volume One:* Maimonides’ Principles: The Fundamentals of Jewish Faith, The Infinite Light, If You Were G-d, and The Real Messiah? *Volume Two:* Jerusalem: The Eye of the Universe, Sabbath: Day of Eternity, Tzitzith, Tefillin, and Waters of Eden.

The Book of Redemption. Ramban (Nachmanides). Translated by Rabbi Dr. Charles B. Chavel. New York: Shilo Publishing House, Inc., 1986. Ramban’s exposition of the exile and future redemption of Israel.

The Disputation at Barcelona. Ramban (Nachmanides). Translated by Rabbi Dr. Charles B. Chavel. New York: Shilo Publishing House, Inc., 1983. The full text of Ramban’s classic defense of Judaism from the attacks of the idolater Pablo Cristiani.

A History of the Jews. Solomon Grayzel. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 5730-1969. An excellent history of the *B’nai Yisrael* by Dr. Solomon Grayzel, who taught Jewish history at Gratz College in Philadelphia.

To Be a Jew. Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin. New York: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers., 1972. A classic. This book has everything you need to know about basic Jewish observance.

Why the Jews? Dennis Prager & Joseph Telushkin. New York: A Touchstone Book (Simon & Shuster), 2003. One of the best explanations of anti-Semitism in print.