

The Jewish Creed of Moses Maimonides:



Moses Maimonides, (aka "Rambam") was born in present-day Spain in 1135 and died in Egypt or Tiberias on December 12, 1204. Author of several works including the famous philosophical famous *Guide for the Perplexed* (a work involving Jewish theology and Aristotle's philosophy), Maimonides was one of the most brilliant philosophers and Jewish theologians during the Middle Ages. He was not only brilliant in the areas of philosophical metaphysics and Jewish exposition, but he was also a physician. His influence in Jewish thought and practice cannot be emphasized enough.

In his commentary on the *Mishnah* (tractate Sanhedrin, chapter 10), Maimonides expressed his faith in a creed containing thirteen basic beliefs. Below are his formulations:

1. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, is the Creator and Guide of everything that has been created, and He alone has made, does make, and will make all things.
2. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, is One, and that there is no unity in any manner like unto His, and that He alone is our God, who was, and is, and will be.
3. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, is not a body, and that He is free from all the properties of matter, and not a body, and that He is free from all the properties of matter, and that He has not any form whatever.

4. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, is the first and the last.
5. I believe with perfect faith that to the Creator, blessed be His Name, and to Him alone, it is right to pray, and that it is not right to pray to any being besides Him.
6. I believe with perfect faith that all the words of the prophets are true.
7. I believe with perfect faith that the prophecy of Moses, our teacher, peace be unto him, was true and that he was the chief of the prophets, both of those who preceded and of those who followed him.
8. I believe with perfect faith that while the whole Torah, now in our possession, is the same that was given to Moses, our teacher, peace be unto him.
9. I believe with perfect faith that this Torah will not be changed, and that there will never be any other Law from the Creator, blessed be His Name.
10. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, knows every deed of the children of men, and all their thoughts, as it is said. It is He that fashioned the hearts of them all, that gives heed to all their works.
11. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be His Name, rewards those that keep His commandments and punishes those that transgress them.
12. I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah; and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.
13. I believe with perfect faith that there will be a revival of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator, blessed be His name, and exalted be His Fame for ever and ever.

For Thy Salvation I hope, O Lord.