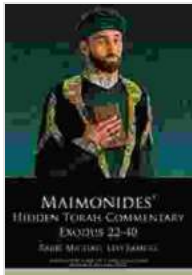


# Maimonides' Hidden Torah Commentary: Exodus 22:40



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5

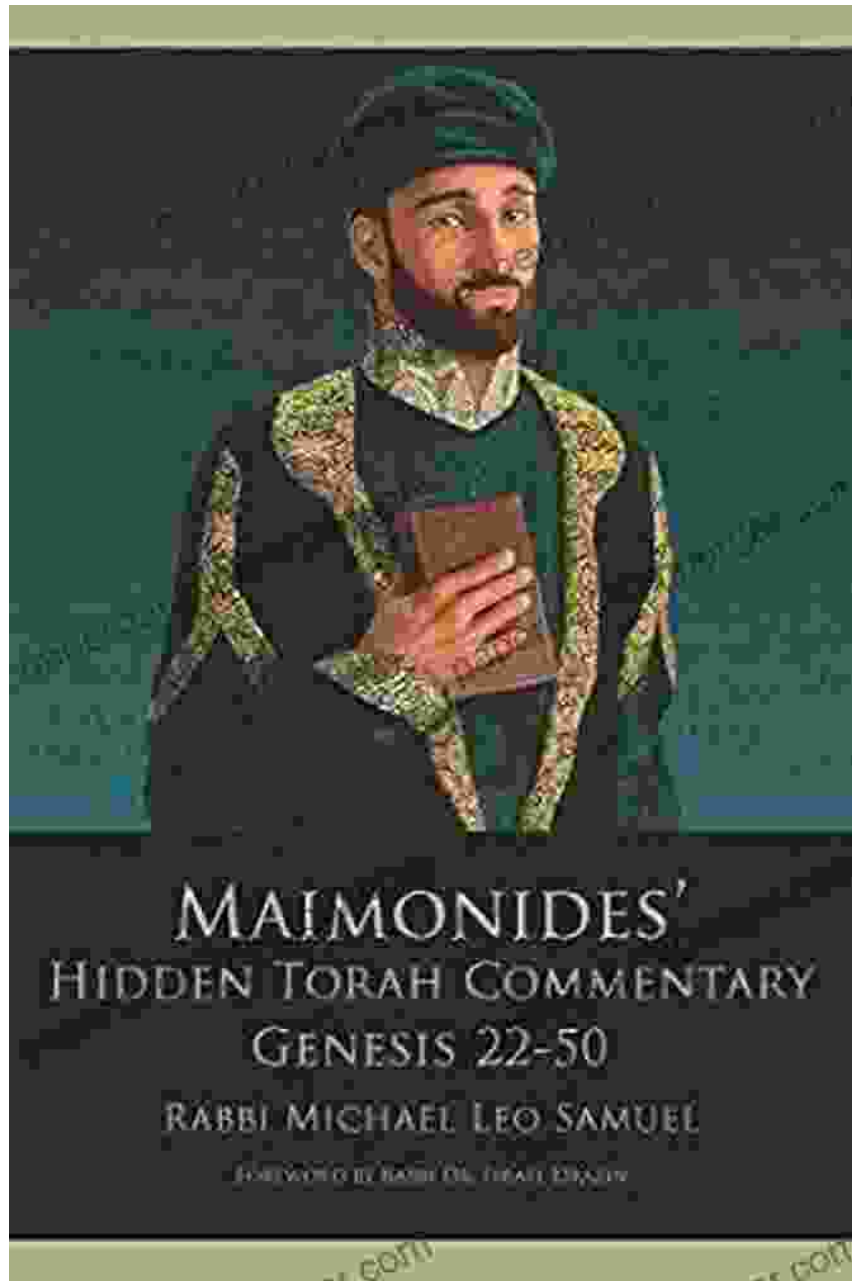
Language : English  
File size : 4820 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 1329 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Unveiling the Hidden Gems of Wisdom

The Torah, a sacred text steeped in divine wisdom, holds within its verses a tapestry of profound teachings that have captivated scholars and seekers of truth for centuries. Among the many brilliant minds who have delved into its depths, Maimonides stands as a towering figure, his Torah commentary a beacon of enlightenment that illuminates the hidden dimensions of the text.

In this article, we embark on an exploration of a particularly enigmatic passage in Maimonides' commentary: Exodus 22:40. This verse, seemingly straightforward in its literal meaning, conceals within its depths a wealth of symbolic wisdom that reveals the intricacies of human nature and our relationship with the divine.



## **The Mystery of Exodus 22:40**

The verse in question, Exodus 22:40, reads as follows:

*"And if a thief be found breaking in, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him."*

On the surface, this verse appears to condone the killing of a thief caught in the act of breaking into someone's home. However, as we delve deeper into Maimonides' commentary, we discover a hidden layer of meaning that challenges this seemingly straightforward interpretation.

### **Maimonides' Symbolic Interpretation**

Maimonides, in his profound wisdom, unveils the symbolic significance of each element within this verse. He explains that the "thief" represents the evil inclination, the inner voice that tempts us towards wronging. The "breaking in" symbolizes the evil inclination's attempt to penetrate our minds and hearts, leading us astray.

The "smiting" of the thief represents the act of resisting temptation, crushing the evil inclination before it gains a foothold within us. Maimonides emphasizes that this "smiting" is not a physical act of violence, but rather a metaphorical representation of overcoming our base desires.

### **The Absence of Bloodshed**

The final phrase of the verse, "there shall no blood be shed for him," carries immense symbolic weight. Maimonides interprets this as indicating that when we successfully resist temptation and overcome our evil inclination, we avoid spiritual bloodshed. We protect our souls from the destructive consequences of sin and preserve our inner purity.

Maimonides further explains that the absence of bloodshed also symbolizes the compassionate nature of the divine. God does not desire the downfall of sinners, but rather their repentance and return to righteousness. When we resist temptation, we demonstrate our willingness

to choose the path of goodness, and God responds with mercy and forgiveness.

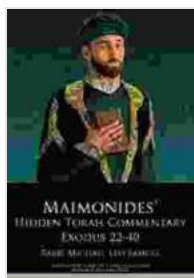
## Implications for Human Nature

Maimonides' hidden Torah commentary on Exodus 22:40 offers profound insights into the complexities of human nature. It reveals the constant struggle between our higher and lower selves, the battle between our aspirations towards righteousness and the temptations of our evil inclination.

This verse teaches us that we possess the power to overcome our base desires and choose the path of goodness. By resisting temptation and crushing the evil inclination, we align ourselves with the divine and cultivate inner purity.

Maimonides' hidden Torah commentary on Exodus 22:40 is a treasure trove of wisdom, revealing the depths of human nature and our relationship with the divine. It challenges us to confront our inner struggles and strive for spiritual excellence.

By embracing the teachings embedded within this enigmatic verse, we embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth. We learn to recognize the temptations that lie within us, resist their allure, and cultivate a life of righteousness and inner peace.



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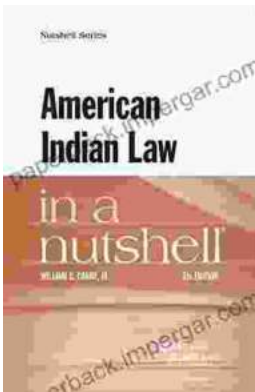
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