



D'var Torah and Text Resources

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*Below is a list of free web-sources and excellent books that can get you, **the USYer**, started in writing a D'var Torah, D'var Tefilla, or in preparing a source sheet for a USY limnud session. Note: The compiler takes no responsibility for any of the content present on any of the web resources. For copyright information, please contact the administrators of the various sites.*

Web Resources (in order of recommendation):

USY Rel/ed Divrei Torah Resource Bank:

<http://www.usy.org/yourusy/reled/dt/>

- You may also find other useful rel/ed resources here such as creative Tefillot, service outlines and a Tefillin guide

Torah Sparks: Discussion Guide to the Weekly Torah Portion from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

http://www.uscj.org/Torah_Sparks_Weekly5467.html

- Torah commentary with guiding questions for each weekly Torah portion

Torah from the Jewish Theological Seminary

http://jtsa.edu/Conservative_Judaism/JTS_Torah_Commentary.xml

- archives and premade source sheets about the weekly Torah portion
- weekly podcast

Ziegler Online Learning Portal: American Jewish University

<http://judaism.ajula.edu/Content/ContentUnit.asp?CID=845&u=8203&t=0>

- podcasts on various lectures
- weekly Torah commentary

My Jewish Learning (<http://myjewishlearning.com/>)

Articles and sources on a variety of Jewish subjects.

Mechon Mamre (<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/>)

- Complete Tanakh with trope signs
- Hebrew/English Tanakh (1917 JPS Translation)
- Maimonides' Mishneh Torah (Hebrew)
- Mishnah, Tosefta, Babylonian Talmud, and Jerusalem Talmud (Hebrew)

Lookstein School of Jewish Education (Bar-Ilan U)

http://www.lookstein.org/lesson_plans.php

- Assorted lesson plans, Siddur text

Morim (<http://en.morim.org/>)

- Lessons, articles, and resources about Jewish holiday and calendar events.

Daat (<http://daat.co.il/daat/sidurim/shaar-2.htm>)

- Are you writing a Dvar Tefillah and want to share the text with others?
Traditional Siddur Text (Hebrew) from Ashkenaz, Sepharad, etc.

Internet Jewish History Sourcebook

(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishbook.html>)

- Primary sources about Jews in Ancient Israel, Early Israel, Middle Ages, and the Enlightenment

The Jewish Agency Zionist Education

(<http://jafi.org/JewishAgency/English/Jewish+Education>)

- Articles, Primary source texts, and lesson plans related Jewish Peoplehood, Israel/Zionism, and Jewish Life

The Jewish Encyclopedia (<http://jewishencyclopedia.com/>)

- text articles from the Jewish Encyclopedia (published 1906)

Jewish Sacred Texts (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/>)

- The Zohar (English translation)
- Guide to the Perplexed (Maimonides)
- Jewish Magic and Superstition (Joshua Trachtenberg)
- Primary Source texts for Jewish denominations

Jewish Telegraphic Agency (<http://jta.org>)

- Current events articles from the Jewish newswire service to papers nationwide.

Ritualwell (<http://ritualwell.org/>)

- Creative Jewish rituals, new prayers for various occasions.

Soncino Talmud (<http://wilkerson.110mb.com/index.htm>)

- The complete Talmud online (English: download by tractate, PDF files)

Books:

The Bedside Torah (Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson)

- Gleanings and short divrei Torah divided by weekly Torah portion

Canon without Closure (Rabbi Ismar Schorsch)

- Collections of Divrei Torah divided by parasha from the former Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary

The Commentator's Bible (Jewish Publication Society, translated by Michael Carasik)

- English version of Miqraot Gedolot (Rashi, Rashbam, ibn Ezra, Abarbanel's Questions, additional comments) surrounding Hebrew text.

The Etz Chayim Chumash (USCJ/RA Publishers, David Lieber editor)

- Excellent commentaries, scholarly articles, maps, and pictures. Includes halacha la'maaseh, which ties lines from the Torah portion to mitzvot that we observe today.

The JPS Torah Commentary (Jewish Publication Society, various editors)

- Several volume work (thick, green and blue covers) that blends both traditional and modern critical commentaries.

Legends of the Jews (can also be found on web list, but published by Jewish Publication Society, author Louis Ginzberg)

- Broken into sections of *midrashim* organized topically and chronologically throughout the entire Tanach with a list of footnotes of where the midrash was found in original sources. It's well worth the buy (highly recommended), but for a version just on the Five Books of the Torah that is much less expensive, get Legends of the Bible, republished by Barnes and Noble in 2001.

Living Torah: Selections from Seven Years of Torat Chayim (URJ Press, by Elaine Rose Glickman)

- Selections from seven years of online Union for Reform Judaism Torah commentaries.

Mikraot Ramah (Ramah in Wisconsin Publishers)

- A wonderful high-school friendly commentary published by Camp Ramah for the summer *parashiot*. Can be purchased from their website.

A Torah Commentary for Our Times (published by URJ/UAHC, author Harvey J. Fields)

- Modern *and* traditional insights organized by the weekly Torah portion. It is in English and accessible to beginner *darshanim*.

The Torah: Portion-by-Potion (author Seymour Rossel)

- Very easy to read and accessible. Pulls several themes and sections from each weekly Torah portion, asks questions, and uses both a traditional and archaeological approach to find the answers.

The Women's Torah Commentary (Jewish Lights Publishing, Edited by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein)

- Fifty-four divrei Torah by women from across the denominational spectrum.