

issues a stern warning that his Kabbalistic comments cannot possibly be understood by the uninitiated, and that any attempt to do so would only result in distortion of lofty theological matters. For this reason, we have not translated Ramban's Kabbalistic comments into English (although they can be found in full in the all-Hebrew Ramban text on the page).

The dividing line between "ordinary" commentary and Kabbalistic material is not always clear, and we hope and pray that the judgment we have used in deciding which pieces should be left untranslated was wise and justified.

Hebrew Text

Due to the popularity of Ramban's commentary, it was copied many times, by hand, and, with the introduction of the printing press, was published in numerous editions. For this reason, there are many textual variants in Ramban's commentary, and no two texts are identical. We have taken great care in formulating the most accurate Hebrew text possible, choosing the best of all the various sources available to us. The text corresponds mostly to the Lisbon (1489) edition, with reference to the *editio princeps* (Rome, 1480), and other, more recent editions noted for their accuracy. On many occasions manuscripts were consulted (either directly or through secondary sources), as well. The result is, we hope, one of the most accurate texts of Ramban published to date.

Despite the enormous challenges involved in the preparation of this book, it is our fervent hope that it will serve as a positive contribution toward the dissemination of Torah knowledge and toward a better understanding of the depth and profundity of the Chumash.

Yaakov Blinder/Yoseph Kamenetsky

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