

English Abstract

Nachmanide's Commentary on the First Verse of the Torah, Genesis 1:1

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This article deals with Nachmanides' – The Ramban's commentary on the first verse of the Torah, Genesis 1:1. The commentary on this verse is not very lucid to those studying it. It is long, and not all of its various sections and its sequences are clear. This review breaks down the individual components of his commentary and afterwards proposes a clear, more comprehensive picture. The vast majority of the Ramban's commentary consists of a critical discourse of Rashi's commentary to the first verse of the Torah. The Ramban explains Rashi, criticizes and disagrees with several of his basic tenets, and afterwards formulates a comprehensive approach to understanding the first verse of the Torah and to understand the order of the events during Creation. The Ramban uses several styles of Biblical exegesis from the more literal understanding of the text, to "Sod" – the more hidden meanings embedded in the text. This current study also establishes a certain order to the thoughts of the Ramban, by means of dividing his writing into sections, according to the order of its content. The viewpoint of the importance of this opening commentary on the Torah is also emphasized as the Ramban's basic cornerstone in his continued commentaries on the Torah.