

ABSTRACT

COMMANDMENTS BETWEEN MAN AND GOD AND BETWEEN
MAN AND HIS FELLOW: A STUDY IN THE DUALISTIC
THOUGHT OF R. ISAAC ABARBANEL

Itzhak Brand

Only a few of the Rishonim related to the distinction between 'Commandments between Man and God' and 'Commandments between Man and his Fellow'. Prominent among them is R. Isaac Abarbanel.

Abarbanel's position about the distinction between commandments is dichotomous. In his opinion, religious and social commandments should be separated. This attitude is derived from Abarbanel's general view, which perceives reality as composed of separate entities: the metaphysical differs from the physical, and the divine from the natural.

This article attempts to examine how Abarbanel's normative duality integrates with a theistic, ethical, and political dualism.