

## PARASHAT B'REISHEET

פרשת בראשית

Genesis 1:1-6:8

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

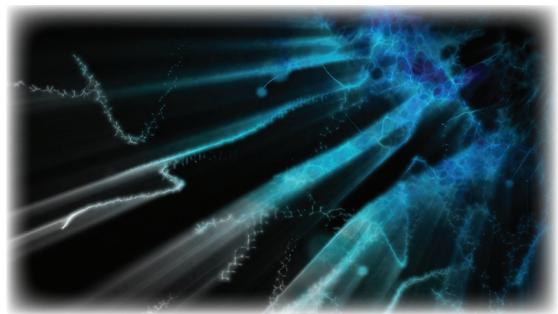
### Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 1:1 In the Beginning and the Six Days of Creation
- 2:1 The Seventh Day Sabbath (Shabbat)
- 2:8 A Description of the Garden of Eden
- 2:15 YHVH Places Man in the Garden
- 2:21 The Creation of Woman
- 3:1 The Serpent Deceives Man to Sin
- 3:14 Man Is Punished for His Sin (Rebellion) Against YHVH
- 3:23 Man Is Kicked Out of the Garden
- 4:1 Cain and Abel, Cain Murders Abel
- 4:17 Cain's Descendants, Eve Gives Birth to Seth
- 5:1 The Genealogies of Man; the Ten Generations From Adam to Noah
- 6:1 The Pre-Flood World

### Exploring This Week's Parashah:

#### 1 What Existed Before the Creation of the Sun, Moon, Stars and Earth?

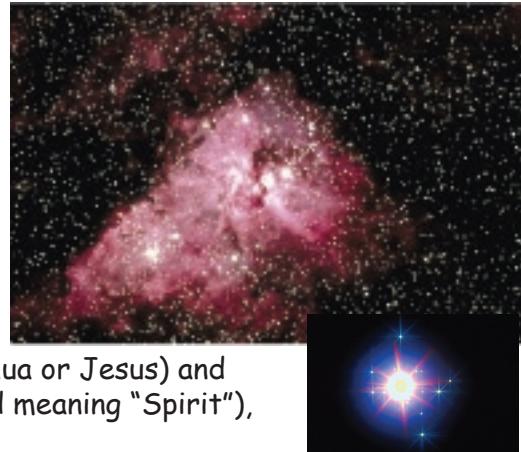
Although Genesis one starts out with the words, "In the beginning ..." we know obviously that some things existed before the sun, moon, stars and earth were created. What Elohim created in the Genesis story is speaking about the physical creation (that which we can see, feel, hear, taste and smell) in time and space. There are some things that are outside of time and space—outside of the physical realm—that are part of the spiritual realm



and that existed BEFORE the first verse in the Bible. Other places in the Bible talk about these things. Let's discover what existed before the creation of the earth and man.

-  (a) Read Genesis 1:1. What is the most obvious "thing" that existed prior to the creation?

The word "God" in many of our Bibles is the Hebrew word "Elohim," which many scholars believe derives from the Hebrew root word "El" or "Eloah," which also means "God." The only difference is that Elohim is a plural word. It doesn't mean "Gods" as in "many gods," but it means one God with different aspects, parts, personalities, or manifestations (ways that he reveals himself). This is a very difficult idea to understand, and many religious people have tried to come up with interesting concepts to do so. All we know for certain is that Scripture talks about the Father, the Son (Yeshua or Jesus) and the Set-Apart (Holy) Spirit or Ruach (the Hebrew word meaning "Spirit"), and that these three are one divine Being.



-  (b) What are some other things that existed before the creation of the earth? (Read John 1:1; Ephesians 1:4-7; 1 Peter 1:20; Titus 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:9 and make a list of the things that you see in these verses that existed before the earth was created. When you're making the list, you won't be able to put things on the list like trees, mountains or the moon, because they didn't exist yet. You'll have to look for godly things, ideas, relationships, plans and other spiritual things.)

Understanding what existed spiritually BEFORE the creation is important since it tells us WHAT the plans and ideas of Elohim were before he created everything. It also tells us ABOUT him: that he is loving, that he communicates, that he is a personal, knowable Creator and that there are different parts or aspects to him.

## 2 The Godhead Revealed

From the first few chapters of the Book of Genesis, we see revealed the plural idea of the oneness of Elohim. When the famous "Shema" passage of Deuteronomy 6:4 states that "Elohim is one" we learn that the word for "one" is the Hebrew word that is sometimes used to describe a bunch of grapes. The bunch is one bunch (singular), but made up of many individual grapes (plural). Likewise, a family is one group of people made up of several members. The creation story in Genesis gives us a tiny glimpse into the uni-plural nature of Elohim.

-  (c) Read Genesis 1:26 and notice the pronouns "us" and "our." (Notice the same kind of language in Genesis 3:22 and 6:8. Compare this with John 1:1-3, 14-15.)

## 3 Yeshua Revealed in Genesis One

-  (d) After the introduction of Elohim the Creator in Genesis 1:1, what is the next aspect of the "Godhead" or Elohim that is mentioned? (Read verse 2.)
-  (e) Which "part" of Elohim actually created the world in the first place? (Read John 1:1-3.)
-  (f) So far we have Elohim and the Ruach mentioned in verse one and two. What was the very first thing that Elohim created? (Read verse 3.)

Some Bible teachers believe that this first light that Elohim made was a special supernatural light and is not an actual reference to the physical light from the sun, moon and stars, which were actually made on the fourth day of creation (Genesis 1:14-18).



(g) What did Yeshua call himself? (Read John 8:12.) What does John call Yeshua? (Read John 1:1-9.) What does the glorified face of Yeshua look like? (Read Revelation 1:16 and Malachi 4:2.) Who will be the "sun" in the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven on the New Earth? (Read Revelation 21:23.)

## 4 The Plan of Salvation Revealed



(h) What was the condition of earth in Genesis 1:2? What was the first thing the Creator did to change that condition of darkness, emptiness and confusion? (Read the last part of verse 1 and then read verse 3.)

The condition of the earth and what Elohim did to change that gives us a picture or pattern of how YHVH would later redeem or save sinful man. Let's take a closer look at this idea.

The earth was in darkness and confusion—it was a big mess! YHVH didn't originally create it that way, but it became that way. We don't know exactly how that happened, but some think it may have happened when Lucifer (who we know as Satan) sinfully rebelled against Elohim. However the earth became that way, this condition represents lost and sinful man before coming to know Yeshua. In many places in the Bible, darkness is used as a picture of sin and evil—of men without hope and YHVH and who are spiritually dead as they walk in wickedness (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5; 1 Peter 2:9).

Next, we see the Spirit of Elohim hovering over the waters/the earth. This is a picture of the Ruach calling men to YHVH and preparing their hearts to receive Yeshua, the spiritual Light of the World. Next in verse three, we see the Creator declaring, "Let there be light!" (Read John 1:1-14; 3:16-21; 8:12.)

## 5 The Creation of Man



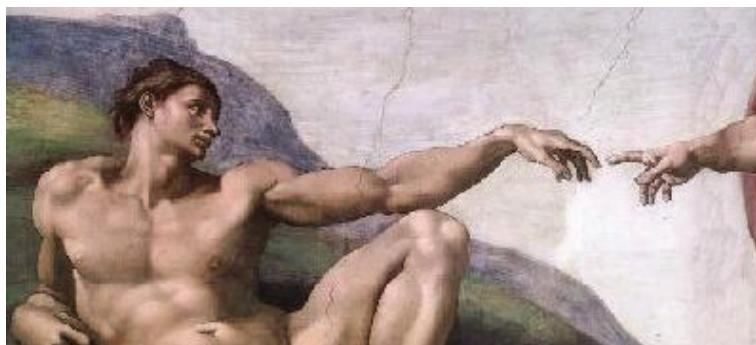
(i) On what day was man created? (Read Genesis 1:26, 31.)



(j) Did Elohim create man to look like himself or like the apes? (Read Genesis 1:26.) Do we believe this verse of the Bible or the theory of evolution that says that man evolved from apes?



(k) Read verse 27. The word "created" is used three times in this verse in respect to man. Why is this?



In the Hebrew language, the original language of Genesis, when something is repeated twice it is to emphasize an important detail. If it is repeated three times, then YHVH is really trying to stress the importance of something as if to say, "It is so and don't question it!" Here we see that there is something very special about the creation of man. We see this same triple reference to the creation of

man in Genesis 5:1-2. What can we learn from this?

We see from the creation story that there were three aspects or levels of creation: there was the creation of inanimate objects (earth, sun, moon, water, air, plants, etc.), there was the creation of conscience life (animals) and the creation of man (who is made up of earth, water, air along with a conscience life—his mind, will and emotions, or soul—and spirit life, which is how he connects to Elohim who is a Spirit; see John 4:23; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14). The triple reference to man's creation emphasizes the fact that man is at the top of YHVH's creation—above the earth, the sun, moon, plants and above all the animals, as well.

Additionally, if you count all the things that YHVH Elohim created in Genesis chapter one, man is the twenty-second thing created. What is significant about the number 22? There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet (the language of Scripture), and YHVH spoke the world into existence and used the Word of Elohim to create the world (Hebrews 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5; John 1:1-3). It is believed that ancient Hebrew is the original language of earth and the language of Elohim. With man being the twenty-second thing created, it is as if to say that man is the end of YHVH's creation, the crowning achievement and there is nothing more to say or to create beyond that.



Not all religions teach that man is at the peak or pinnacle of creation. Some teach that man is equal to a rock, a tree or a whale. Some even teach that man is less important than these things. But this is not what the Bible teaches! Man was made in YHVH's image so that man could eventually be adopted into the spiritual family of YHVH Elohim! (Read Romans 8:15, 23; Ephesians 1:5.) Think of this!! YHVH created you to be a child of his—a child of the King of the Universe, and to live forever with him as part of his spiritual family! This offer has never been made to trees, rocks, dolphins or chimps—ONLY TO YOU!!

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## **6 The Seventh-Day Sabbath**

- (l) Which day did YHVH create to be the Sabbath? (Read Genesis 2:1.)
- (m) What did YHVH do on this day as an example for us to follow? (Read verse 2.)
- (n) How did YHVH set this day above all the other days of the week? (Read verse 3.) Do we read anywhere else in Scripture where he blessed or sanctified (or set aside for a special or holy purpose) any other day beside the seventh-day Sabbath?

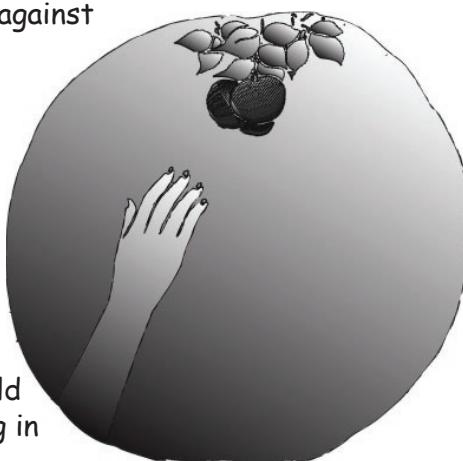
Later on in Exodus 20:8, YHVH told the Israelites to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it set-apart/holy." Why did he tell men to remember it? Because he knew that they would forget to rest from their work and to honor this day as he originally commanded in Genesis.

## **7 The Two Trees; The Fall of Man**

YHVH placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was like a paradise on earth. They didn't have to work to earn a living. They could enjoy each other, the beauty of the garden, the plants and animals, and a loving relationship with YHVH. There was no sin—only love, joy and peace. Their life was very easy and enjoyable. They could do anything they wanted except eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the Garden (Genesis 2:15-17). To do this would be going against YHVH's commands, which is sin.

The fall of man from a state of love, joy and peace into a state of sinfulness and rebellion went like this:

Adam and Eve walked with Elohim in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden. They had direct communication with him, they received direct teaching from his mouth on how to live righteously. They didn't have to question him, they only had to believe him. They didn't question Elohim's existence or his word. They had no doubts or disbelief. They believed him like a child believes his/her parent. They were free to do anything in



the garden except one thing: they were not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the garden.

One day they met the serpent (Satan) who cast doubts into the minds of Adam and Eve. He told them that what Elohim said was not true, and that they did not have to follow his word. He called Elohim a liar and said that they could eat of the forbidden fruit. Man had a choice at this point: Believe in the word of Elohim and not eat of the fruit, or believe the lies of the serpent about Elohim. Adam and Eve chose to doubt Elohim, to not believe his word and to follow the lies of the serpent (the devil). This was man's first sin.

Like a disease, sin now infected man.

 (o) What was the cure for the disease? (Read the answer in Genesis 3:15.)

Here YHVH Elohim prophesies about a coming individual who would be born of a woman and who would destroy the devil who had tempted man to sin.

 (p) Who was this Person? Do you know him as your Savior and Redeemer? Has the spiritual light of Yeshua come to shine into the darkness of your sinful life to bring you into right relationship with your Father in heaven so that you can become his adopted spiritual children in his heavenly kingdom?

