



**Bereshit Genesis 1:1-6:8  
Torah Study 2022  
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**Names**

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed.  
Moshe – Moses  
Shaul – Paul  
Yeshua – Jesus' real name  
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yochanan – John

**Terms**

#1 *Bereshit* – (bear-eh-shéet), first Torah portion  
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible  
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible  
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

**Introduction**

We stand in judgment for what we do. All we do is important. Shaul said in 2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." The word for seat is the Greek word *bēma* which is where the Torah is read. So, we will be judged by the Torah. We must understand the Bible in its original context. Those that teach we will only receive rewards are false teachers. It even says in this verse that we will be held accountable for the bad that we do.

Hold your ground so that you will be blessed. In this portion we see curses occurring for not doing what is right and blessing coming with repentance. Adam and Eve admit their sin even though they blame the devil. They are not exonerated entirely but have consequences because of their sin. They must leave the Garden of Eden and they will eventually die. We see God having mercy on them and those who would believe by promising a Messiah who would defeat the devil and restore eternal life with God sometime in the future. Eternal life is available to those who keep God's commandments. 2 Timothy 2:12-13 NKJV says, "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

God gives us His commandments. Some tell us they are difficult, but they are not. *Mitvah* means commandment. Deuteronomy 30:11 NKJV, "For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach." There are a few hundred commands in the Torah that apply to the average person and 1,050 in the New Testament portion that are proper interpretations of the Torah. By comparison, there are some 2 million laws in the United States. Many of them are additional applications of previous laws.

Do not live life backwards but move forward. Have you ever tried walking backwards. It isn't easy to keep doing, but that is what some people do in life. They live life the hard way because of their sinful behavior and that hurts themselves and others. We need to keep moving forward

with our spiritual lives so that our lives are meaningful and good. Shaul says in Philippians 3:13-15 NKJV says, "Brothers, I, for my part, do not think of myself as having yet gotten hold of it; but one thing I do: forgetting what is behind me and straining forward toward what lies ahead, I keep pursuing the goal in order to win the prize offered by God's upward calling in the Messiah Yeshua. Therefore, as many of us as are mature, let us keep paying attention to this." So, make every effort to keep moving forward spiritually to pursue our good goals. Follow God's commandments so we will receive blessing and pass on blessings to others and then receive eternal life. What we do is important.

Do not forget our teachings from previous years for more encouragement.

### **Torah Study**

The Torah portion for this week is *Bereshit* and it means, "in the beginning." In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth that existed was without form. The following is then God creating the earth, light, and life. There are actually two creation stories; the second one begins in Genesis 2:4. That was the style of writing back in the time the Bible was written.

From this we know that Moshe wrote the Torah because the style of writing changed shortly after Israel entered Canaan. This is important because some people who study the Bible do not believe the words that Moshe got came from God, but that it was modified and adapted. The Israelites and the Jews have taken great care of the scriptures to make sure they are copied correctly. They will even copy what some consider mistakes, and they even copy deviations in how the letters are written.

So, it is not true what some people think. Some think the Torah was written at different times. Any prophecy they see that matches what happened, they explain away and say the prophecy must have been written after it happened. Simply put, they do not believe in the Bible. Watch out that you do not get fooled by their made-up theology of the Bible. They are not seekers of truth.

Also, recent archaeology has found Hebrew in Egypt they date to around 1650 BC. Israel left Egypt and crossed the Sea of Aqaba around 1447 BC. They have found Hebrew at the real Mount Sinai in Midian, and also in Canaan at a dig from the time Israel first entered Canaan. The Hebrew alphabet was spread and adapted to the Aramaic language and all the area including the West and eventually Europe. Our English alphabet was adapted from what was originally the Hebrew alphabet. Back to the idea of needing to seek truth.

We must come to the scriptures with open minds in order to find truth. When we learn a truth from the Bible that contradicts our belief system, we change in order to apply the truth instead of continuing on in error. For example, archeologists at one time could not find much proof for what happened in the Bible. There is a belief system that still exists today that casts doubt on the Bible because of this. Archeology has since found many of the names, places, and there are even things that can be specifically dated because of the information on them. This demonstrates that the stories and people of the Bible occurred. If you run into people who do not believe in what the Bible says, they learned outdated information that has been passed on

to them. For example, this also happens in medicine. People will apply an incorrect treatment based on something that was copied from an outdated book.

The first sentence in the Bible tells us what this first section of the Bible is about. Genesis 1:1 NKJV says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The first word in Hebrew is the word **B**ereshit with a large Hebrew letter *bet*. This probably calls attention to the importance of the story – the heavens and earth were created by God. Since the Bible starts out with this large "b" sound perhaps it is telling us that it was some kind of extreme explosion; it is just a thought. It does not validate the made-up story of science's version of creation. Their version of creation is just made-up.

Science bases itself on evaluation. Science was not at the beginning to witness what happened, so they really do not know the events and the environment surrounding the beginning at all. They simply made up a story. It is interesting that science tells us that if a small of particle called the Higgs Boson did not exist there would be no universe. Could this be the particle that God chose to bring matter into existence? We do not know for sure. Also, science does not like the idea of a big bang starting creation because it points to the idea that there was a beginning of creation.

And science says that the dating of organisms is based on the strata or layer of rock. They then also say that the dating of rock is based on what organisms can be found in them. It is circular reasoning. We could say the rock was 6,000 years old and then the fossil in it would be 6,000 years old. Based on their science, the world could have begun a just few thousand years ago because we can follow history back to that time. They decided to make up a sequence of events to try to explain their faulty teaching.

I know someone personally who saw an alive dinosaur. Some missionaries also saw a dinosaur in Africa. It was laying in the road and they stopped their car until it went away. I know of someone who has a petrified pickle in its original jar. Science will not admit their made-up evolution is just misinformation and bad science. They may have a lot of good science, but their creation story and evolution is just made up. I have a picture of petrified trees going through various layers of strata. So much for each layer of strata being millions of years as science tells us. Also, petrified human footprints have been found with petrified dinosaur footprints.

The Bible is not a book of science, but a book that details God's love for His creation and mankind. Since God knows each of the billions of people on our planet, doesn't it make sense that God can make billions of stars. Is not a life more spectacular than a piece of rock or a star? Yeshua said that God even knows every sparrow. I have seen perhaps 50 sparrows in just one bush. Yeshua tells us in Matthew 10:29-31 NKJV, "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

God has continually reached out to mankind to help us. Even to this day, mankind resists God's kindness through His commandments and word and does things their own way which brings added pain and suffering to mankind.

In this first chapter, we find out that God planned a perfect world for mankind, but mankind did what they pleased instead of following how God intended for us to live. The first people, Adam and Eve, realized their error so God gave those who would come after them the choice to follow God or do things their own way. God continues to reach out to mankind even to this day in an effort to help us, and God will raise from the dead those who want to follow Him and live in a future kingdom with God.

#### Genesis 1:2-5

It tells us that the Earth lacked form and the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Then in verse 3, the first thing God does is to bring light on the Earth, and this caused a distinction between light and darkness. Perhaps this included the forming of the atmosphere. The atmosphere causes light to be dispersed. The astronauts who landed on the moon had trouble seeing detail from the blinding light of the Sun because the Moon has very little atmosphere. After what God did, it says that what God did was good and this is repeated after each thing He does. This is referred to as the first day. In God's record, the day begins at sunset. "Evening and the morning were the first day;" Genesis 1:5 NKJV.

#### Genesis 1:6-31

On the second day, the waters were divided; the third day, water was separated from the land and God created vegetation; the fourth day, light was created to define time and Genesis 1:14 says they were created so we know when to meet with God. *Moedim* in that verse means meetings and is translated seasons. Genesis 1:14 NKJV says, "And let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years." Moshe went to the Tent of Meeting, namely the *ohel moed*. *Ohel* is tent, *moed* is meet. *Moedim* is plural. We are to meet with God on His feasts. Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." We also can also meet with God any day and at any time if we want to, but God's feasts are His appointed times.

In biblical reckoning, the months occurred regularly through the reappearance of the moon. The biblical months begin at the first visible crescent of the moon. Do not confuse this with the set dates of the Israeli calendar. Their calendar is close to the biblical calendar but does not follow the true biblical calendar. People did not need a contrived calendar system but could simply look at when the moon reappeared and knew a new month had started. The present Israeli calendar is a set system of dating much like the Gregorian calendar is a set system of dating.

On the fifth day, birds and sea creatures were created; and the sixth day, animals were created, and mankind was created. Each day God says that what He created was good. When man was created it does not repeat this phrase. Perhaps this points to God knowing beforehand that mankind would have a choice whether to do good or evil. We are good if we choose to do what is "right and good." Mankind is created in God's image in verse 26 and in verse 31 it says that everything God created was very good.

Understanding that we are made in God's image is important. What are some of the things that we can understand from that?

- \* We are not God, we are not all-powerful, and not all-knowing.
- \* We are important to God; He values us.

- \* We should take proper care of ourselves, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
- \* We should recognize that we are not created in the same way as the animals and we should act different.
- \* We should treat others with respect and dignity even if we do not like them.
- \* We have the ability to treat God's creation with respect and take care of it.
- \* We can do harm or good in how we behave in life.
- \* The Bible says His creation is very good and we are part of His creation. Genesis 1:31 NKJV says, "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." We are good if we do what is "right and good," see Deuteronomy 6:17-18.

God's people Israel are especially wonderful. Isaiah 61:3 NKJV says, "To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; **that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.**" Believers in the Messiah are also to be a people who do what is right. Righteousness means to do what is right and therefore we can also glorify God.

Adam and Eve were given a purpose in the Garden of Eden. They were commanded to have children as man and wife, male and female. The Bible says children are a blessing and a godly relationship between a man and a woman can result in a satisfying and good relationship. That requires patience, effort, and sacrifice for both the man and the woman. They were also commanded to work on the land. They were to, "cultivate and care for it;" Genesis 2:15 CJB. So, they were to work; work can be a very satisfying. Years ago, most people were farmers, but in these times, we can find work providing for ourselves in many good and honest ways.

Imagine being created without a purpose. We need to work at taking care of ourselves and to work at providing for ourselves, but we also have a spiritual purpose. I found a quote by Theodore Roosevelt that I think you would enjoy. He said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." After Adam and Eve sinned, some of the things of life became difficult. That is the result of sin and evil. It brings pain and difficulties into life. Mankind brought this on themselves.

God saw all that He made and it was "very good," and God rested on the seventh day and **made that day holy**. Some people say that it does not matter when we keep Shabbat. God made the 7<sup>th</sup> day holy at creation; not the other days. Evening and morning were the first day (Genesis 1:5) so Shabbat begins on Friday at sunset and goes until Saturday at sunset. God deemed it holy since the time of creation and so it is not correct to think that has changed. By observing Shabbat on the correct day, we proclaim God to be the creator of the heavens and the earth.

God created the animals and mankind. When God created the animals the word for created is *Vayitzer*. When God created man the Hebrew word for created is spelled with a double yud, perhaps we could say it as *Vayī(yī)tzet*. There is no extra sound except that the extra letter is present. This perhaps signifies again that we are made in the image of God. It could imply that we can be God's created heavenly people just as Adam and Eve were in the garden, and so implies that we can be God's special people. Off course, we can only be God's special people if

we live as His people and follow His commandments.

Perhaps an atheist would deceitfully say, "You mean that I am not special?" They say it deceitfully because they do not believe in God, so why should it matter to them? They are created in God's image, but they are choosing to bring pain and hurt into this world by what they believe. That is their choice, but their beliefs could be leading some away from God and they will be judged for their lies. Revelation 21:6 says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

God put Adam in the Garden of Eden and commanded him: "You may freely eat from every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You are not to eat from it, because on the day that you eat from it, it will become certain that you will die." Genesis 2:17 NKJV. God gives us commandments because He cares about us; there are consequences to sin. When Adam and Eve sin they not only die spiritually, but they end up dying physically because they had to leave the Garden of Eden. Adam names the animals and God saw that it wasn't good for man to be alone and so He created woman. Eve is originally called woman and then her name is changed to Eve. Adam changed her name to Eve which means life because she is the mother of the living, see Genesis 3:20. Eve is tempted and tricked into disobeying God, and both Adam and Eve sin.

The devil made a serpent to speak and the serpent speaks to Eve and questions what God said. The rabbis teach that Eve omits the word "freely" adds the command not to touch, and changes the consequences from a certainty to a perhaps. The serpent then says she will not die and she will become wise. Adam and Eve both end up disobeying God because they no longer had the truth of what God said. They were hiding from God, but God pursues them and they tell God they were tricked. God makes them coverings from skins. God had to kill the animals that he took the skins from so this is the first sacrifice for sin. God removes them from the Garden and from their privileged life. The text implies there is now a difference to how they experience work and childbearing and those things would be difficult, but God gives them grace.

*God has given mankind His grace since creation*

God promises them a messiah in Genesis 3:15. The rabbis teach that Adam and Eve repented so God made a way for them to come back to Him by promising them a future messiah. Therefore, God's grace has been given to mankind since the garden, before that actually. God creating mankind was an act of grace. God did not have to do that, but He did. Also, God did not have to give Adam and Eve grace after they sinned, but He did.

Some say that God's favor only came after the Messiah came and we see that is not true. God also gave Noah grace and Israel grace. Genesis 6:8 NKJV says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Grace of course also came with the coming of the Messiah Yeshua who came as the final sacrifice for sin and gives us the Holy Spirit as our helper to keep God's commandments. Yeshua said in John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —the Spirit."

God says to the devil who has taken over a serpent, Genesis 3:14-15 NKJV says, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

God does not place all the blame on mankind for their sin but offers Adam and Eve as well as mankind a way back to God. The serpent that allowed the devil access to the temptation is cursed. It says God will put a hostility between the devil and woman and her offspring. In the future, this offspring (seed) will destroy the works of the devil, "He shall bruise your head." The devil will "bruise His heel," which implies that the devil will hurt this promised seed. This promised seed is the Messiah Yeshua who died for our sins and revealed the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8 NKJV is talking about Yeshua and it says, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." This refers to the promise made to Adam and the woman.

Since Adam changes the woman's name to *Chavah* in Hebrew which means life after the promise of the Messiah, Adam understood that God was offering Adam and Eve an eternal life sometime in the future through a Messiah. The believing line from Adam and Eve ended up being passed on through Seth.

Adam and Eve have Cain and Abel. The Hebrew text says that Eve thinks Cain is the Messiah. It does not say "help" in the manuscript. But we know that Cain ended up being a sinner. Cain grows vegetables and Abel raises sheep. When Cain's sacrifice is not accepted, he kills Abel out of jealousy. God warns Cain not to do this, so we see God is still communing with mankind. Also, they were giving sacrifices, so they had a sacrificial system. In the book of Job, we see Job making sacrifices for sin and some think the book of Job predates the Torah. Seth is then born who restores the believing line of Adam and Eve and it says that his descendants called on the name of Yĕhōvâh (yud-hey-vav-hey).

Genealogies are then given and as the portion ends, Noah is introduced. Noah was in the believing line of Seth. God saw that man had become wicked and He would have destroyed mankind, but God showed grace to Noah, a person who did what was right, he was righteous. Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

The beginning of Genesis is a heart-breaking story. God creates mankind and fellowships with him, but Adam and Eve don't listen, Cain doesn't listen either, and mankind becomes wicked. Thankfully, there was Noah. This should remind us that doing what is right and good is worthwhile; Noah saved the world by doing what is right. So following God's ways can in fact save the world even if our minds tell us otherwise. Noah is one man who saved the world, and so we see in Noah a picture of the future Messiah Yeshua. This portion also mentions the Nephilim and that man's days would be limited to 120 years.

Here are some interesting points from the Hebrew manuscripts. The Rabbis have seen some interesting things about the manuscripts. We sometimes will notice these coincidences, but there are too many of them for them to just be coincidences. If we read the first two words of

Genesis in Hebrew leaving off the aleph from "bara," we get "Bereshit bar" which means "in the beginning son." This reminds us of where Yochanan said in John 1:1 in the Hebrew manuscript that Yeshua is the Son and *Eloah*. *Eloah* is the singular for God.

In John 1:14 CJB it says, "The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his Sh'khinah, the Sh'khinah of the Father's only Son full of grace and truth." The Sh'khinah refers to the light of the presence of God. The Israelites saw the *Sh'khinah* light at the Tent of Meeting in the desert and they considered it to be the light of God's presence. Some rabbis even considered it to be a manifested presence of God. Yeshua was the presence of God on Earth.

*The Hebrew contains some fun and interesting insights*

Here is something else that is interesting. The Bible begins with a large letter bet and the bet in Hebrew means "house." The bet is constructed with 3 vavs. Vav is the number six and  $3 \times 6 = 18$ . The word chai adds up to 18 (Hebrew letters are also numbers) and chai means life. We could possibly interpret this to mean that the Bible is the story of the house of life.

Also, the first letter of the Bible is the Hebrew letter bet in the word *Bereshit* and is a large letter in the Hebrew text with a "b" sound. Perhaps we have God's big "b" instead of the big bang. The first letter of the Torah is bet and last letter of the Torah is a lamed. This forms the word "lev." Lev means love in Hebrew. The bet has a "v" sound when it is not the first letter of a word. Perhaps we could say that the Bible is God's love story with man, and Yeshua is the final piece of the puzzle that sends home God's message of love for all of man. There are a lot of suppositions we can make with the scriptures, but most of all, it is the scriptures we are to learn and keep. People also make up ideas from the meaning of the letters. They are just made up ideas.

These extra ideas can be fun, but they can diminish the scriptures if we focus all our attention on them. Yeshua said, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me;" John 5:39 NKJV. Putting a lot of attention on these extra interpretations is wrong. Yeshua points out that they keep people from studying and knowing the scriptures the way we should know them.

They are just made up ideas. For example, some of the Rabbis say that the change of year comes on the 7<sup>th</sup> month because you can make the Hebrew word *Rosh* which means head from the first word in the Bible, *Bereshit*. We can also do things like that in English. Take the word apple for instance. You can make the word pal from the word apple and so we could say the apple is our friend. As you can see, their contrivances are just made-up, they are not God's word. Some Rabbis disagree with the 7<sup>th</sup> month being the change of the year and say it is the first month, namely the month of Nisan also called Aviv. That makes more sense to me.

*Even Shaul said, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth;"*  
2 Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV.



I share this because we are to do what God tells us and not just find hidden meanings. Some people get very involved in these extra meanings and lose their way spiritually; do not listen to the people who are always doing this. In the Torah portion Eve is deceived. Rabbi Shaul warns us not to let the devil deceive us; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 NKJV says, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from **the simplicity** that is in Christ." Sadly, some people have gone so far as to say they do not read the Bible anymore; they just look for meanings in the letters. They are, "Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth;" 2 Timothy 3:7 NKJV. Stay bolted to the scriptures.

The Haftarah for *Bereshit* is Isaiah 42:5-43:10. We see somewhat of a same theme here in Isaiah as in the Torah portion for *Bereshit*. Man has again failed, but the good news is that God will not fail Israel. In the Haftarah portion of Isaiah he talks about the Creator God and says that He took Israel by the hand and made a covenant with them so they could be a light to the Gentiles and open their blind eyes to deliver them. This may sound familiar to some of you, see Acts 26:12-18.

Isaiah then talks about the whole earth praising God. God will go to battle and win, and lead the blind. Those who trust in idols will be shamed. Isaiah says that Israel is a blind servant and will be destroyed for their sin. It continues to say that God will redeem Israel though, He loves them, and will bring them back to their land for He is God. It is not true that God is done with Israel as some incorrectly teach.

Also we should note, many believers in the Messiah are blind too and don't understand the scriptures in their proper biblical Jewish or Israelite context. That is the original context of the Bible and that is where we should be getting our understanding. Bible teachers teach their own doctrine or just good advice instead of the truth. Theology has taken over Christianity and they explain away the scriptures and act as gods to those who seek God. They don't want to offend anyone so they won't lose money. It is not really their money.

They end up being business people who are running a business. They say they believe, but do they really believe? If you believe in God, you also must believe He exists and **do what he says**. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." This sounds awful, but if no one ever tells you that you are not learning the truth of God's word, and you may end up in the lake of fire with those who are holding back the truth. It is not true there is no hell. If someone told you there is no hell, they are lying. That is where they are going; do not go there with them.

### **There are some commands and some implied commands in this first portion.**

Marriage between a man and woman and having a family is commanded in the Garden of Eden. In our present day, not everyone has the opportunity to marry and not everyone can have children, but that is something we are to seek.

The woman is to be a helper for her husband and it is not good for people to live out their lives alone. Genesis 1:18,20, 27-28; 2:24.

We are to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day holy because God blesses the 7<sup>th</sup> day and makes it holy. Namely, our Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset. Genesis 2:3

Work is implied for mankind in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:15

Adam named the animals. It implies we are to learn about our environment, plants, and animals. Genesis 2:19

When the woman is tempted the devil uses different tactics to confuse her. So, God's words are changed, added, and taken away, and the devil then refutes God's word. It is implied that we are not to subtract, add, change God's word, or contradict God's word. Genesis 3:1-5

Women are to have children even though it will be painful; they are to desire their husband, and her husband will lead her. Genesis 3:16

After Adam and Eve sin, men will have to work to provide food and it will be more difficult. Genesis 3:17-19

After they sin, God says mankind will now experience death, so they must have had eternal life in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:19

Confession of sin is implied. Genesis 3:12-13

Genesis 3:15 implies they are to look forward to the coming of a Messiah. Adam changes the woman's name to Eve because a woman will give birth to the Messiah who will defeat the devil and not only bring life, but eventually eternal life to true believers through a Messiah.

Mankind is still in communication with God. For example, Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:9), Cain (Genesis 4:6-7, 13-15), Noah (Genesis 6:13-22). This also implies we can talk with God.

The sin of Adam and Eve brings with it curses and the murder of Abel also brings a curse, so sin brings curses. Genesis 3:16-19, 4:11-12

God gives grace to those who do what is right. Genesis 6:8-9