

Parashat Bereshit / פרשת בראשית

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Why can't I see the evidence for creation when I am told it is all around me?

This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Genesis 1:1-6:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:11

B'rit HaChadashah: John 1:1-14

“Why can't I see the evidence for creation when I am told it is all around me?” I am sure this is a question a lot of people have asked especially those who do not believe God exists. The evidence for creation is not something particularly I would like to address because there are lots of websites which address the evidence very well, such as the institute for creation research (www.icr.org) and Answers in Genesis (www.answersingenesis.org) to name a couple. I want to look at an interesting observation in the debate on creationism versus evolution. The observation is while we all have the same evidence, found in nature and the geologic record, etc, why do some say “look creationism” while others say “look evolution?”

This seems to be a perfect topic for this week's parsha, Parashat Bereshit. As we begin a new year of reading through the Torah, this question is rooted deeply in our relationship with God. I say this because Yeshua (Jesus) gave us some interesting clues relating to our relationship with God and our ability to see truth, not only in spiritual matters, but also with the world we live in. So let's begin by looking first at the importance of sefer Bereshit (book of Genesis).

Genesis 1:1

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The book of Genesis is one of the most important books in the bible. The reason is we find within Sefer Bereshit (book of Genesis) the foundation of our faith. Not only do we find the creation account (*Genesis 1*), we also find answers (i) for how sin entered into this world (*Genesis 3*) through disobedience and (ii) the beginning of God's redemptive plan for our lives.

Genesis 3:1-3:7

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any wild animal which ADONAI, God, had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You are not to eat from any tree in the garden'?" 3:2 The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat from the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3:3 but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said,

'You are neither to eat from it nor touch it, or you will die.'" 3:4 The serpent said to the woman, "It is not true that you will surely die; 3:5 because God knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it had a pleasing appearance and that the tree was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her; and he ate. 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

Today in our culture there is a huge controversy that is occurring, one that questions the authority of the Word of God. When questioning the Word of God, the first place one begins with is the book of Genesis. The questioning is centered on this controversy of creation versus evolution. The creation account brings questions from people about science, geology, archeology, evolution, good science versus bad science, etc. The reason is people today place the creation of the world into the category of "once upon a time" narrative or even a fable. However, the bible never designates Genesis as being a fable or even of being symbolic. Yeshua himself even referred to Genesis accepting it as literal and authoritative (See *Matthew 19:4 Mark 10:6*). I believe we need to do so too, adopting the view that Genesis is literal and authoritative.

While discussing the origin of life, death, and sin more than not there is a question that is always brought up. "Why would a loving God sentence people to a horrible place like Hell?" When presented with a question like this, it is important to understand that this question implies that it is God's fault that people go to Hell. We have to correctly understand the reason is related to the rebellion of mankind. This is related to our being a descendent of Adam, and about the fall or the origin of sin and death which we read above in Genesis chapter 3. We need to understand it is not God's fault that people go to Hell, this is a question about free will, and that God gives us freedom to choose our destiny and whom we will have faith upon. The bottom line deals with our salvation, and being the children of God. So let's ask a question, "How can someone who is unsaved know the truth on matters of salvation / spiritual truth?" Taking it another step farther, how can an unsaved person who has not touched God's grace be able to know the truth over whether creation is true (which is God's handiwork, thus inherently dealing with spiritual truth) or whether evolution is true?

Did you see that? Do you see the connection? If God had created all of life, all that we know, the entire universe, then is it a matter of spiritual revelation that we are able to see the evidence for God's creation? Let's explore this a little further as we look at what Yeshua said in the B'rit Hachadashah (NT). While reading through the B'rit Hachadashah in sefer Yochannan (book of John) chapter 17 I happened across something Yeshua said that I believe sheds some light on this.

John17:1-6

17:1 After Yeshua had said these things, he looked up toward heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify you -- 17:2 just as you gave him authority over all mankind, so that he might give eternal life to all those whom you have given him. 17:3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the one true God, and him whom you sent, Yeshua the Messiah. 17:4 "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work

you gave me to do. 17:5 Now, Father, glorify me alongside yourself. Give me the same glory I had with you before the world existed. 17:6 "I made your name known to the people you gave me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (CJB)

John 8:47

8:47 Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says; the reason you don't listen is that you don't belong to God." (CJB)

Did you catch what Yeshua is teaching specifically in *John 8:47* and *John 17:6*. Notice something, in John 17:6, Yeshua said "I made your name known to the people you gave me out of the world." This indicates that those who are God's children, Yeshua will reveal the truth; this means that He is revealing greater revelation to those who are called by His name. Furthermore, Yeshua said whoever belongs to God will listen to what He says. This indicates that the starting place for all things, the starting place for truth, for knowledge, for understanding, for wisdom is to have faith that God exists, and that He provided for us salvation in his Messiah Yeshua. It is only then Yeshua reveals to us the truth, and helps us to have understanding and wisdom.

In conclusion, not only does God reveal to us his Messiah for our salvation, as we continue walking in Him, the Lord continues giving us deeper revelation not only about salvation, but also about science, creationism, and the errors which are inherently found in evolutionary thought. The bottom line issue for us is to believe in the authority of the Word of God ... Biblical authority. Putting our faith in the Word of an all powerful God who knows everything, through whom all things were created versus putting our faith in the words of fallible humans who use subjective human thinking and values ... the decision is yours. I have to say the wise choice would be to believe upon the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

24:15 If it seems bad to you to serve ADONAI, then choose today whom you are going to serve! ... As for me and my household, we will serve ADONAI!" (CJB)

Trust and be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever