

Parashat Bereshit

פרשת בראשית

Shabbat Tishrei 24, 5771, October 2, 2010

5 32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d

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In the beginning God created ...

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 1:1-6:8

הפטרה: Isaiah 42:5-43:11

הברית: John 1:1-14

החדשה

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This week's reading from the Triennial Cycle (*Bereshit / Genesis 1:1-2:3*) gives the account of the creation week when God made the heavens and the earth.

Did you know that the entire Bible (all of scripture) rests upon these first few verses? In fact, even the death and miraculous resurrection of Yeshua is impacted

15 by these scriptures. Without considering the importance of God creating all things from nothing as the scriptures say in *Bereshit / Genesis 1:2* "*v'haaretz haytah tohu u'vohu*" ... "*the earth was formless and void,*" it is difficult to

understand the finished work of Yeshua who laid down his life for ours as a substitutionary atonement. In fact, even the concept of atonement by the offering

20 of blood becomes confusing without understanding these scripture verses appropriately in the context of the Bible. The reason relates to the question of whether death and dying occurred before man chose to be disobedient (sin) in

Bereshit / Genesis chapter 3. Was there death and dying prior to man's sin in

Bereshit / Genesis 3?

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בראשית

א בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ א
הִיְתָה תְהוֹ וְנִבְהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים
מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהיֹ אֹר וַיְהיֹ
25 אֹר: וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר כִּי־טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין

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The question of "death and dying" becomes important for us today with regards to those who claim that God created through the use of evolution. Those who propose such a notion do so by attempting to fit man's idea that the world evolved into what we see today into the biblical account of God's creation. The real question though is "*Does the Bible really suggest that God used billions of years of animals suffering, and dying as a part of His creative process?*" If God really did use billions of years of suffering and death, why is there no mention of

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Bereshit / Genesis 1:1-3

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 1:3 Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. (NASB)

35 this in the Scriptures? The earth was cursed as a result of our disobedience (sin)
in *Bereshit / Genesis 3:17-19*, and the scriptures say in *Romans 8:22 For we
know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.
(KJV)* The groaning and travailing is the result of the great curse that was
40 pronounced by God upon the earth. We also learn from the Scriptures in Parashat
Noach that the groaning creation and man's sin resulted in a global cataclysm
described in *Bereshit / Genesis 6-9*, as the flood. This awesome spectacle of
God's power and the destructive nature of the sin of disobedience indicate to us
that death was not an original part of God's "very good" creation. Death did not
45 enter into the world until sin was in the world as explained by the apostle Paul in
*Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by
sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (KJV)* and in *1
Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the
resurrection of the dead. (KJV)*. In addition to this, death itself is "the wages of
50 sin" according to *Romans 6:23*. Paul also said that *Romans 5:14 Nevertheless
death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the
similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
(KJV)*, indicating the connection between "death" and "sin" is not limited to one
person but to all people on the face of the earth. All of Scripture addresses the
problem of sin and death that we see here on earth, death was not a part of God's
creative purpose. The idea or concept that God used millions of years to bring
55 about the evolution of various species here on earth actually undermines the
gospel of salvation as well as the Holy character of God.

Our deliverance from sin and death by the substitutionary atonement of
Yeshua the Messiah rests upon the understanding that death and dying is the
60 result of our sin of disobedience and that God so loved the world that He sent his
only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but
have everlasting life (*John 3:16*). Our God is the living God, a God of life, and
not a god of death and dying. As we read the Torah portion this week, let us
remember that God created by His own sovereign power and not by random
65 chance as described by evolutionary theory. The scriptures say in *1 John 2:2 And
he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of
the whole world. (KJV)*. What a wonderful God we serve.

75 **Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
80 "Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever