



10-17-09

Bereisheet-In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1-6:8

Isaiah 42:5-43:10

Matthew 18:15-17

Introduction

This week's portion starts us on the journey of the Torah once again. We read about the miracle of creation, how precious it is, how gratefully we need to accept the gift of creation, we who are part of the creation.

Genesis 6:1-8

1 When men began to increase on earth and daughters were born to them, **2** the divine beings saw how beautiful the daughters of men were and took wives from among those that pleased them. -- **3** The LORD said, "My breath shall not abide in man forever, since he too is flesh; let the days allowed him be one hundred and twenty years." -- **4** It was then, and later too, that the Nephilim appeared on earth -- when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men, who bore them offspring. They were the heroes of old, the men of renown. **5** The LORD saw how great was man's wickedness on earth, and how every plan devised by his mind was nothing but evil all the time. **6** And the LORD regretted that He had made man on earth, and His heart was saddened. **7** The LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the men whom I created -- men together with beasts, creeping things, and birds of the sky; for I regret that I made them." **8** But Noah found favor with the LORD.

This passage usually brings up a lot of discussion and questions about who the Nephilim were. The following is from the Jewish Study Bible:

This brief narrative reads like a condensation of a much longer, well-known myth. It records yet another breach of the all important boundary between the divine and the human and explains why human beings no longer attain to the great ages of their primordial forebears. It also explains the origins of the Nephilim, the preternatural giants that Israelite tradition thought once dwelt in the land.

Well, here we are at one of our first contradictions to be found in the Bible. Why do I say this – because of what we read elsewhere in the Bible in the Apostolic Scriptures?

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Mark 12:25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

These words were spoken by Yeshua. The two gospel accounts are corroborating each other and taken at face value they contradict Genesis 6:4. How do we rectify the situation? One way is to look at the situation in Genesis from the perspective that these divine beings that cohabitated with the daughters of men did not marry them but took them against their will. Now please remember this is my opinion only and, for that matter, I am merely speculating given the text is not totally clear. We know there were men in the Bible who were taller than normal, Goliath being one of them.

There are several others mentioned in the Tanach particularly with regard to the 12 scouts and the report they brought back from the Land to Moses and to the Children of Israel.

Hol5622 נְפִילִים

נְפִילִים & נְפִלִים Gn 6₄: — 1. cj. binfilim for biflilim Ex 21₂₂ **miscarriage**, but open to qn.; — 2.

giants, produced by miscarriages or thrown out of heaven; gigantic early population of Palestine Nu 13_{33ab}, of mythical origin Gn 6₄; « comm. † (pg 241)

Numbers 13:31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." **32** So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. **33** And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." **14:1** Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night.

Ten of the scouts brought back a negative report concerning the people living in the land and one of the reports had to do with Nephilim. The questions brings on more questions because if everyone, except for Noah and his family, died in the flood how could any of the descendants of the Nephilim still be alive? Could it be possible that the description of the people seen by the scouts was given using language they could best compare what they had seen to. The stories of the people of Israel had to have been known by the generation in slavery in Egypt.

This is what we do in our own lives. We raise up giants, that are not really there if we have called upon Yeshua as our Redeemer, because we do not place all of our faith in the One who created us. We wind up building up walls that separate us from each other, but more importantly these walls separate us from our Creator. Sadly we put these walls up and very rarely allow anyone in and especially not the Holy One of Israel. Imagine if you will how Adam and Chava must have felt once they were cut off from the garden, but more importantly the Almighty. There is a story, in Jewish legend, that Adam would sit in the water of one of the rivers that came out of the Garden longing for the Almighty to allow him back in.

The shock of what he had done could not have been lost on him. He went from being an innocent to knowing good and evil, lying to his Creator, blaming his wife, and being cast out of Paradise. Then fast forward to us, who as believers, long for the day when we can return to Paradise. We see stories like the one about the Nephilim that draw us in and then cut us off from knowing why they even appear in the Bible the way they do. But if we boil it all down we find that everything in the Bible is connected in some way and are meant to teach us something. The entire Bible is about Yeshua and the redemption He offers us from His Father. It is a love

story about the Creator and mankind. Despite what we do He shows us there is always hope. He is a merciful Creator whose love for us transcends the bounds of time and goes beyond what man understands.

He tries to show us this love by the things He does for us in the Bible. He loved Adam and Chava and rather than destroy them, because that is what their disobedience deserved, He covered their nakedness with the skin of an animal whose blood was shed by the hand of the Holy One. He covered their sin with the first animal sacrifice to show us that there was hope for the sinner through the shed blood of an animal. This was not a permanent solution to the problem but a temporary fix, though one for which a solution, was long time in coming. To us it might seem like an eternity but in the long term it was a blink of an eye for Him.

He moves about the heavens and walks upon the face of the earth revealing Himself from one generation to the next. He was there in the beginning and will be there at the end. Yeshua will lead us into the time beyond time in the final fulfillment of the plan of the Holy One. I know that I look forward to that day. Will I be alive and here when Yeshua steps upon the Mount of Olives before all of mankind? I don't know but I do know what a day that will be when man finally realizes that Yeshua really exists and that the Creator is real and His Ruach is real.

Isaiah 43:9-10

9 All the nations assemble as one, the peoples gather. Who among them declared this, foretold to us the things that have happened? Let them produce their witnesses and be vindicated, that men, hearing them, may say, "It is true!" **10** My witnesses are you -- declares the LORD -- My servant, whom I have chosen. To the end that you may take thought, and believe in Me, and understand that I am He: Before Me no god was formed, and after Me none shall exist --

No god that man makes could ever hope to contend with the Living One. Man has created his own gods to sit in front of him to remind him of how powerful man is when in reality we are nothing. The Creator makes it very clear in this passage from Isaiah that as the nations gather together as one people they have forgotten about the One who brought them into being. We have lost sight of the Holy One as we move along trying to find hope in our lives. It was said that after 9/11, here in the United States, that there were more people attending Houses of Worship than before -- but the further removed we are from a situation the more distant its memory becomes. We formed our own gods in the promises and actions of our government and its representatives. We wound up placing our faith in men rather than in the One who set nations up and placed the kings, Prime Ministers, and Presidents in their respective places of power.

We might believe we are choosing our leaders but the truth is the Almighty gives us who we desire as a body. Saul was the first king of Israel and was not chosen by the people but by the Holy One in response to what the people asked for. They wanted a king like the other nations. What they were saying is we want to be like the gentiles, in all ways, and He gave them what they asked for. Had they gone to Samuel and asked for the Holy One to rule over them the Almighty would have been very pleased but instead they received what their hearts desired.

Our desire should be for our Creator and it is not. He does not live in our hearts the way we wish He would because we have hardened our hearts against Him and we refuse to let Him all the way in. He will not force Himself on us -- instead He will knock on the doors of our hearts and ask if He can come in.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Where are you in your relationship with the Holy One of Israel? If we are in the Last days, as many believe, then shouldn't you be taking stock of your relationship with the Almighty? Do you know your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel? Are you going to wait to the last moment before you commit to Him? Don't you understand that it might be too late? What about those who consider themselves to be Believers but don't mature in their walk with the Holy One? You can't stay on milk forever. You have to start eating some meat at some point in your walk.

1 Corinthians 3:1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Messiah. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? **4** For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? **5** What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.

It is not about the teacher unless the Teacher is Messiah Yeshua. In the end the teacher will be judged on what he has taught. Did he remain faithful to Messiah and did he teach Torah to the people. It has nothing to do with theology or doctrine. These are the things of men, not the ways of the Almighty. If a teacher is not submitted to Messiah then the words out of his mouth cannot be trusted and ***must be set aside!***

The deeper we get into the End Times the more teachers and prophets will arise and they all will be claiming they have the truth. Not every teacher can be teaching the truth, though I wish it might be that way and not everyone who claims to have a prophetic word from the Almighty is sharing words from Him. We must learn to be like the Bereans of old whom the Apostle Shaul commended for testing the teachings against the Word including his own. Imagine if more people did that today? Then again how many have been declared heretics for even daring to think of doing that?

The days are growing shorter my friends and you must make the decision to follow the Messiah with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Every day, twice a day, in the morning when they arise and before they go to sleep the Observant Jew recites the Shema.

Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

Yeshua spoke the words of Deuteronomy 6:5 when asked which of the commandments were the most important. He spoke these words and followed up with loving your neighbor as yourself. Do you love your neighbors as yourself? I know that I have not and I have repented of it before the Almighty. Some say I do not turn the other cheek when they strike me. Believe me I have

turned the other cheek so many times I feel like a revolving door. We are not to strike back in anger but in love but we can stand firm in our beliefs.

I remember once some years back I was told I was bigoted and racist because I defended being Jewish and teaching from a Jewish perspective. I had nothing to defend myself for because my Messiah was and is Jewish. It says He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. If He is from the tribe of Judah then He is Jewish. I feel that when I stand with Him I am in good company. I pray you will join me.

Matthew (Mattiyahu) 18:15-17

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. **16** "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED [Deuteronomy 19:15]. **17** "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the congregation; and if he refuses to listen even to the congregation, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

If more Believers would read and follow what this passage says there would be less hurt and confusion in the Body of Messiah today. I find that people jump over part 1 and 2 and go right to part 3 taking it to the congregation or to the leader of the congregation unless the problem is with the leaders of the congregation. I have been in this situation as well and it is hurtful and disrespectful. It makes a leader wonder what it is he has been teaching when people disregard Scripture and the way it instructs us to do certain things. If we learned to follow the Messiah we would learn how to resolve our differences. When it comes down to it we will find our differences are not that different. We are closer than we think. This will be something we must work on as we draw deeper into the Last Days. If we don't learn how to work together we will not be effective witnesses for Him.

We have a responsibility to our fellow Believers to do as the Messiah has instructed us. If Israel would have listened to Moses and do as the Almighty had commanded they would not have had to wander around in the Wilderness for forty years. Yet even after they finally reached the goal of the Promised Land they still could not do as the Almighty commanded. They did not take the land completely or drive out the nations they had been commanded to drive out. They began to follow after false gods until they turned away from the One True God.

Deuteronomy 27:10 You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today."

Deuteronomy 28:1 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 28:15 "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

Deuteronomy 28:62 Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Jeremiah 26:13 Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you.

I close with these Scriptures in the hope that you will wake up before it is too late. Maybe you know someone who needs to hear these Scriptures – please share them before it is too late. We may not have that much time left and then again we might be around for a little while longer. It's all in His time.

The goal of creation is redemption...Midrash

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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