



**10-25-08**  
**Bereisheet-In the Beginning**  
**Genesis 1:1-6:8**  
**Isaiah 42:5-43:10**  
**John 1:1-12**

**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 1:1-5**

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

As we will see later on in this teaching that John's Gospel lines up perfectly with the opening verses of the book of Genesis. The creation account is shown to us from a different perspective when we read John's Gospel. The beauty of it is there is a direct link to the Torah from the Gospels and John's Gospel is not the only place we see Torah being used. The amazing thing to me is how people who read their Bibles have been blinded to the truth that the Torah is for today. The Torah was, is and will be the rule of law that God will use in the Messianic Kingdom.

People do not like to be told what to do and desire freedom of choice. God has never inhibited us from having freedom of choice. He built that into us when He created us. He wanted a people He could communicate with and who would willingly choose Him over Satan. When we look at the opening words of Genesis 1:1 we see that darkness was hovering over the face of the deep. While I realize that there was nothing but darkness until God brought creation about I tend to see the darkness as Satan and the fallen angels waiting for the earth to come into existence so they would

have a place to call their own until the day came when God would finally deal with Satan and the rest of the fallen angels once and for all.

When they were cast out they were hovering over the face of the deep waiting. It could very well be that they thought they would win the battle with God but what do you suppose their reaction was when God said "Let there be light". This was not the sun, moon, or stars. This was a light that was very different; this was the light of God, His Son Yeshua. God spoke the Word and the Word became flesh and came to earth to bring God's Word to the people.

The Creation story takes only a few verses and then we see God's plan starting to take shape for us.

**Job 36:2** "Bear with me a little, and I will show you That *there are* yet words to speak on God's behalf.

**Malachi 1:9** "But now entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us. *While* this is being *done* by your hands, will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

The story of Job is one that many Believers struggle with because we have a hard time understanding why God would allow Satan to test a good man. God allowed Satan to kill Job's family, take away his wealth, his standing in the community and even his friends and his wife told him to reject God and die! Is this any different from the test God brought before Abraham when He instructed him to kill Isaac in order to prove his faith? We see this testing take place time and time again throughout the Bible and at the same time we see those who overcome are blessed by God in different ways.

The story of the Creation is a love story between God and man. God desired a people He could call His own but out of Creation He allowed a people to be born who would not follow His ways and who would lean towards the master of this world rather than the Master of eternity. This has been the choice for us from the very beginning. The purpose in reading through the weekly Torah cycle is to learn and gain new insights into the mind of God. The Torah and the rest of the books of the Bible tell us of God's relationship with man and vice versa. God did not create us to be mindless robots. He wanted us to learn and to grow and develop. When I read the scientific writings about prehistoric man, sometimes I don't know what to think because the God I follow created a man and woman and He gave the man understanding to name all of the creatures that God had created. He taught him agriculture or He had loaded up man's mind with the knowledge he would need in order to deal with the world outside of the Garden when man would sin and fall from grace.

I tend to think that as man populated the earth and we moved further and further from the father and mother of all humanity that we lost parts of our brain power that Adam had. As the gene pool was diluted we kind of "*dumbed down*". I don't mean to insult any of you reading this I am simply offering an observation. You may think differently than I do and that is fine with me. My desire is to get you into a regular routine of studying the Word and prayer. Prayer moves mountains my friends. I know this for a fact because God answers my prayers, all except for the one to hit the lottery...☺ Yes, I am kidding. I know that God hears my prayers and those of my wife. He has brought to pass several things we have prayed for and we continue to persevere in our prayer life.

God has blessed our two congregations through growth and new people who are coming in week after week. Some stay and others move on. Why they move on we usually never hear but I tend to

believe we were not what they expected. By this I mean that those who are coming out of the Church have a mistaken idea of what a Messianic congregation is supposed to be. They think we are supposed to be like the Churches they have come from except that we meet on Saturday. Our congregations are not Churches. Our music is Messianic Jewish in nature as well as the Davidic Dance that we do. We worship as our Messiah did 2,000 years ago when He walked the earth as one of us.

God walked the earth before this as well. He walked in the Garden in the cool of the day. He came to Abram. He gathered Enoch to His bosom because Enoch walked with God. He showed Moses His back and ate with the Elders of Israel. He came to Joshua in the plain as leader of the Lord's army. There was so many times that God showed Himself to man before coming 2,000 years ago. None of those times were right for His first arrival but it would appear that God wanted to let us know that He has a plan and that He is the only Living God and that His Son joins Him in His desire to be reconciled to the humanity.

### **Isaiah 42:5-7**

**5** Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: **6** "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, **7** To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

As we saw in the opening of Genesis 1 the Creator of all that exists is the Lord God who brought all things into existence through His Son Yeshua. His Holy Spirit or Ruach HaKodesh moves in this world as well doing the work of the Father and helping us to stay strong when we are attacked by the enemies of God. Isaiah shows us the Creator in this passage from his book. There is a mode of study called Thematic Analysis that is a Rabbinical form of study that some people use to study the word of God. In some ways it is based on how the Torah and Haftarah were brought into use. There was time in the history of the Jewish people when Torah study was outlawed. In order to get around this prohibition the sages of old looked to the books of the prophets and found themes that were in synch with the Torah portions or part of them.

They would then study the Haftarah portion and when the themes would come up they could reference to the Torah portion without breaking the law. When they were once again allowed to read the Torah the reading of the Haftarah portion had already found a permanent place in the study habits of the Jewish people. As Believers in the Messiah Yeshua we have begun to add in portions from the Apostolic Scriptures to bring our reading cycle to completeness and to show the connection between all three parts. When we do this we are stepping into the world of Torah study like those who have gone before us. Some define this as being Messianic while others call these Torah communities. I kind of like the term Messianic Torah Community myself though I am not trying to place a label on who or what we are but being followers of the Messiah Yeshua would make us Messianic while adhering to the study of the Torah and Haftarah would bring us closer to Judah and adding in a portion from the Apostolic Scriptures seems to bring it all full circle.

God created us to have fellowship with us but how can we do that if we are not on the same page as the one who created us?

**Malachi 2:10** Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers?

**Romans 8:38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

The prophet Malachi hits the nail right on the head when he makes the statement that we all have one Father and He created all of us. If we deal with our brothers and sisters in the same manner that we have dealt with our Father why do we think we deserve to be blessed? How many years has the Church tried to turn Jews from their God over to their God? If we all worship the same God then why the need to do anything but share about who Yeshua is? Is there a need for conversion to anything or is conversion even a Biblical concept or a man-made one? We are told to go out make disciples of the nations. A disciple is a student or in the Hebrew *talmid*.

The Apostle Paul in Romans mirrors what Malachi says showing us that Paul, as well as the rest of the Apostles and disciples were students of the Tanach and not of the *New Testament*. Too many times the Church has insisted that the *New Testament* is somehow better or superior to the Tanach or *Old Testament*. By now most of you have come to understand that I do not like the terms New or Old when used in conjunction with the Bible? First off, there was no New Testament when Yeshua, the Apostles and the disciples walked the earth and taught the teachings of a Torah observant Jewish Messiah.

I become insulted when I am told that all that Jewish stuff is no longer need because Yeshua brought us a new covenant which is better than the covenant of Torah. The problem with this is that Yeshua upheld Torah and taught it. When Yeshua defeated Satan in the Wilderness He did so using the Torah. The Apostle Paul did not have the authority to do away with the Torah as many in the Church believe. If he did have this authority he would be going against Yeshua and the other Apostles but I look at this from a different perspective. That perspective is that Paul was a Pharisee whose father and grandfather were probably Pharisees and he was from the tribe of Benjamin who had been assimilated into Judah and he was an Israelite.

Paul holds the Torah to be true so therefore he is not at odds with the teachings of Yeshua, the Living Torah. The Torah is built on a foundation of Yeshua and because of our faith and our love for Yeshua we keep what He commanded us to do. He commanded us to keep the Torah.

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

I have quoted this verse time and time again. I love it because it is the ultimate validation of following the Torah because the commandments Yeshua is referring to are the commandments found in the Torah. It could not have been the New Testament or any part of it because it did not exist 2,000 years ago. When you test the word of God against itself you had better be doing it by testing the New Testament against the Torah and the prophets because Messiah said that the Torah and the Prophets testified of Him.

**Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

**Luke 24:44** Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Torah of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

**John 1:45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Torah, and also the prophets, wrote -- Yeshua of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

**Acts 28:23** So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Yeshua from both the Torah of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

In Acts 28:23 we see this is talking about Paul and that Paul was sharing his faith in Yeshua and he was doing it from the Torah and the Prophets. It beats me how anyone can claim that Paul did away with the Torah. The Torah was used to bring forth Creation. The Torah lives as Yeshua the Messiah. In the beginning was the Torah, so what happened along the way?

### **John 1:1-12**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. **7** This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **8** He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. **9** That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

The opening passage from the Gospel of John mirrors the opening verses of Genesis. John was tying together the Creation and the Creator. He was showing us Yeshua the Creator and Yeshua the Torah. Yeshua became the Word of God made flesh while also being God Himself. Everything that exists was made by Him and through Him and for Him. John shows us that the Light that came in the beginning was the same Light that God brought forth to dispel the darkness. Satan and his followers cannot stand up to the Light of Yeshua. Yeshua has defeated the enemy and is only waiting for the day when His Father tells Him to go and finish the job that was started before man was created. It did not happen 2,000 years ago but took place when God was going to create. We become children of God by believing on the name of Yeshua the Messiah. It is through Him that we are reconciled to the Father. He bridges the chasm that came into being when our parents sinned by disobeying God. He is the bridge who brings us back to the Father because He was the one who had to shed His blood and offer up His body so that we could be made whole once again with God the Father.

The road to the Father is straight and narrow and does not veer off to the left or to the right.

**Isaiah 35:8** A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. **9** No lion shall be there, nor shall *any* ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk *there*.

The Highway of Holiness is the way of the Redeemed of the Lord. The Redeemed of the Lord are those who have accepted Yeshua and have been made one with Him and His Father. We are the redeemed who walk that road. It is not an easy road to travel but we can make it because many have gone this way before us. The people of God are a united Body whose identity is found not in the labels they place upon themselves but in what they have done that is pleasing to God. Are you following the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob or are you following a universal god that can only lead down a road that is not the Highway of Holiness but the Highway of the Lost. The road is yours to choose. God created the right way in the beginning. As we begin another journey through Torah I ask that you join me in this journey so that we can come to God together.

***The goal of creation is redemption...Midrash***

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

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