

Remote Youth Groups!!!

Parshas Bereishis
October 17th 2020
29 Tishrei 5781

Parsha Summary and Discussion

On the 1st day, G-d separated night and day.

On the 2nd day, G-d divided the sky from the earth.

On the 3rd day, G-d separated the land and the sea, and created the trees, flowers and grass.

On the 4th day, G-d put the sun, moon and stars in their right places.

On the 5th day, G-d put the fish, birds and reptiles (like snakes and lizards) in their places.

On the 6th day, G-d created land animals like cows and sheep and the very first human beings -- our grandparents, Adam and Eve!

On the 7th day, G-d stopped working and rested. It was Shabbat.

Discuss – Why do we celebrate the cessation of work? Maybe we should celebrate the work itself?

Discuss – Why was man created last? If man is so important, he should have been created first?

Adam and Eve marry and go to live in the Garden of Eden, a beautiful place where everything is available and ready for them. They have beautiful fruit trees from which to eat and plants, flowers and rivers to enjoy. Adam and Eve are able to eat of any tree or plant except one: the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which G-d does not allow them to eat from.

Discuss – Why was there a tree of Knowledge if it was not meant to be used by Adam?

Answer - The purpose was to refrain from eating from it – that's why Hashem made it.

However, the evil snake convinces Eve to take a bite, and she gives one to Adam, too. So Adam and Eve are thrown out of the Garden of Eden as punishment and from that day on they have to work for a living and do not have it easy as before.

Discuss – We are taught that the snake was punished that it no longer had legs and was able to eat dust, which is found everywhere. So its food was ubiquitous from then on. Why is that a punishment – I would love it if I could find food anywhere?

Adam and Eve have two children, Cain and Abel; one day the two have a fight and Cain kills Abel. From then on, G-d curses Cain and he becomes a wanderer, a person who has no home and goes all over the world without a place of his own. Adam and Eve have another child, Shet, from whom the great Noach of whom we will read in next week's *parshah* descends.

Mitzvah of the Week

There is a positive commandment to believe that Hashem created the world and continuously runs the world. This is one of the Six constant mitzvos, to believe in a G-d that is pulling the strings.

Discuss – How can Hashem make it a mitzvah to believe in anything? I either believe or I don't!

Parsha Questions

Q: What did Hashem create on all the days of creation?

A: 1 – light and darkness, 2 – heavens and earth, 3 – land and sea and vegetation, 4 – sun moon and stars, 5 – fish birds and reptiles, 6- animals and man

Q: What happened on the seventh day?

A: Hashem rested, It was the Sabbath

Q: What was Adam's wife's name and where did they live?

A: Eve, in the Garden of Eden

Q: What was the one commandment that Adam and Eve were given?

A: Not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Q: What animal convinced Eve to eat from the tree?

A: The snake

Q: What happened as a result of their disobeying Hashem's Commandment?

A: They were banished from the garden, destined to die, and cursed with a life in which they had to work hard

Q: What was the snake's punishment?

A: Its legs were taken away and it eats dust

Q: What were Adam's son's names?

A: Cain and Abel and Shet

Q: What altercation happened between two of them and what was the result?

A: Cain killed Abel, and Cain was forced to become a wanderer

Q: What is the Mitzvah of the week?

A: To believe that there is a G-d that is running the world

Harder Questions

Why does the Torah start with the account of Creation?

1:1 - So that when the nations accuse us of stealing Eretz Canaan from the Canaanites, we can respond that Hashem, as Creator, has the right to give the land to whomever He sees fit, and He gave Eretz Canaan to us.

What happened to the light that was created on the first day?

1:4 - Hashem saw that the wicked would be unworthy of it so He hid it for the righteous.

Why isn't the word "good" associated with the second day?

1:7 - Because the work with the water wasn't completed until the third day. Anything that is incomplete is not "good."

How were the trees supposed to taste?

1:11 - The wood was to have the taste of the fruit.

On which day were the sun and moon created?

1:14 - They were created on the first day and suspended in the firmament on the fourth day.

Hashem blessed the birds to be fruitful and to multiply. Why did He not do so with the beasts?

1:22 - He did not want the serpent, who was to be cursed, to receive a blessing.

In whose likeness was man fashioned?

1:26 - In the likeness of the angels.

What kind of food did Adam eat?

1:30 - Vegetation.

Why is "the sixth day" written with the definite article (HA-shishi)?

1:31 "The" in Hebrew is the letter hey, which has a numerical value of five. Hashem created the world on the condition that it will endure only if the Jewish People accept the Five Books of the Torah.

At the end of the sixth day what was the world still lacking?

2:2 - Rest.

Why was man made from dust gathered from the entire earth?

2:7 - So that wherever he might die, the earth would receive his body.

How is man superior to the animals?

2:7 - He was given understanding and speech.

Why was it not good that man be alone?

2:18 - If he were alone, he would appear to be a god; The creation of woman emphasized man's dependence.

Where do we learn that one must not add to a commandment from Hashem?

3:3 - From Chava. Hashem commanded not to eat from the tree but she added not to touch it. Because she added to the command she eventually came to transgress it.

What does it mean that Adam and Chava "knew that they were naked"?

3:7 - They had been given one commandment and they had stripped themselves of it.

Why did Hevel choose to be a shepherd?

4:2 - Since the ground had been cursed he refrained from cultivating it.

What was the marital practice of the generation who lived before the flood?

4:19 - They married two wives, one with whom to have children. The other one was given a potion which prevented her from bearing children.

What did Tuval-Cain invent?

4:22 - Murder weapons.

Why did Chanoch die at a young age?

5:22 - Though he was righteous, he was easily influenced; therefore Hashem took him before his time to protect him from sinning.

What was the sign that Shem was born with great propensity for righteousness?

5:32 - He was born already circumcised.

Good Shabbos!!!