

September 12, 2021

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Creation

**Young people's message:** This morning's message to you is about Sabbath rest. Or just rest in general and why we should take it. Keep in mind the saying of Jesus, "That God made the Sabbath for us and not us for the Sabbath. The Sabbath for us being Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead. God has told us to take a day off and to rest, relax and recover from the past week. In the story of creation God takes a day off to rest from creating the universe in six days. God is inviting us to be like Him. To take a day off and rest as He did. To keep Sabbath as He is keeping Sabbath in Heaven.

Rest is a great thing. Rest helps us to refocus, recharge and refill our bodies and minds. I remember a friend of mine who was a body builder. He told me that the days spent in the gym pumping weights was important. However the days not spent in the gym were even more important. This is when your muscles have a chance to repair themselves. Pastor Cathy shared great words of wisdom with me years ago on a road trip. They stuck with me for fifteen years. That as a pastor, if you do not look after yourself, with healthy food, exercise and rest, you will have nothing in you to be able to serve your people.

Rest is very important. So much so that God has set an example for us to follow. That if God rested on the seventh day, we should also. Some

people think that God tells us this so that we can keep Sabbath down here on earth at the same time God does in heaven. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

There are times that it is hard or impossible to get a Sunday off to keep Sabbath and take your rest. Some people have to work like pastors and farmers. So we have to set some time aside for rest at a later date in the future. There will be times when we are busy and times when things are quiet. It all does seem to work itself out. When we are planning to take our rest we are actually thinking of God. He was the one who gave us the example that we should take rest. Sometimes it is on the Sabbath and other time it is whenever we can take it. The important thing is to rest.

**Adult's message:** In my spare time, I like to listen to lectures by Orthodox Rabbis on scripture. I find that their perspectives help to open up a new understanding of scripture that I would otherwise not have access to. I find that they ask the questions that I have on a given topic. I thought I would share two lectures I listened to on creation.

Keep in mind that this is usually a question and answer method of teaching. The first lecture is If God is perfect, why did He create us? The second is a very different interpretation of the six days of creation. I hope you get as much out of this as I have.

So if God is perfect, why did He create us? Keep in mind that God is perfect. He is not missing anything. God has it all. He is the fullness of perfection. God cannot get any: bigger, stronger or wiser. If God is so perfect then why does He care about anything? When you are perfect

you want to give and share what you have with others. If you and I do it, we do it to become better people. If I was perfect why would I want a friend or companion? We would want a friend or companion to help them become perfect like ourselves.

We need to remember that God created the world before there was anything. Even before we existed. God created the world before there was anything and He was perfect. So again, why did God create the world? In the Orthodox Jewish tradition, God is called Yakhid meaning “oneness”. Before He started to create the universe God was Yakhid. He was exclusive to Himself. Then when God starts to create, they start to use the term Hashem Ekhaud to refer to Him. The new term means all together. God is now inclusive. So when God creates the world He becomes inclusion. God did not want to be the only thing. God creates the world so that we would exist. Even for God it is not good to be alone. God is not satisfied being alone and He wants us too. We are given a deep insight into God’s mind when Eve is created. She is created so Adam would not be alone. Just as God was before we were created. God is saying to us, that although I am perfect, it is not enough. That is why He created us in His image. God creates us to be beside Himself. God made room for us in His world. To be alone is not the Godly way. To be yourself, there needs to be others around you. God’s act of creation was actually very unselfish and humble.

There were many lessons to be drawn out from that lecture.

The second lecture on the six days of creation is full of math with and end of time prophesy. Keep in mind that most Orthodox Jews are strict creationist. All of this was made in six days and the earth is almost six thousand years old.

The six days of creation reveal an attribute of God. That the days are actually created out of the attribute. Each day of creation is one thousand years long as it appears in Genesis. Each day corresponds with a thousand year period of earthly history. That before the year six thousand in the Hebrew calendar, the Messiah will come and dwell amongst us.

On the first day God creates light. The Hebrew word for this day is Heshed and the attribute is kindness. God created out of His kindness. However the Jews tell a story that the light was too bright. So God tucked some of the light under His throne for the Messiahs coming. God's kindness flows in abundance at this time in history. The animals and vegetables at this time in history are very large. Human life spans are very long.

On the second day God separates the water to reveal dry land. The attribute for this day is judgement. We see it in the flood and the Tower of Babel. The flood was an expressed judgement through water. In the Tower of Babel story the people had lost faith in God. With the introduction of languages people started to drift apart in small groups.

The third day God creates the vegetation. The Hebrew word for this day is Tefarsh and it means beauty. The attribute is compassion. In chaos and conflict nothing blends and there is no beauty. Compassion is a blend of kindness and judgement. To be kind in judgement. God sets the earth up to produce vegetation. So that the barren earth becomes beautiful by producing vegetation. It becomes a blend of colours of the vegetation. In human history this is the time of Abraham who taught the belief in the one God.

On the fourth day God creates the Sun and moon and stars and places them in their orbits. The Hebrew word for this day is Netzah. The attribute is a reduced form of kindness. Both the Sun and moon are reduced and restricted in giving their light. The Sun only shines on half the earth at a time. So it is restricted and limited to when it can shine on the earth. Days one and four are about light.

The fifth day God creates the small animals from the water. The Hebrew word for the day is Hod and the attribute is reduced judgement. God creates small animals and mostly the un-Kosher ones.

The sixth day is broken up into two events. On Thursday evening God creates the large animals and on midday Friday he creates Adam and Eve. The Hebrew word for the day is Yesod and it means fundamentals. That the world was created for goodness. In the grand scheme of the Hebrew calendar we are at the 5778<sup>th</sup> year. So we are very close to the Messiah come if He is coming before the year 6000.

I hope you got something out of this. It is interesting to have a different perspective on scripture from a non-Christian mind. I like to think it enriches and gives us a fuller perspective. It gives us more to work with. God bless, Pastor D