



10-6-18
Bereisheet-In the Beginning
Genesis 1:1-6:8
Isaiah 42:5-43:10
James 1:19-26

Introduction

What captures the Torah's attention is not facts, but the meaning of those facts. We need to see the significance of the Biblical story for our own lives and our communities. Our traditions, starting with the Creation story, provide a way of reading the world not simply as a random collection of phenomena, but as a coherent message of morality, holiness, and hope. Out of that understanding we can open our minds and hearts to see the place of God, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit present in the Creation story and throughout the Torah and beyond.

Genesis 5:18-24

18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died. ²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. (ESV)

The lifespans of humanity were very long pre-flood, and that has many opinions as to why. Some say the earth was covered by the firmament which protected mankind from the harmful rays of the sun, and the firmament might also have been like climate control keeping a steady temperature all around the world before the flood came and changed everything. Noah and his sons were probably the last of the pre-flood humans who lived a very long life. Today, if we make it into our 70's we are considered old but still useful. Many of us whose hair has changed color to gray and then to white, we would fall under the category of the "hoary head."

Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. (ESV)

I would have to assume that the one Daniel saw was Messiah Yeshua who shares the throne with His Father. Do you see His description? Ancient of Days, clothing white as snow, and hair like pure wool. The description of His throne matches that of the Prophet

Ezekiel. We push the elderly aside in our culture believing they must make way for the younger generations, and that the older generation has no use any longer. The truth is that the older folk have wisdom, remember the past, and can share with the younger generation their experience. In our Torah portion this week, we see the lifespans of some of our ancestors from the pre-flood days. Interesting is the comment about Enoch and how after he fathered Methuselah, the one human who would live the longest. Enoch fathered more sons and daughters, and at the ripe old age of 365, he had walked his life with the Almighty and he was taken by God to be with him. Elijah was another example of one who would go to be with the Holy One without dying at that time in their lives. In my humble opinion, I believe that it is possible that Enoch and Elijah will suffer death eventually as the two witnesses during the time of the Great Tribulation. Elijah did not live as long as Enoch did, but he was a mighty man of God who served him as best as he could.

From our father Adam and our mother Chavah, mankind came into existence. I wonder if Adam and Chavah longed for that time when they were in the garden without a care in the world? Chavah sinned by listening to the serpent, and Adam sinned not by just eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil but because he failed to step in when Chavah was having her conversation with the serpent.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and **she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.** ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (ESV)

Notice that we are told Adam was with Chavah. After they ate of the fruit that they had been forbidden to eat of, they then knew good and evil. They realized their innocence was gone and they were naked. Before this, their nakedness was nothing to them, and they stood before creation as one without sin, but once they ate the fruit, their nakedness had to be covered because they were no longer innocent and without sin. Now, they were sinners, and in their sin, they tried to make it right by covering themselves with fig leaves. This would not do the job. Once the Holy One knew what they had done and punishment had been meted out to the serpent, Adam and Chavah, the Holy One covered them with animal skins, the first sacrifice made, and the first time blood had been shed to cover the sins of man beginning the centuries of man sinning over and over until redemption was offered by the Father through the shed blood of His Son Yeshua.

Isaiah 43:5-7

5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (ESV)

Until the Tower of Babel, mankind most likely stayed close to one another because they spoke the same language and could come together as one people. It is just as Israel would one day be the place where all those who believe in Yeshua and follow the covenant of Torah come together because the Holy One of Israel will bring all of us, who belong to Him as Enoch did, back home united as one people in our Messiah Yeshua giving Him the honor and glory He deserves and all worship to the Father, the creator of all there is through His Son. How the Godhead operates is a mystery to us that will one day be revealed to us in a world without death, old age, and more. We will finally have our resurrected bodies and live in harmony with all of creation as it was meant to be from the beginning.

James 1:19-26

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect Torah, the Torah of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. (ESV)

I can see myself in this passage as I have a hair trigger temper, am quick to anger, I have had to learn to control it, not let people get under my skin, and if they do to let it go. When we get angry, we tend to say the first thing that comes into our heads and live to regret it. It is not worth the grief it can bring and the hurt we do to someone else even if they deserve it. Leave it to the Lord to handle because He is the judge of all mankind. Look to the Torah to show us the way because that is why the Almighty gave it to us, my friends. Notice what the Shaliach Jacob writes in verse 26. If you think you are religious but do not hold your tongue in check, we deceive ourselves and our religion or faith is worthless. Our faith is worthless people! Be like Enoch, walk with God, and become one of His children as He originally intended it to be.

Psalm 34:14 Guard your tongue from evil, your lips from deceitful speech. (TNK)

Torah Man says, "There is nothing God will not do through one who does not care to whom the credit goes."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,
Mordecai Silver
Rabbi, Etz Chayim-Tree of Life Messianic Congregation

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@jsi-edu.org for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



