

# Parashat Bereishit

Genesis 1:1-6:8

OCTOBER 25, 2019



## SUMMARY

This week we read the very first words of the entire Torah. Before we meet anyone else in the Torah we immediately meet G!d, and G!d is busy. The very first verses we read describe both what G!d creates and the order in which G!d creates it:

**Day 1:** Day and night

**Day 4:** Sun, moon, and stars

**Day 2:** Sky, earth, and seas

**Day 5:** Animals that live in the water and birds

**Day 3:** Plants and trees

**Day 6:** Land animals and people

**Day 7:** Shabbat

Towards the end of the first chapter, the Torah makes a point of teaching us that we are created *b'tzelem E-lohim*--in the image of G!d.

Later in this week's parasha we read about the creation of *Adam* and *Havah* and the first family ever. We meet the brothers *Kayin* and *Hevel* and learn a little bit about their personalities. We see how a misunderstanding between them can quickly get out of control. We also learn about the ways in which members of this family deal with curiosity, the relationships they develop with G!d, and some of the challenges that they face with each other in the Garden of Eden as they get to know each other.

### From Our Commentators:

*Radak--*

ואליך תשוקתו,  
שיהיה שוקק  
תמיד אליך  
ומטעה אותך  
ומתאוה  
להכשילך,

ואליך תשוקתו,  
its desire is  
focused on you; it  
is constantly  
engaged in trying  
to seduce you by  
making you  
stumble

### FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) In this week's *parasha* we read about the sacrifices of *Kayin* & *Hevel*. *Kayin* was a farmer and brought a sacrifice to G!d of fruit and vegetables. *Hevel*, his brother, was a shepherd and he brought a sacrifice of the best parts of his first born sheep. G!d paid attention to *Hevel* and his sacrifice, but not to *Kayin* and his sacrifice. Why do you think G!d might have paid attention to *Hevel* and his sacrifice but not to *Kayin* or his sacrifice?
- 2) G!d sees that *Kayin* is upset that G!d paid attention to *Hevel* and *Hevel's* sacrifice but not to *Kayin*. So G!d asks *Kayin*, "Why has your face fallen?" We thought that this could mean that *Kayin* was upset. Why do you think *Kayin* would be upset that G!d paid attention to *Hevel* and *Hevel's* sacrifice and not to him and his sacrifice? How else could *Kayin* have reacted, rather than be upset?
- 3) The next words G!d spoke to *Kayin* after G!d asked him why his face had fallen were, "Isn't it that if you do good, you should lift it up and if you do not do good, sin is waiting ready to jump--wanting you. You have power to control it." What do you think G!d meant and was trying to accomplish?

