

OCTOBER 25, 2019

*Parashat Bereishit*

**Genesis 1:1-6:8**

Taught By:

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### **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.

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?

**SAGI:** Maybe G!d paid attention to *Hevel* and his sacrifice because G!d could tell that *Hevel* had offered up a sacrifice of the best parts of the best sheep from his flock. This would have taken a lot more work from *Hevel*--to choose and prepare this offering than it took *Kayin* to offer up some of his fruits or vegetables.

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?

**NATHAN:** I think this shows that *Kayin* was jealous. When *Kayin* noticed that G!d had paid attention to his brother and his brother's sacrifice, he could have just been happy for his brother, or decided that he was going to work harder to bring a better sacrifice next time.



The Sacrifice of Cain and Abel by Mariotto Albertinelli

3) We wondered a little about the next words G!d spoke to *Kayin* after G!d asked him why his face had fallen. What do you think G!d was telling *Kayin* when G!d said to him, "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?"

**NATHAN:** I think G!d was telling *Kayin* to do the right thing and be proud of it--even if no one notices. After a while, people will notice.

**SAGI:** I G!d was telling *Kayin* that anger can be like a demon that is ready to pounce, but that we all have the power to