

# weeklyTORAH

## Beresheet (In the beginning)

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*Commentary on the weekly Torah portion: Genesis 1:1–6:8*

*We recommend that you carefully read through the Torah portion in your Bible before you study the commentaries.*

*While reading this commentary, ponder the following: (1) What speaks to me most? (2) What practical things can I begin to apply? (3) Is there anything I need to correct in my life?*

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### In the Beginning

*"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Ge 1:1)*

There are two things the enemy does not want us to know: how everything began and how everything will end. If we don't know where we come from or where we are going, we will wander around without goal or meaning in life, hopelessly lost.

It is written: *"All Scripture is breathed out by God."* (2 Ti 3:16) The Bible, the Holy Scriptures, is essentially one book written by one author: the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures begin in the Torah by describing how everything began. They end in the Book of Revelation with a description of how everything will end. For this reason, both the Torah of Moses and the Book of Revelation have been attacked and questioned more than any other books in the Bible.

The Scriptures are God's self-disclosure of who He is. The first thing that is revealed about Him is that He is the Creator of everything. The entire revelation of Scripture stands or falls on this truth: there is only one true God who has created everything. This is the difference between the God of the Bible and all foreign gods. *"For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens."* (1 Ch 16:26) There is no God beside Him or like Him. He is unique. He is holy.

Barnabas and Paul explained to the heathens in Lystra who worshiped idols: *"we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them."* (Ac 14:15) The good news, the Gospel, is based on this foundation that God has created

everything. The Book of Revelation describes an angel who in the last days will preach an eternal gospel to all mankind.

*“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with **an eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, ‘**Fear God** and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, **and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.**”* (Rev 14:6-7)

Once again, we see that the gospel includes the truth about God as the Creator of all things. This gospel needs to be proclaimed today, when so many have been deceived by the theory of evolution. God will judge all mankind in the end times for this blasphemy.

The Book of Revelation describes the praise that is sung continually before the throne of God:

*“And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, ‘**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!**’ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “**Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**”* (Rev 4:8-11)

God is worthy of praise and glory because He has created all things. It is written: *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”* (Ps 19:1)

If we do not understand that God has created all things and praise Him for it, then neither will we be able to understand our future hope that God will make all things new. These two truths go together. You cannot fully appreciate what the future holds if you do not understand how it all began. If you cannot believe that God created everything, neither will you be able to believe how everything will end.

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘**Behold, I am making all things new.**’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.’”* (Rev 21:1,5-6)

## **God’s Judgment Because of Man’s Ingratitude**

The denial of God as the Creator of all things has caused many today to exalt creation as god. Instead of glorifying God, they worship creation, speaking about “Mother earth”, etc. This will bring God’s judgment, as Paul explains.

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.** So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ...**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**” (Ro 1:18-25)*

God’s invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. There are orange oranges, yellow bananas, green pears, dark red grapes, brown dates, red strawberries and so on. Every taste is different. How good God is, who has created all these things for us to enjoy! We can see His love and care for us in these things. He has created the unending galaxies, the breathtaking vistas and the small atom that can never be fully explored. We can see His greatness in both macro cosmos and micro cosmos.

*“For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep! The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this.” (Ps 92:4-6)*

*“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand.” (Ps 139:17-18)*

*“For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**” (Ro 1:21)*

Ingratitude and the refusal to glorify God as Creator bring spiritual darkness and moral decay. It is important that we take time to thank and praise God every time we have eaten and are satisfied, as the Torah teaches: *“And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God.”* (De 8:10) Barnabas and Paul told the pagans in Lystra about the living God: *“...he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”* (Ac 14:17)

The angel with the eternal gospel proclaims to all mankind: *“**Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.**”* (Rev 14:7) Just as ingratitude to God for the food he provides brings spiritual darkness, having a fear of God expressed in thanksgiving and praise for the food we have eaten will bring wisdom and good understanding, as it is written: *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.”* (Ps 111:10)

## The Messiah Is the Beginning

The Messiah is the goal that the Torah points towards. The first word in the Torah is "*Beresheet*" in Hebrew, which is translated as "In the beginning." "*Resheet*" means "beginning." "*Be*" is a prefix that is usually translated as "in," "through" or "of." "The beginning" is one of the titles of the Messiah. He says, "*Behold, I am coming soon, ...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*" (Rev 22:12-13)

The first verse in the Torah can therefore be translated: "***Through the Beginning*** [Messiah], *God created the heavens and the earth.*" This is what the Apostles tell us, as well.

***For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ...He is the beginning.***" (Col 1:16-18)

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."* (Jn 1:1-3)

Just as the Messiah is the beginning of all things, He is also the end. Paul writes, "*making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Messiah as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*" (Eph 1:9-10)

Therefore, the Scriptures do not only begin with Messiah, they also end with Him. The last verses in the Bible read, "*He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Yeshua! The grace of the Lord Yeshua be with all. Amen.*" (Rev 22:20-21) The Messiah is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. All things begin with Him and end with Him. He is the main message of the Torah and all of Scripture. Yeshua said, "*If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*" (Jn 5:46) And Paul wrote, "*For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah.*" (Ro 10:4 Complete Jewish Bible)

The Messiah is the Word through which the worlds came into being. He was revealed two thousand years ago when He became a man in Yeshua of Nazareth. The Apostle John writes, "*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*" (Jn 1:9-10)

The Scriptures are a progressive revelation about God. This means two important things:

1. The revelation grows throughout the Scriptures;
2. Later revelation never abolishes, but always builds on earlier revelation.

This can be compared to the light that comes from a spotlight. It has an origin in one point. From that point, the beam of light becomes wider and wider. The Scriptures begin in the first verse with the Messiah. He is the Beginning.

Everything comes from Him. The truth in the first verse is the source from which the rest of the message in the Scriptures comes. In the same way, the Torah is the foundation upon which all other truths are built. The first book is called *Beresheet* - the Beginning. It contains, in seed form, the beginning of all the truths found in the Scriptures.

## Creation Is Good

*"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Ge 1:31)*

One of the most serious attacks on the Gospel that the Apostles had to deal with was the Greek influence through the Gnostics. Gnosticism views the material, physical world as evil. Only the spiritual and unseen world is good. Gnosticism, with its different forms of asceticism, has influenced Christianity a lot. Paul clearly foretold this and warned about it.

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer." (1 Ti 4:1-5)*

The Gnostics viewed abstinence from marriage and certain foods, especially meat, as spiritual. Unfortunately, some Christians have misunderstood Paul, believing that he is attacking people who follow the food laws of the Torah. This is based on tragic ignorance. The Torah views everything that God has created as good.

This does not mean that God created everything to be eaten. The commandments regulating permissible food are not *"teachings of demons."* They are part of the oracles of God. Rats, snakes and bats were not created by God to be received and eaten with thanksgiving. They cannot be *"made holy by the word of God and prayer."* What Paul is addressing is not the food laws in the Torah, but the gnostic influence from people who despise what God has created to be received with thanksgiving, according to the truth of God's word. The teaching to avoid enjoying these things is what Paul calls *"teachings of demons."*

Creation is good, not evil. It was made by God in order to glorify Him. The created, physical world and the spiritual, unseen world are not opposites of each other. They complement each other, and God intended them to function in harmony. Creation will not one day be extinguished, but rather, it will be restored to the glorious state that God has intended for it.

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that **the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** For we know*

*that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.***" (Ro 8:19-21)

## **Man – God's Image**

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'" (Ge 1:26)*

Every human being is created in the image of God, to be like Him. This is a foundational truth in the Scriptures that is very important. God said after the flood, *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."* (Ge 9:6)

Ya'acov, James, writes about the tongue, *"With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."* (Jas 3:9-10) God hates gossip and slander about people, because they attack His own image. Slander is considered a form of murder by the rabbis.

It is also written, *"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."* (Pr 14:31) And, *"Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker."* (Pr 17:5)

With these truths, our Master was able to condense the entire Torah into one sentence, *"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Mt 17:12)

Everywhere the Torah and the Gospel have been received, the value placed on human life has increased. We can see this from the fact that Israel and most Western nations (where Christianity has influenced society) are always the first to send out rescue missions when a catastrophe has taken place - as opposed to Muslim nations, for example. It is written in Malachi, *"Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?"* (Mal 2:10)

## **Called to Rule**

*"And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* (v. 26)

God has created man to have dominion, to rule, creating order and peace – shalom - where there is disorder and chaos. This is what we will be doing for all eternity:

*"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and **you have made them a***

**kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.**" (Rev 5:9-10)

*"And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and **they will reign forever and ever.**"* (Rev 22:5)

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* (v. 27) God created man in his own image as man and woman. **Together, man and woman make up God's image, created to rule over creation.** Both are needed. This means that God has made men and women different in order to complement one another. Together, father and mother represent God for their children.

The differences between men and women are not erased by the new covenant. Salvation does not remove God's plan for His creation. On the contrary, it realizes His original plan. Paul wrote, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Gal 3:28) This verse is sometimes taken to mean that there are no longer any differences between men and women. This is not the case. To be "one" does not mean being the same. All of Scripture is God's infallible, eternal word that can never be broken. (Jn 10:35)

Both are equally valuable to God, but this does not mean that they are the same and have the same callings and responsibilities. Unfortunately, the world's rebellion against God's order of creation has also deeply influenced many Christians. This is one of the most sure signs that we are living in the end times, as both Yeshua and Paul explained. (See Mt 24:12 and 2 Th 2:3-4.)

God created man to rule over his wife. He said to Eve, *"Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."* (Ge 3:16) The word "rule" does not imply becoming a tyrant. It has to do with nurturing, protecting, guiding and caring, like the Messiah does with His people. That is not a curse, but a blessing. Paul makes it very clear in numerous places in his letters that this is still God's order for marriage, just as the Torah teaches. He wrote to Titus:

*"Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women **to love their husbands and children**, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and **submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.**"* (Tit 2:3-5)

The word of God is particularly reviled when people say that they want to follow the Torah, but ignore or even outright reject this command for marriage. Paul says that wives *"should be in submission, as the Torah also says."* (1 Co 14:34) This is a beautiful order for marriage, when it is at work through love, since the children learn to submit to their parents and obey them because of what they see in their mom and dad. A mother who does not submit to her husband can never get her children to obey without threats or objections from their children. There will be constant quarreling and disorder. It is written, *"no city or house divided against itself will stand."* (Mt 12:25)

Likewise, the husband cannot expect his wife to gladly submit to him if he is not submitted to the Messiah. Authority only comes from first being under authority. Paul describes the divine chain of authority. *“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Messiah, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Messiah is God.”* (1 Co 11:3) This is the divinely created order that will be restored in the end times, in families that choose to obey God’s Torah.

In chapter 31, the book of Proverbs portrays the godly wife with a noble character as a very strong and industrious person. She is a free person who is very active, but at the same time, she is also submitted to her husband. This is the kind of helpmeet that a husband needs - not a subdued person without any will of her own.

*“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* (v. 28) This is the first commandment that appears in the Torah. God wants husband and wife to multiply and have many children. *“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.”* (Ps 127:3)

It is written that God is looking for *“a godly offspring.”* *“...the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And **what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”* (Mal 2:14-15) God wants many children who have been trained by godly parents to love Him. Notice that this command is connected to the direction, *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it **and have dominion.**”* (v. 28)

The Muslims have understood this much better than Christians. That is why they move to Western nations - in order to have large families, and through democracy, take over these nations within a few generations. Oh, that Christians would be that wise. God needs married couples today who do not live for materialism, but obey the command to raise many godly children. Children are the most precious things in this life.

## Food Is A Gift From God

*“And God said, ‘Behold, **I have given you** every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.’”* (Ge 1:29)

Here the Torah explains that the food we eat is a gift from God. It says, *“Behold, **I have given you** every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”* From the beginning man ate only vegetarian food. This changed after the Flood. God told Noah, *“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.”* (Ge 9:3)

Paul explained to the Gentiles in Lystra, who wanted to sacrifice to him and Barnabas,

*“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, **and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**”* (Ac 14:15-17)

The food that we eat is in other words a gift from God. He has created food that we can eat so that we can live. This is the reason why we need to thank and bless God for the food every time we eat. It is written about the Master,

*“Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, **he looked up to heaven and said a blessing.** Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.”* (Mt 14:19)

Likewise, it is written about Paul during his trip to Rome,

*“And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.”* (Ac 27:35-36)

The traditional Jewish blessing for bread before a meal goes, “Blessed are You LORD our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the ground!” The general blessing if there is no bread goes, “Blessed are You LORD our God, King of the universe, Who created everything by His word!”

Paul wrote to the Romans, *“The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God.”* (Ro 14:6) We are supposed to receive all food we eat with thanksgiving to God as a gift from Him. *“foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”* (1 Ti 4:3)

To not honor God by thanking Him as Creator for the food we eat brings spiritual darkness over our hearts and minds. *“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”* (Ro 1:21) This is why it is written about the end times before God’s judgments will fall on the earth,

*“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.’”* (Rev 14:6-7)

To fear God as Creator and give Him glory for this is something that we can practice every time that we eat. It also says in the Torah that we specifically need to do that **after** every meal, *“And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the*

*Lord your God.” (De 8:10) The traditional Jewish blessing before meals is very short, but the blessings after the meal, are long and extensive.*

## **The Blessing of the Sabbath**

*“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” (Ge 2:1-3)*

Right after God has pronounced His blessing over husband and wife, the next thing that He blesses is the Sabbath. *“So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.”* (v. 3) This took place before the fall, and long before the Jewish people existed. Resting on the seventh day is, in other words, part of God’s order for all of mankind. This has never changed, and this order will continue into the new heavens and the new earth.

*“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” (Isa 66:22-24)*

After the creation account, the Sabbath is not mentioned again until after the exodus from Egypt, which is a picture of our salvation through the blood of Messiah. The Sabbath is therefore, according to the Torah, both a memorial of creation – with its prophecy of the seventh day rest in the Millennium – and also a memorial of the exodus from Egypt and our salvation.

*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ...For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Ex 20:8,11)*

*“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. - ...You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.” (De 5:12,15)*

It is a blessing for all people to sanctify - set apart - the Sabbath. Yeshua said, *“The Sabbath was made for man”* (Mk 2:27), in other words, not just for Jews. For anyone who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and belongs to God, the Sabbath is also a covenant sign that we are His. *“Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” (Ex 31:16-17)*

The God of Israel also invites Gentiles into this covenant as well.

*“And **the foreigners** who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone **who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant**— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer **for all peoples.**’ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, ‘I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.’” (Isa 56:6-8)*

## Paradise

*“And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.” (Ge 2:8-10)*

This paradise with the tree of life will be restored again in the Kingdom of God. It is written, *“To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”* (Rev 2:7) The final chapter of the Scriptures describes how the Garden of Eden will be in the New Jerusalem.

*“Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”* (Rev 22:1-4)

God Himself planted the Garden of Eden. It came out of heaven from God. Jewish tradition teaches that after the fall, the Garden of Eden was taken up into heaven. This agrees with what is described in the Book of Revelation: *“And I saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.’”* (Rev 21:2-3)

Paradise is restored again in the New Jerusalem, which will come down from heaven with the glory of God (Rev 21:10-11). It is the city with foundations that Abraham was looking for when he went out from the land of the Chaldeans to the land he was promised to receive as an inheritance.

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”* (Heb 11:8-10)

## Adam and Eve – The Messiah and His Bride

*“The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Ge 2:20-24)*

Paul explains that Adam is a type of the Messiah, *“the one who was to come.”* (Ro 5:14) The Messiah is *“the last Adam.”* (1 Co 15:45) Paul quotes the text from the Torah about Adam and Eve, and applies it to the Messiah and His assembly.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Messiah and the assembly. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”* (Eph 5:31-33) In the story of Adam and Eve, we see a type of Messiah and the assembly.

There was no helper fit for Adam among the animals. *“So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”* (v. 21-22) This is a picture of how we, through the death of Messiah, have been taken out of Him to become His Bride. The Apostle John writes, *“But when they came to Yeshua and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.”* (Jn 19:33-34)

Just as Eve was taken out of Adam and formed from one of his ribs, so we have been taken out of the side of the Messiah to be a helper fit for Him. **His own life is in us!** Soon we will be brought before Messiah to be His forever, just as God brought Eve before Adam. What a wedding that will be!

## The Fall

*“...the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”* (Ge 3:23-24)

We do not have space in this commentary to deal with the fall of Adam or Eve, beyond mentioning that God placed the cherubim with a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life. The way back to God goes through death and resurrection. The cherubim also appeared on the curtain before the Holy of Holies. *“And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it.”* (Ex 26:31)

Within a few generations the fall of man had gone so far that God regretted He had made man. *"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart."* (Ge 6:5-6)

More about that next week.

Shalom!

**Lars & Harriet Enarson**

## Discipleship

The goal of these commentaries is discipleship to our Master Yeshua the Messiah. Paul wrote to Timothy, *"...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Messiah Yeshua. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."* (2 Tim 3:15-17)

The Scriptures are given to us for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness so that we will mature and do good deeds.

After you have read this commentary, ponder the following:

1. What spoke the most to you in this commentary?
2. List at least one, but preferably more, practical thing(s) from this commentary that you can begin to apply in your life!
3. Is there anything that you need to correct in your life?

After the conclusion of the study, take some time to pray that the Word of God will bear fruit in your life.

If you have been blessed by these studies, pray about recommending them to someone else.

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