

Torah Portion #1: B'reshet (בראשית) "In the beginning"

Torah ~ *Genesis 1:1-6:8* | Haftarah ~ *Isaiah 42:5-43:11* | Brit Chadashah ~ *John 1:1-14; Revelation 1:8*

Creation Week History and Prophecy

*dates taken from Sebastian C. Adams timeline of history (1871 A.D.)

Genesis 1

- God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them in six literal days and rested on the seventh day.
- The seven days of creation are prophetic pictures of what would happen in each millennium (1000 years) of the universe's history ("**But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one days is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**" 2 Ptr 3:8)
- Creation began in 4004 B.C. according to the genealogies in the Bible*
- The 1st millennium 4004 B.C. – 3004 B.C. (Gen. 1:1-5)
 - o "**Then God said, 'Let there be light' ...", "...the light...was good; and God divided the light from the darkness."**
 - o Light ≡ good. Darkness ≡ evil.
 - o These events are a prophecy of man's fall and expulsion from the garden of Eden ("**Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**" Gen. 3:22-24)
 - o Gen. 2:17 "**...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**" Adam died in 3074 B.C., near the end of that first "day" or millennium.
- The 2nd millennium 3004 B.C. – 2004 B.C. (Gen. 1:6-8)
 - o "**...God made the firmament, (in Heb., raqia') and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament...**", "**...God called the firmament Heaven.**"
 - o These verses speak of water and there was the world-wide flood in the days of Noah in 2348 B.C.
 - o "Waters" are also a metaphor for living things. (e.g., Rev. 17:1, 15 "**Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters...**", "**Then he said to me, 'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**"). Waters ≡ peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.
 - o The firmament divided the waters below (humanity, fallen angels?) from the waters above (angels in general, holy angels?)
 - o To understand this as prophecy, I turn to the book of 1st Enoch, specifically chapter 1-16.
 - This book is part of the Pseudepigrapha where a writer used the name of a famous person as a pseudonym to lend authority to the writing. In this case, Enoch is the purported author.
 - The Enoch so claimed as author of these writings is the one described in the genealogy from Adam to Noah (Gen. 5:21-24 "**Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**)
 - Enoch's name means "consecrated" or "dedicated".
 - He, along with Elijah, appears to not have died in the normal manner experienced by all Adam's descendants.
 - The events of chapters 1-16 of 1st Enoch are not part of Scripture but contain elements of truth for they are cited or alluded to by Peter and Jude in the New Testament. They outline certain events that happened before the Flood.

- Jude 14-15 is a quote from this extra-Biblical material (1 Enoch 1:9) **“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh thing which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”**
- Jude 6-7 describes certain angels who committed sexual immorality are bound in chains and darkness until the day of judgment (**“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”**) See also 2 Ptr. 2:4-5 (**“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly...”**)
- (1 Ptr. 3:18-20 **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”**) Yeshuah descended to these angels’ place of confinement to proclaim His triumph over sin, Satan, death and hell (MacArthur Study Bible, pg. 1836, note on Col. 2:15)
- A quick outline of 1st Enoch, chapters 1-16 (from Jewish Literature Between the Bible and the Mishnah, George W. E. Nickelsburg, pp. 49-54)
 - Certain “Watcher” angels rebel against God by procreating with women and begetting a race called “giants” (Nephilim?). See Dan 4:13 where Aram. is translated “watcher” (**“I saw in the visions of my head *while* on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven.”**)
 - The giants are a “powerful and bellicose” half-human, half-angel breed.
 - God dispatches His archangels to bring judgment: Sariel instructs Noah on the ark construction; Michael binds the rebel “Watchers” for the day of judgment; Gabriel is sent to rid the earth of the giants.
 - The rebel angels are led by one ‘Asael or ‘Azazel. See Lev. 16:8, 10 and 26 (**“Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat...But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, *and* to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness...And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water and afterward he may come into the camp.”**) Here “scapegoat” is “Azazel” in Heb.
 - These angels teach mankind a variety of things like making weapons of war, mining metals, occult practices, astrology and astronomy.
 - I believe Noah preserved the prophecies of Enoch, his great grandfather, through the Flood, and it was passed from generation to generation. However, most of 1st Enoch is additions by post-flood writers.

- o Now we return to Scripture concerning the 2nd millennium (Gen. 6:1-8 **“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”**)
 - Here is the description of the events before the flood that brought on this judgment of God.
 - “Sons of God” in Scripture is used of angels in Scripture.
 - These angels found the women “beautiful” which is literally “good” in the Heb. (“tovah”).
 - A woman’s hair is what makes her attractive (glorious) (1 Cor. 11:15 **“But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her* hair is given to her for a covering.”**)
 - Glory ≡ density ≡ “kvod” in Heb.
 - So women should cover their heads when they pray or prophesy to avoid tempting angels (1 Cor. 11:5, 10 **“But every woman who prays or prophesies with *her* head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved...For this reason the woman ought to have a *symbol of authority* on *her* head, because of the angels.”**)
 - The “giants” in this passage is “Nephilim” in Heb.
 - “Nephilim” is from a Hebrew root meaning “to fall” or “be cast down” and seems to correspond to the “giants” of 1st Enoch, those products of the union between angels and women.
 - Also, mankind had turned totally to wickedness in his deeds and thoughts.
- o The firmament (“raqia”) mentioned on the 2nd day of creation is a division between angels in general and mankind. I prefer this prophetic interpretation as you will see on the 3rd day of creation.
- o As an aside, the demons or unclean spirits mentioned in the Bible may be the disembodied spirits of the half-breed Nephilim who were destroyed in the flood.
- o The firmament on the 2nd day of creation is a division between waters in heaven and waters on the earth in the physical universe. In a prophetic sense, it is a division to separate mankind from angelic beings. Hence we have prohibitions against occultic practices (breaking through the “raqia”). Deut. 18:10-12 **“There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.*”**