



Parshas Bereishis Overview: Class 3

Years 0 - 1536

1. Hashem creates the world in six days and rests on the seventh

- Creation bespeaks purpose. A perfect G-d would only create a world for man's benefit. "For the purpose of Yisrael did He create the heavens and the earth."
- Each day of the week has a partner: Fire, Water, and Earth. Shabbos has Yisrael as a partner
- 6 days of creation represent a millennial calendar of 6,000 years. [Ramban]
- Man is created last – the entire world is created for the purpose of the world – man.
- Keeping Shabbos is a testimony to the fact that G-d created the world for a purpose. Shabbos is a miniature purpose, reflecting the micro purpose that is Moshiach.

2. Adam and Chava in the Garden of Eden [relationship of marriage]

- Rosh Hashana
- Hashem becomes king with the creation of Adam. – "The world was created for me!"
- Man is a combination of body and soul – enabling the reality of free will to choose if he wants the greatest pleasure of having a relationship with Hashem by being similar [Adameh] to Hashem OR to stay connected to the earth [Adama].
- Formation of Chava - First Mitzvah of the Torah is marriage.
- Seven "Noahide" laws.
- Man's Primary commandment – not to eat from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Existence of the snake – external Yetzer Hora
- Adam and Chava eat from the tree of knowledge – First sin between man and Hashem
- Consequences of the sin - Curse of Adam and Chava and the Earth. Banishment from Gan Eden. [Death, work, pains of childbirth and raising children]

3. Kayin and Hevel [relationship of family]

- Kayin is a farmer and Hevel is a shepherd. Their gifts to Hashem.
- Kayin's struggle and eventual murder of Hevel – First sin between man and man.
- Consequences of the sin – Kayin is doomed to wander.
- Kayin does Teshuva.

4. 10 Generations from Adam to Noach [relationship of society]

- Third child born to Adam and Chava – Sheis
- Generation of Enosh – idolatry
- There were unique individuals which contained a Divine spark.