



God is the Creator; Have Joy and Be Satisfied in Him
(A teaching to accompany the Torah portion Bereshit 2020)
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

#1 Bereshit – (bear-eh-shéet), first Torah portion
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

In this portion, God creates the heavens and the earth and mankind in His image. We are not God, but have special qualities that God has given us. The devil tempts Eve by changing what God said and both Adam and Eve are tricked and sin. Cain is jealous of Abel and kills Abel. Mankind becomes very sinful, but Noah saves mankind because he listens to God. We need more people who are willing to listen to God and also bring the blessings and goodness of God into this world. Our Torah teaching for Bereshit is available separately.

While Praying:

- * Take one step at a time; don't make things too hard.
- * God wants to energize us; take the steps to accomplish that.
- * Stay in alignment with God; that will keep you in Him; don't be worldly.
- * Be energized by a powerful God; He wants to be with you; He wants you to live in joy and peace; He wants you to be satisfied in life.

Take one step at a time; don't make things too hard.

Genesis is the first book in the Bible and it begins our journey of faith; a pilgrimage of sorts. In Genesis we begin learning about mankind's beginnings and from there, the Bible takes us on a journey of learning and spiritual growth.

When I was a little, my dad worked in an old office building in the city that was so old, it didn't have elevators. That building is no longer there. The windows were huge and amazing, and they actually opened. I remember asking my dad how he managed to go up those stairs every day. He said he enjoyed the exercise. I made it up those stairs by taking one step at a time. It seemed like a daunting task at the time, but I did it; that is like life; we all have to go through it one step at a time.

Sometimes looking at a task can keep us from accomplishing what we want to do. A lot of times, we must build on our abilities to do things to achieve greater tasks. Hillel told the man

who wanted to become Jewish that first of all he should learn to treat others the way he would like to be treated and then learn and keep the Torah. Hillel lived at the same time as Yeshua.

Perhaps we think, how am I going to learn how to do what the Bible says? Hillel had some good advice. The early leaders did something similar for the people who were becoming believers in the Messiah. They said, "But that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood." Acts 15:20 NKJV. And just like Hillel, after that they said they were to learn the Torah: "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath;" Acts 15:21 NKJV. Anything that we do requires we start somewhere and then keep at it.

God wants to energize us; take the steps to accomplish that.

What steps can we take to ensure our spiritual growth?

- * Read, study, pray, and apply the scriptures.
- * Receive teaching in how to understand the scriptures in their proper context. How they were originally meant to be understood.
- * Fellowship and be encouraged by other believers.
- * Receive the Holy Spirit and begin growing in hearing from God.

Hebrews 5:14 NKJV teaches us that we need to work at understanding how to know what is right and wrong, "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

What does Genesis chapters 1-5 teach us?

- *God is the creator and we should fear and respect Him.
- *We are made in God's image so we are special and are not to behave like animals.
- *We don't let our lives get out of control and allow our worldly desires to dictate how we act.
- *We shouldn't allow ourselves to be tricked by the lies of the world or the devil, but trust in God.
- *We shouldn't allow our thoughts to get out of control and hurt others.
- *We can choose what is good or bad. What we choose determines whether we make this world a better place or not.
- *We can choose to do good and be part of saving the world like Noah did.
- *God promised a messiah and He has come; He is Yeshua Hamashiach, Yeshua the Messiah. We live in a special time!

Some people think the Torah doesn't have anything to teach us, but that couldn't be further from the truth. And this is only the first 5 chapters.

Stay in alignment with God; that will keep you in Him; don't be worldly.

Alignment in a car keeps the tires going straight. In the same way, we need to think about what we are doing so we keep moving towards God. Proverbs 4:25-27 NKJV says, "Let your

eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil." This is talking about making the decision to do what God tells us to do and not to let ourselves wander off from doing what is "right and good" (Deuteronomy 6:18); keep God's commandments; don't do evil.

When we wander off, we can get ourselves into trouble spiritually and even sometimes personally. We don't want to have a worldly mindset, but a spiritual mind set. Shaul said, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2 NKJV. Perhaps not looking where you are going is kind of like walking along and only looking at your phone. People actually walk out into traffic doing this or walk into things; yikes huh. In all you do, think about doing what is right.

Be energized by a powerful God; He wants to be with you; He wants you to live in joy and peace; He wants you to be satisfied in life.

Isaiah tells us that trusting in God will give us peace; He can keep us strong. So why not do things His way? Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJV says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength."

Psalms 62:5-7 NKJV:

My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

God can give us peace and strength; He is the creator God. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. the host of heaven worships You." It says that God preserves them. That means He has not left His creation to itself; He keeps His creation going and existing. Genesis 1:1 NKJV says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." That is a very awesome statement when we consider all that He created and made. He is able to do what He says He will do.

We have a witness in us, the Holy Spirit

God is able to work in our lives and in the present, He has given us the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua to help us and it is good. Luke 11:13 NKJV says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" God wants us to accept His Messiah Yeshua and give us His good gift of the Holy Spirit. We have a witness to the fact that the Messiah rose from the dead and that we can have eternal life. "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself;" 1 John 5:10 NKJV. He is talking about our helper, the Holy Spirit. Yeshua said, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send;" John 15:26 NKJV.

Shaul knew what He believed and was assured that by being faithful, he would be in God's future kingdom. God is able to do that; He is the creator. 2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV says, "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." Jude said, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy;" Jude 1:24 NKJV. What wonderful joy we can have. I know God will help me and I trust in Him and in His power. If we do our part, God will do His. Stay faithful and know that He is God.

Finally

God created the heavens and the earth. The Torah portions have a lot to teach us. Just understanding we are created in God's image teaches us many things. Stay bolted to the scriptures and not a lot of fluff. Don't make your pilgrimage with God hard; take it a step at a time. Growth takes time. Take steps to accomplish your spiritual growth. Make the decision to follow God always. God wants to walk with us and for us to have a joy filled life, and be satisfied in Him.