

Bereshit – In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1-6:8

- (2 P) Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- (C) Genesis 2:4b-17
- (C) Genesis 2:18-25
- (C) Genesis 3:1-24
- (C) Genesis 4:1-26
- Genesis 5:1-32 Genealogy of Adam
- (C) Genesis 6:1-8:22 begins a new parallel on Noah that will be covered in the next parashah.

P = parallel, C = chiasm or concentric structure

7 Days of Creating and Filling the Earth			
P	Genesis 1:1-2	Genesis 2:1-4	Comments
	<p>Genesis 1:1-2</p> <p>1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:1-4</p> <p>2 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.</p> <p>4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,</p>	<p>The creation of the heavens and earth took place in 6 days followed by a day of rest on the 7th day.</p> <p>Blessing and sanctifying the 7th day, a day of rest, is the central focus of Genesis 1:1-2:25, which is a large chiasm containing other chiasms.</p>
P	Genesis 1:3-13	Genesis 1:14-31	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Genesis 1:3-5</p> <p>3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:14-19</p> <p>Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the</p>	<p>God divided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light from darkness (1st day) • Day from night (4th day) <p>The sun, moon, and stars are the primary signs that determine the timing of the seasons and appointed times.</p>

		<p>heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.</p>	<p>They provide light to the earth and have authority over the day (sun) and night (moon and stars).</p>
B 1, 2	<p>Genesis 1:6-8 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:20-23 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.</p>	<p>God divided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The waters under the firmament from the waters that were above the firmament (2nd day) <p>God filled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The waters with various creatures • The sky with winged birds <p>(this is essentially places creatures above and below the earth on the 5th day)</p>
C 1, 2	<p>Genesis 1:9-13 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit,</p>	<p>Genesis 1:24-31</p> <p>24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."</p> <p>27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He</p>	<p>God divided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The waters (seas) from the dry land (earth). <p>God filled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earth with plant life of all kinds with a way to reproduce (3rd day). • The earth with land creatures including mankind (6th day). • Mankind is created in God's image (both male and female) to have dominion/authority over living things. <p>Genesis 1:24-31 is also a chiasm.</p> <p>A1 1:24-25</p>

	<p>whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.</p>	<p>created him; male and female He created them.</p> <p>28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."</p> <p>29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.</p>	<p>B1 1:26 C 1:27 B2 1:28 A2 1:29-31</p> <p>There are chiasms within chiasms in Genesis 1-2, with the 7th day being the center. It is likely that chapter 1 contains a different perspective of the order of creation with chapter 2 discussing detailed things more or less in reverse order.</p>
<p>See the last page of: https://www.inthebeginning.org/chiasmus/xfiles/xgen1_1-2_3.pdf for full chiasm of Genesis 1-2.</p>			

Water			
P	Genesis 2:5-9	Genesis 2:10-17	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:5-6</p> <p>5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:10-14</p> <p>Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the</p>	<p>The earth was watered in 2 ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up from the ground • from the river that went out of Eden and divided into 4 riverheads. <p>Water parallels herbs and fruit which are the basis for life.</p>

		second river is Gihon ; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel ; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates .	
B 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:7-8</p> <p>7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.</p> <p>8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:15</p> <p>Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.</p>	<p>Man:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was made by YHVH Elohim (Lord God) • Was placed into the garden of Eden by YHVH Elohim. • Up to 60% of man is water. Much higher percentages of water occur in various parts of the body. <p>Man's origin, habitat, and dominion is the earth.</p>
C 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:9</p> <p>9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:16-17</p> <p>16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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."</p>	<p>2 Specific Trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of Life • Tree of the knowledge of good and evil <p>These 2 trees were set apart from all others. Instructions were only given regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</p>

The Ezer Kenegdo			
C	Genesis 2:18-21	Genesis 2:22-25	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:18</p> <p>18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."</p>	<p>Genesis 2:24-25</p> <p>24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and</p>	<p>YHVH did not create people to be alone, although we can often feel alone even when surrounded by many people.</p>

		<p>they shall become one flesh.</p> <p>25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.</p>	<p>“A helper comparable to him” is עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ (ezer kenegdo). The woman is to be a man’s נֶגֶד (neged) - counterpart or mate. If we consider the definition of the verb עָזַר (azar), <i>she is also to surround, protect, and aid him</i>. This is the complete opposite of the belief or assumption that the man is to fulfill these roles.</p>
B 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:19-20</p> <p>19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:22-23</p> <p>22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.</p> <p>23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."</p>	<p>God knows what Adam needs, but Adam must not yet realize this. God created and brought various beings to Adam to see what he would call them.</p> <p>There was no ezer kenegdo for Adam among them.</p> <p>So here is yet another chiasm:</p> <p>Creation of man Creation of creatures and their mates. Creation of woman</p>
C 1, 2	<p>Genesis 2:21</p> <p>21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.</p>		<p>The creation of the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the man was from the dust of the earth, but the creation of woman was from the man.</p>

Punishment of the First Sin			
C	Genesis 3:1-15	Genesis 3:16-24	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Genesis 3:1-6</p> <p>3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the</p>	<p>Genesis 3:22-24</p> <p>Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man</p>	<p>We were told earlier that YHVH Elohim had instructed Adam not to eat</p>

	<p>field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"</p> <p>2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"</p> <p>4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."</p> <p>6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate</p>	<p>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" — 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 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.</p>	<p>from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.</p> <p>The woman has added that they could not touch it either. I won't debate whether or not that was true or if it was her addition.</p> <p>I also won't debate over when the death was to occur, whether immediate or eventual. My experience is that Satan tends to deny consequences that inevitably come when one gives into temptation.</p> <p>I also see that most of us consider the pros and cons of temptation before yielding to it.</p> <p>There appears to be a heavenly council with YHVH as its leader. They know good from evil. This was one aspect of YHVH's image that Adam and Eve did not originally possess. Immortality was another. No one will eat from the tree of life until the time of the new heaven and earth (Revelation 22:14).</p>
B 1, 2	<p>Genesis 3:7-8</p> <p>7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.</p> <p>8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and</p>	<p>Genesis 3:21</p> <p>21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.</p>	<p>We have another chiasm here:</p> <p>Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves to cover their nakedness. Encounter with YHVH YHVH made coverings for Adam and Eve. This not only covered their nakedness, the blood of</p>

	Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.		the animal likely atoned/covered their sin.
C 1, 2	<p>Genesis 3:9-13</p> <p>9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"</p> <p>10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."</p> <p>11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"</p> <p>12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."</p> <p>13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"</p> <p>The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."</p>	<p>Genesis 3:16-20</p> <p>To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."</p> <p>17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."</p> <p>20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.</p>	<p>In this confrontation with YHVH, Adam and Eve play the blame game.</p> <p>YHVH likely already knows what they have done. YHVH questioned them and expected them to confess.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam blames Eve. • Eve blames the serpent. <p>YHVH hands out the consequences of their actions.</p> <p>To Eve – she is told that her pain in childbirth will be increased. She will long/desire to run after her husband. He will be over her. This does NOT negate her role as ezer knegdo.</p> <p>To Adam – he is told that the ground is cursed. It will be more difficult to get it to yield produce. He was assured that he would die and return to the dust of the ground.</p>
D	<p>Genesis 3:14-15</p> <p>14 So the Lord God said to the serpent:</p>		The serpent now becomes the focal point of this section of Scripture.

	<p>"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."</p>		<p>Revelation 12:9 identifies the serpent as the Devil or Satan, who deceives and persecutes the whole world.</p> <p>The serpent is cursed more than all creatures.</p> <p>Both mankind and Satan bring forth seed, a singular word likely referring to a group of descendants, who will oppose each other; yet there seems to be the singular and plural element as well. It seems Satan will bruise the heel of a single person, but that person and more people will bruise Satan's head.</p> <p>See Romans 16:18; 1 Corinthians 15:25-27</p>
--	---	--	--

Murder			
C	Genesis 4:1-22	Genesis 4:23-26	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Genesis 4:1-2</p> <p>4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground</p>	<p>Genesis 4:25-26</p> <p>And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.</p>	<p>Adam likely had many sons and daughters, but only a few of them are named for us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cain • Abel – killed by Cain • Seth >> Enosh
B 1, 2	Genesis 4:3-16	Genesis 4:23-24	YHVH did not respect Cain's offering. I doubt it

	<p>And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.</p> <p>4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."</p> <p>8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.</p> <p>9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"</p> <p>He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"</p> <p>10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.</p> <p>11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."</p> <p>13 And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."</p> <p>15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."</p> <p>And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.</p>	<p>Then Lamech said to his wives:</p> <p>"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!</p> <p>For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.</p> <p>24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."</p>	<p>was the kind of offering because we see grain offerings later in Leviticus. I think it was a matter of Cain's heart or the quality of the offering before God.</p> <p>Cain's actions seem to not only be retaliation against Abel, but also against YHVH for favoring Abel's offering and not his.</p> <p>The encounter between YHVH and Cain seem to cause us to remember that of Adam and Eve because YHVH asks Cain "where is your brother?" and "what have you done?"</p> <p>This encounter results in a curse that is similar to that of Adam's. Recall that previously, the ground was cursed; this will continue. Yet now, Cain is also cursed. Cain now fears death which was the penalty for eating from the</p>
--	--	---	--

	<p>16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.</p>		<p>tree of knowledge of good and evil. Previously, Adam and Eve were driven from the garden. Now, Cain is driven further away and ended up in the land of Nod.</p> <p>There was a penalty for anyone who killed Cain, and now it appears that Lamech has killed a younger man possibly in self-defense. He feels that whoever kills him should receive 70 times more vengeance than one who kills Cain.</p>
C	<p>Genesis 4:17-22</p> <p>17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son — Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irada; and Irada begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.</p> <p>19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.</p>		<p>Cain's life was spared long enough so that he could marry, build a city, and have children.</p> <p>Several generations later, one of his descendants would kill another man.</p>

Genealogy of Adam	
Genesis 5:1-32	Comments
<p>God made Adam in His likeness. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.</p> <p>Adam (130 + 800 = 930) >> Seth Seth (105 + 807 = 912) >> Enosh Enosh (90 + 815 = 905) >> Cainan Cainan (70 + 840 = 910) >> Mahalalel. Mahalalel (65 + 830 = 895) >> Jared. Jared (162 + 800 = 962) >> Enoch. Enoch walked with God (65 + 300 = 365) >> Methuselah</p> <p>Methuselah (187 + 782 = 969) >> Lamech Lamech (182 + 595 = 777) >> Noah</p> <p>Noah “will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.”</p> <p>Noah was 500 years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.</p>	<p>Note that a few of Cain’s descendants have similar if not the same names as those of Adam:</p> <p>Cain >> Enoch >> Irada >> Mehujael >> Methushael >> Lamech</p> <p>All of Cain’s descendants would eventually be killed in the flood, and Noah’s descendants would repopulate the earth.</p>