

Genesis 1 and John 1

Torah Portion: B'reisheet

Torah Portion Topics (Genesis 1-6:8)

Creation of all the world

Creation of humanity

Image of God

Creation of Adam

Creation of Eve (*Havah*)

The Fall

Cain and Abel

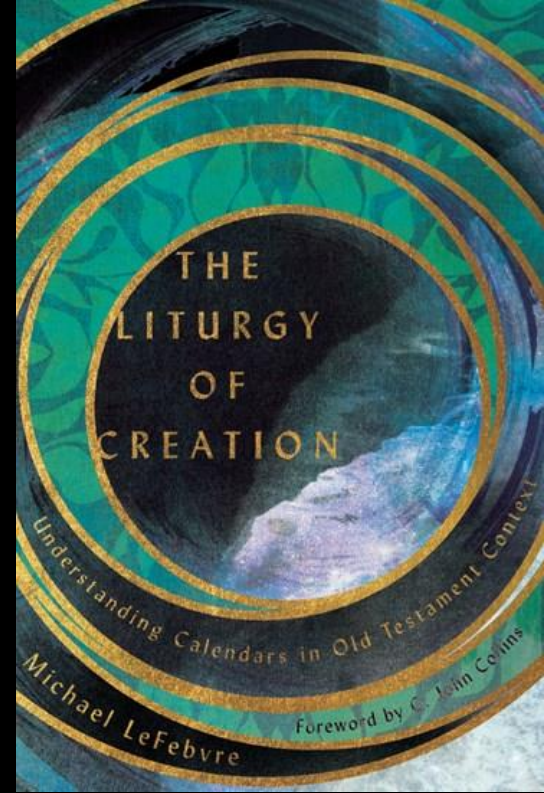
First list of descendants

Noah

Nephillim

Genesis 1 as a theological work

- Only Elohim is mentioned -uncontested
- No theogony
- No theomachy
- Words for names of deities from Canaan are replaced
 - No Shemesh – “sun”
 - No Yerach – “moon”
 - Sun, moon, stars functional use, not worship
- Written in seven day structure
 - Rhythm of festivals? Rhythm of worship cycles? Agricultural rest years?
 - Liturgical?
 - A hymn to ELOhim



Gen. 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the skies and the land. Now the earth was wild (*tohu*) and waste (*vohu*), darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering upon the surface of the water.

Tohu - “Wild and waste” in Isaiah 34:8-11

For Adonai has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the hostility against Zion. Its streams will be turned into pitch, its dust into brimstone, and its land will become burning tar. It will not be quenched night or day. Its smoke will go up forever. From generation to generation, it will lay waste forever and ever none will pass through it. But pelican and porcupine will have it, owl and raven will dwell in it. He will stretch a line of chaos (tohu) over it and stones of desolation (vohu).

Tohu - “Wild and waste” in Jeremiah 4:23-26

I looked at the earth, and behold, it was a formless (tohu) and desolate emptiness (vohu); And to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills jolted back and forth...I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were pulled down before Adonai, before His fierce anger.

the Spirit of God was hovering upon the surface of the water.

- Ancient people feared the Abyss
- waters - death and disorder
- Sea creatures!
- Gen. 1:21 “God created the great sea creatures”
 - Hebrew: תַּנִּינִים (tanninim)
 - No specifics, purposeful removal of any possible mythological connections
 - creates, doesn't fight them (Canaanite)
- Psalm 74:12-17
 - Leviathan = sea monster

Psalm 74:12-17

12 Yet God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the land.

13 You split the sea with Your power. You smashed the monsters' heads in the waters.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan, giving him as food to the desert dwellers.

15 You opened up spring and brook. You dried up ever-flowing rivers.

16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours. You provided moon and sun.

17 You set all the borders of earth. You made summer and winter.



Leviathan – Lotan – Hydra?

More on the Leviathan

- Water over world is chaos and disorder
- Breathing over water = calming the chaos
- Bigger, larger, more powerful than darkness, disorder, chaos, DEATH

Psalm 104:25-26

There is the sea, vast and wide,
teeming with gliding things innumerable,
living creatures, both small and large.

There, ships go to and fro.

Leviathan—You formed there as a plaything

Why use this story?

- God is greater than the fear of the abyss!
- God is the master over all the universe
- God reclaims his story
- Psalmist uses a well-known story to show God is more powerful than the sea, any sea monster, Baal
- Figurative language
- Satan failed co-opt of titles
 - Cloud Rider, Lord of Storms, El Elyon
- Genesis – chaos calmed with His spirit
- Order created from words

Matthew 8:23-27 – Master over the Sea

23 As He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 Suddenly a great storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was being covered by the waves. But Yeshua kept on sleeping. 25 So they came and woke Him up, saying, “Master, save us! We’re perishing!”

26 He said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little trust?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became totally calm.

27 The men were amazed, saying, “What kind of person is this? Even the winds and the sea obey Him!”

Structure of Genesis's days



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 5



Day 6

7th Day

- Never seems to ends
- Images of God run his land
- Self-functioning world
- Israel work week model
- Agricultural cycle model





Image of God

- Ambassadors – Vassals
- King of Babylon
- Humanity – slaves to the gods

Genesis & John 1

- Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית (b'reisheet)
- Greek of Gen 1: ἐν ἀρχῇ (en arche)
- Greek of John 1: ἐν ἀρχῇ (en arche)
- John plugging into the Genesis story, but different

Gospel of John & Yeshua

- Yeshua – Perfect image of God
- Colossians 1:15 – “He is the image of the invisible God”
- His story – story of new creation
- A king who dies on behalf of his people (BP video)



Luke 22:69

But from now on the
Son of Man shall be
seated at the right
hand of the power of
God.



“What for Pilate and the soldiers was Yeshua’s ‘crime’—his claim to be Israel’s true king—was for Matthew the sober truth. And the crucifixion was the means by which his kingdom would be established.

N.T. Wright, Matthew for Everyone (pg. 182)

Victory & Disarmament

1 Corinthians 15:57 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Messiah Yeshua

Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This one was in the beginning with God

Chiasm - ABBA

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
This one was in the beginning with God

What's it communicating?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This one was in the beginning with God.

- exists separately and alongside God
- is God
- Elohim in Genesis 1
- Compare Paul and his use of Isaiah

Paul – earlier than John - Philippians 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves, which also was in Messiah Yeshua,

Who, though existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God a thing to be taken advantage of. But He emptied Himself - taking on the form of a slave, becoming the likeness of men and being found in appearance as a man. He humbled Himself—becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue profess that Yeshua (*Yah saves*) the Messiah is Lord— to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:21-25

Was it not I, YHWH?

And there is no God apart from
me,

a righteous God and a Savior;

there is none but me. “Turn to
me and be saved,

all you ends of the earth;

for I am God, and there is no
other.

23 By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:

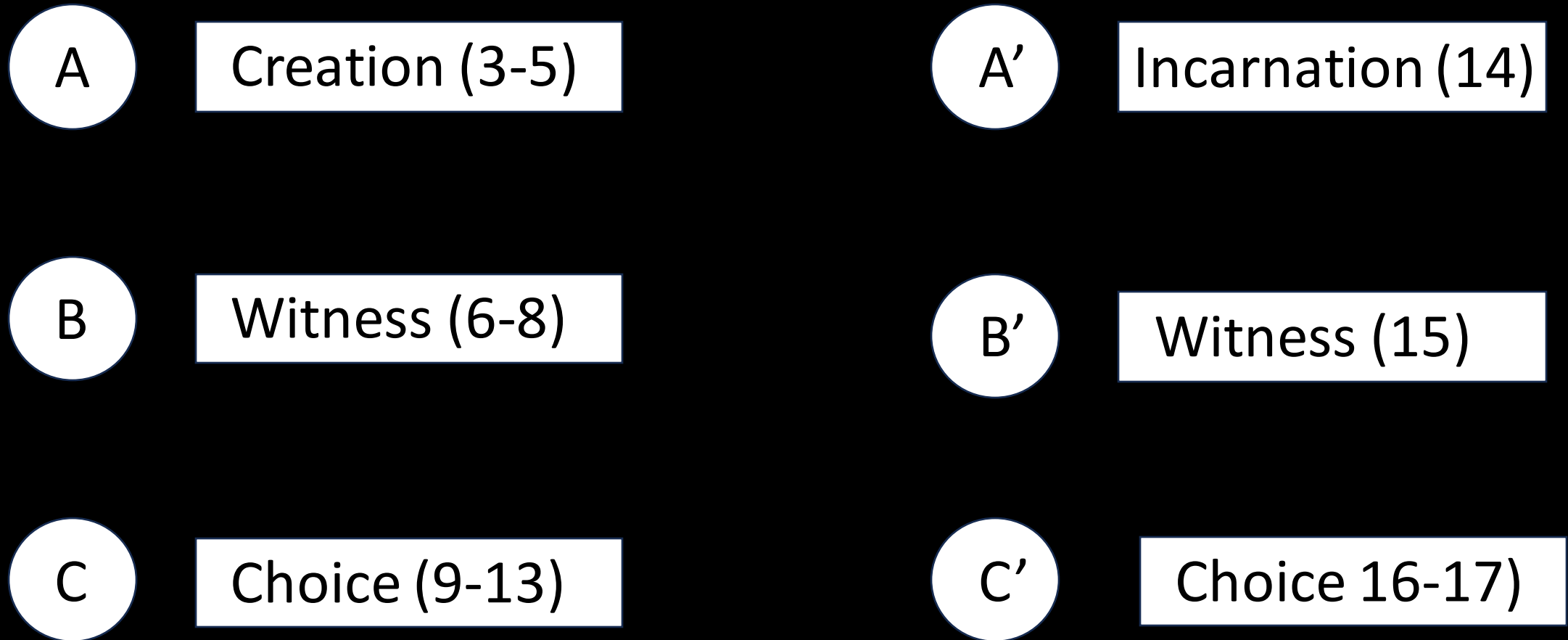
**Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear allegiance.**

24 They will say of me, ‘In YHWH alone
are deliverance and strength.’”

All who have raged against him will come to
him and be put to shame.

25 But all the descendants of Israel
will find deliverance in YHWH
and will make their boast in him.

Structure of John 1



A: Creation (1:3-5)

All things were made through Him, and apart from Him nothing was made that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.

Light shining in the darkness

What could stop the coming of the Messiah?

What could stop Messiah's triumphal work?

B: Witness (1:6-8)

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that through him everyone might believe. 8 He was not the light, but he came to bear witness concerning the light.

C: Choice (1:9-13)

The true light, coming into the world, gives light to every man.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him; but the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. 12 But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God. 13 They were born not of a bloodline, nor of human desire, nor of man's will, but of God.

Not of man's will, but of God.

Who rejected him?

Who received him?

A': Incarnation (1:14)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.

More than dwelt among us

“Dwelt” from Greek σκηνή (skeinei)

σκηνή - “tabernacle” OR “tent”

Yeshua “pitched a tent” or dwelt in a tent with
man



“Tented
among us”

What comes to
mind when you
think of God
coming to tent
with us?

B': Witness (1:15)

John testifies about Him. He cried out, saying, "This is He of whom I said, 'The One who comes after me is above me, because He existed before me.'

“He existed before me”

- Yeshua – older than John
- John the Baptist – understands pre-existence of Messiah – son of man?
- Yeshua - logos – divine Word of the Lord

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

C': Choice (1:16-17)

Out of His fullness, we have all received grace on top of grace.

17 the Torah was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Yeshua the Messiah.

Everyone is given a choice

- Accept the Messiah
- Accept grace – God's favor, mercy
- Accept true gift of God's love
- Accept the truth of the gospel
- Torah → Messiah

Wrapping up the Prologue, pointing to the Intro

v. 18 – No one has ever seen God; but the one and only God, on the Father's chest, has made Him known.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

“has made him known”

- Messiah reveals the Father
- “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

-John 14:9

- Messiah’s love for us → Father’s love for us

“The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken,' says Adonai, the one who has compassion on you.”

– Isaiah 54:10

“I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Messiah that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.”

– Ephesians 3:18-19