

Stollen Moments – Bereshit – October 26, 2024

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- God creates the world and everything in it in six days and rests on the seventh. (1:1-2:3)
- Adam and Eve are placed in the Garden of Eden, where they eat the forbidden fruit and are subsequently exiled. (2:15-3:24)
- Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain kills his brother, Abel. (4:1-24)
- Adam and Eve have another child named Seth. The Torah lists the ten generations from Adam to Noah. (4:25-5:32)
- God regrets having created human beings and decides to destroy everything on earth, but Noah finds favor with God. (6:5-6:8)

Genesis 3

והנחש הינה ערום מפל' תינת השדה אשר עשה יהנה אלהים ויאמר אל-האשה אף כי-אמר אלהים לא תאכלו מפל' עץ הגן: ותאמר האשה אל-הנחש מפרי עץ-הגן נאכל: ומפרי העץ אשר בתוך-הגן אמר אלהים לא תאכלו ממנו ולא תגעו בו פן-תמתו: ויאמר הנחש אל-האשה לא-מות תמתו: כי ידע אלהים כי ביום אכלכם ממנו ונפקחו עיניכם והייתם כאלהים ידעי טוב ורע: ותרא האשה כי טוב העץ למאכל וכי תאנה-היא לעינים ונחמד העץ להשפיל ותקח מפריו ותאכל ותתן גם-לאישה עמה ויאכל: ותפקחנה עיני שניהם וידעו כי עירמם הם ויתפרו עלה תאנה ויעשו להם חגרת: וישמעו את-קול יהנה אלהים מתהקף בגן לרוח היום ויתחבא האדם ואשתו מפני יהנה אלהים בתוך עץ הגן: ויקרא יהנה אלהים אל-האדם ויאמר לו איכה: ויאמר את-קולך שמעתי בגן ואיכא פני-עירם אנכי ואחבא: ויאמר מי הגיד לך כי עירם אתה המן-העץ אשר צויתיה לבלתי אכל-ממנו אכלת: ויאמר האדם האשה אשר נתתה עמדי היא נתנה-לי מן-העץ ואכל: ויאמר יהנה אלהים לאשה מה-זאת עשית ותאמר האשה הנחש השיאני ואכל: ויאמר יהנה אלהים אשית עשית זאת ארור אתה מפל-הבהמה ומפל' תינת השדה על-גחונך תלך ועפר תאכל כל-ימי תיך: ואיכה אשית בינך ובין האשה ובין זרעך ובין זרעה הוא ישופך ראש ואתה תשופנו עקב: {ס} אל-האשה אמר הרבה ארבה עצבונו והרבה בעצב תלכי בגנים ואל-אישך תשוקתו והוא ימשל-בך: {ס} ולאדם אמר כי-שמעת לקול אשתך ותאכל מן-העץ אשר צויתיה לאמר לא תאכל ממנו ארורה האדמה בעבורך בעצבונו תאכלנה כל ימי תיך: וקוץ ודרדר תצמיח לך ואכלת את-עשב השדה: בזעת אפיקך תאכל לחם עד שובך אל-האדמה כי ממנה לקחת כי-עפר אתה ואל-עפר תשוב: ויקרא האדם שם אשתו חנה כי הוא היתה אם כל-חיי:

1 Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild beasts that God יהוה had made. It said to the woman, “Did God really say: You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?” 2 The woman replied to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the other trees of the garden. 3 It is only about fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said: ‘You shall not eat of it or touch it, lest you die.’” 4 And the serpent said to the woman, “You are not going to die, 5 but God knows that as soon as you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like divine beings who know good and bad.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for eating and a delight to the eyes, and that the tree

was desirable as a source of wisdom, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they perceived that they were naked; and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loincloths. 8 They heard the sound of God יהוה moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day; and the Human and his wife hid from God יהוה among the trees of the garden. 9 God יהוה called out to the Human and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He replied, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” 11 “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat of the tree from which I had forbidden you to eat?” 12 The Human said, “The woman You put at my side—she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” 13 And God יהוה said to the woman, “What is this you have done!” The woman replied, “The serpent duped me, and I ate.” 14 Then God יהוה said to the serpent, “Because you did this, More cursed shall you be Than all cattle And all the wild beasts: On your belly shall you crawl And dirt shall you eat All the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your offspring and hers; They shall strike at your head, And you shall strike at their heel.” 16 And to the woman [God] said, “I will greatly expand Your hard labor—and your pregnancies; In hardship shall you bear children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” 17 To Adam [God] said, “Because you did as your wife said and ate of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ Cursed be the ground because of you; By hard labor shall you eat of it All the days of your life: 18 Thorns and thistles shall it sprout for you. But your food shall be the grasses of the field; 19 By the sweat of your brow Shall you get bread to eat, Until you return to the ground—For from it you were taken. For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” 20 The Human named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

Questions for Discussion

- Why include the serpent in the narrative? What role does it play in explaining humanity’s behaviors?
- What do you make of the relationship between the first two people as described here?

Commentaries

Sforno on Genesis 3:14-15

(1) The serpent was condemned henceforth to attain its needs as well as its desires only through experiencing more pain and greater lack of pleasure than all the other creatures. Our sages mention how many laborious stages the kernel of wheat had to undergo until Adam finally was able to eat the bread that he made out of it. (2) you will not enjoy the food (or other earthly pleasures) previously enjoyable. The Talmud describes something similar happening to the Jewish people as a whole after the destruction of the Temple, saying: “previously pleasant tasting and fragrant foods no longer tasted as well with the exception of food which needed to be consumed in a state of ritual purity, and the tithes now assumed the richness of cereals.”