

Five Books: One theme of Five? - class #1
Introduction to Sefer Breishit &
The Biblical meaning of "tzelem Elokim"

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

Halacha – how to LIVE life - Tanach – How to LEAD

Why Jewish law is called Halacha – ex.

Start with CHANOCH – mithalech, then Br. 6:9 & 17:1

In our previous series, we traced the theme & reason for the Torah's use of two names for God, based on the assumption that there was a unique prophetic purpose of Sefer Breishit – however, we did not prove that assumption.

We begin our new series with a more comprehensive study of each book of the Chumash to find the specific theme of each, but in search of a unifying theme for all five books.

Our assumptions:

The Torah is a book to study, not just to read –
And each book should have a unique prophetic purpose.

To find that:

Hence two basic steps:

First – objective analysis

Second - subjective interpretation

[note: theme of book vs. theme of 'the Parsha' or 'Sedra']

When Hashem gave us the Torah,

It wasn't divided in Parshiot Shavua

But it was divided into BOOKS - five = Chumash

In search of theme, I will make one bold assumption:

(Supported by a comment by Rashi on 24:7)

That the original audience was Am Yisrael

Post the exodus, but before the covenant at Har Sinai

Its message is obviously for all future generations

But when studying, we must consider original primary/ original audience

I. Methodology to find theme for an entire book

From LIST to OUTLINE to THEME

Explain:

List:

Creation

Gan Eden

Cain & Hevel

FLOOD

Tower of Babel

Abraham stories

Yitzchak stories

Yaakov stories

Yosef & Bros. stories..

Note how each section introduced by TOLADOT

OUTLINE

I. CREATION

II. Sin & Punishment [or possibly Divine Providence]

Gan Eden

Cain & Hevel

Flood

Tower of Bavel [did they sin? / were they punished?]

III. Stories about our forefathers

Three primary topics - & how they are connected

A. Creation

B. Divine retribution –

Providence = $f(\text{man's deeds})$

C. The story of HOW (and why?) God starts a Nation

Discussion: Why WE are chosen vs WHY we are chosen

connection between Universalism & Judaism

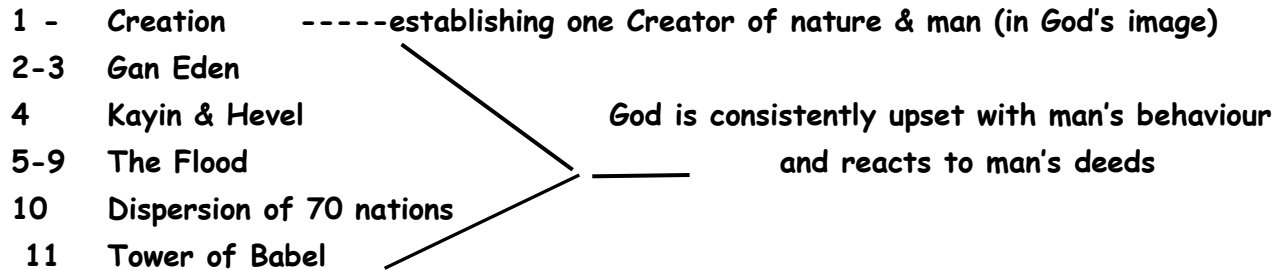
support from above methodologies

support from our liturgy & tehillim[15 & 105]

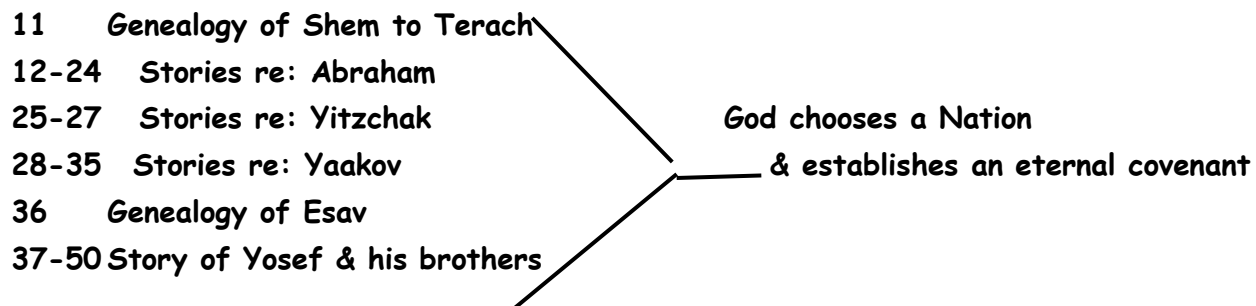
Note the two sections of the book : Universal/ Particular

First 11 chapters setting the stage for the primary story

UNIVERSAL



PARTICULAR



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B. Discussion - Purpose of the Creation story (stories)

What does Chumash want the reader to know:

That God created/ Why He created / How He created?

Or possibly -what is the meaning of human life?

B. Theme of man's creation in the 'image of God' (Br. chapter 1)

Note parallel: each day - one act of Creation (days 3 & 6 - 2 acts)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) "or"= Light (day & night) | 4) Sun, Moon, Stars ["me'orot"] |
| 2) "rakia" between Heaven & Sea | 5) Fish (in sea) & Fowl (in heavens) |
| 3 a) Land ["aretz"] | 6 a) Land animals |
| b) PLANTS (shrubs & fruit) | b) man - b'tzelem Elokim (in God's image) |
- [diet: animals- grass/ man -fruit & veg.]

Discuss: In what manner man is different than animal?

In what manner is he similar to animal?

Rambam - Guide to the Perplexed 1:1 definition:

$$\Sigma(\text{man}) - \Sigma(\text{animal}) = \text{צלם אלוקים}$$

המהר"ל – תפארת ישראל - פרק א':

ומעתה – האדם, אשר הוא נבדל מכל שאר בעלי חיים מצד
הנפש, שאין נפשו נפש בהמית רק נפשו נפש שכלית,
לא כמו שאר בעלי חיים הטבעיים...

כי מה שהאדם הוא **בנאי ונגר ועושה מלאכת
האפיייה והבישול וכיוצא בזה מתיקון הבגדים,
שוודאי אף כי דברים אלו צריכים לו נפש
השכלית,...**

C. The number 7 in Chumash - before Har Sinai

Breishit - Creation, Flood, Yaakov & Lavan /Pharaoh's dream

Shmot - 7 days chag ha'matzot ? Story of the manna - Shmot 16

Vayikra 23- holidays in Emor / Devarim chapter 16 3 regalim

Commandment to keep Shabbat /Ten Commandments: Shmot 20:7-10

ז זָכוֹר אֶת-יּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת, לְקַדְּשׁוֹ. ח. שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד, וְעָשִׂיתָ כָּל-מְלַאכְתֶּךָ

ט וַיּוֹם, הַשְּׁבִיעִי—שַׁבָּת... : לא-תַעֲשֶׂה כָל-מְלֶאכֶה ...

י כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת-יָמִים עָשָׂה ה' אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ, אֶת-הַיָּם וְאֶת-כָּל-
אֲשֶׁר-בָּם, וַיָּנַח, בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי; עַל-כֵּן, בֵּרַךְ ה' אֶת-יּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת--וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהוּ.

Discuss: Plan / Act/ Reflect

Note reason for why we must rest & why we should work!

Relate to the Rabbinic definition for categories of work that
are forbidden on the Sabbath