

Zoe's Davar Torah

My Torah portion is the first in the Torah: Parashat Beresheet.

In my studies towards the Bat Mitzvah, I was asked by Rabbi Naomi if I would've done anything differently in the creation of the world.

I actually think that God created the world in a proper order.

I wouldn't change anything in the formation of the first six days.

However, if I had the privilege of making suggestions to God, I would strongly suggest that he made the woman before the man. My explanation is that a person comes out of a female womb and not a woman out of a man's rib.

When I try to think of Gods' logic of creating the man before the woman, it's honestly difficult for me to understand why that was his choice.

In Beresheet Bet, God created man out of dirt from the ground and gave him a living soul. He planted the garden of Eden with beautiful trees and rivers flowing through it.

Later on, he said

“לא-טוב היות האדם לבדו; אעשה-לו עזר, כנגדו”

Which means that God realizes that Adam is unhappy without a companion.

This is when he decided to create a woman from Adam, and he did it by taking a bit of Adam's body and creating the woman out of his rib.

However, there's actually another version of the creation of man and woman given to us by Beresheet Hey.

“זֶה סֵפֶר, תּוֹלְדֹת אָדָם: בְּיוֹם, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אָדָם, בְּדַמּוֹת אֱלֹהִים, עָשָׂה אֹתוֹ. זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה, בָּרָאם; וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם.”

Which translates into: “This is the book of history of man. In the day that God created man, in the image of God, he also created the woman. A male and female were created and then blessed”.

My understanding is that there are two separate versions to the creation of man and woman. In the first version, man is superior and in the second, man and woman are created together and are made equal.

My question is why did God create these two versions?

There are also other parts of the Torah which provide us with different versions to choose from.

For example in Noah's Ark there are two different versions of the flood.

Perhaps God created a few versions so that each believer can read and relate to the version that goes more coherently with their beliefs.

I obviously prefer the version of man and woman being made at the same time and being equal.

The idea of having different versions for different ideologies can cause a lot of conflict.

Basically most of the conflicts in the world come from different sets of beliefs and a huge population relies its belief on what's written in the Torah.

If God had only one version of each happening, we might have had less conflict.

I also tend to think that different people can read the same text differently and come to opposite conclusions.

When I turn to my Haftorah for answers, I find that the first two lines are a simple description of the creation of the world:

כֹּה-אָמַר הָאֱלֹהִים, בּוֹרָא הַשָּׁמַיִם וְנוֹטִיָּהֶם,
רִקַּע הָאָרֶץ, וְצִאֲצָאֶיהָ; נָתַן נִשְׁמָה לָעָם עָלֶיהָ, וְרוּחַ לְהִלְכִים בָּהּ.

However, the next verse of the Haftorah:

אֲנִי ה', הוּא שָׁמַיִ; וְכִבּוֹדִי לְאַחַר לֹא-אֶתֵּן, וְתִהְיֶה לִּי לְפָסִילִים.

Means that God is not willing to give any fame or respect to any other belief or to any other Gods beside himself. So basically he's saying, it's my way or the highway.

I read the Haftorah this way:

We, as humans, have an obligation to follow the truthful way we experience God and Judaism. We should have the integrity of living our lives according to our beliefs.

For instance, to me as a Bat Mitzvah, I think everybody should live equally, and that includes man and woman, different religions and different streams of Judaism.

In Israel, it might be a bit difficult to practice these ideals. Some people believe that this state is only for Jewish people and others would like to have it as an open land to everyone. Some people believe that it should be a religious state and others believe it

should be secular. It's quite obvious that it's difficult for all of these different beliefs to reside amongst each other peacefully.

Still, I would wish for the war to end, for no soldiers to be wounded or hurt or killed and for quiet nights with no sirens.

Finally, I wish for the hostages to come home to Israel.

Thank you for coming to my special day.