



The power is within you, Parshas Bereishis 2020!

This week's Parsha Perspective is in memory of Shlomo Ben Edward, may his soul be uplifted and his memory a blessing.

The Torah begins with the words *“Bereshis bara Elokim es hashamayim ve’ es ha’arets–In the beginning, G-d created the heaven and the earth.”* The Parsha then goes through what was created each day.

- *G-d created darkness and light on the first day.*
- *On the second day, He created the heavens and separated them from the earth.*
- *He created land & sea boundaries on the third day & planted trees & greenery.*
- *The sun, moon, and stars were created and positioned on the fourth day.*
- *He created fish, birds, reptiles, and land animals on the fifth day.*
- *He created the first human being, Adam, on the sixth day,*
- *On the seventh day, G-d stopped working and sanctified it as a day of rest.*

However, a famous question comes to mind: When Hashem created Adam, He said (1:26), ***“let us create man in our image after our likeness.”*** But in the next Pasuk, it clearly states that Hashem made men and women in His image. (1:27) *“G-d created man in His image; in the image of G-d He created him; male and female He created them.”* Why did G-d say, ***“let us create man in our image after our likeness”***? Who is the other entity that G-d refers to?!

Rashi, amongst many others, explains that G-d said, “let us create man in our image after our likeness,” because He was discussing making a man with the ministering angels.

The Talmud in Sanhedrin writes (39b) that when Hashem wanted to create man, He first created one group of angels. He said to them: If you agree, let us make a

person in our image. The angels said before Him: Master of the Universe, what are these people's actions that you suggest to create?

G-d said to them that their actions are such, according to human nature. The angels replied, what is so significant about a man that You are mindful of him? G-d then burned the angels with fire.

The same conversation occurred with the second group of angels with identical results. When G-d asked the third group of angels, they replied, the entire world is Yours, whatever You wish to do in Your world, do. G-d then created Adam, the first person.

But a deeper and more powerful explanation is that G-d was speaking to mankind that He was about to create. He is telling every single person, let us create you. G-d did His part by creating you. But only you can fulfill and complete the vision that G-d has in store for you.

G-d helps you achieve and complete your real capabilities by following the Torah and keeping His mitzvahs. When you are connected to G-d, He gives you a glimpse of who you are and what you can become. This hopefully will motivate you to aim higher and reach further than you thought possible. Completing the process of creating you!

In our daily life, it is imperative that we understand that real change starts within us. Only you know what work needs to be done to reach a greater level. And with every objective you complete and goal you accomplish, you bring yourself closer to achieving your dreams and reaching your potential.

This lesson is ever more prevalent as we begin a new year filled with endless possibilities and opportunities. The only thing that needs to be done is to look inward to see which path you should take.

"Change starts with you but doesn't start until you do!"

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*