

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#901- CREATION: The God Who Designs

We have considered that the Rabbis have determined that a God who is truly capable of the miracle of creation should be enough of a God to create all that is by the pronouncement of only one statement, one word, one letter.

But why the *Bet*? Why did they choose the "B" of the ABCs (actually the ABGs!) of Hebrew? Is there more to it than just the fact that it is the first letter of the Torah ("*Bereshit bara Elohim et ha-shamaim v'et ha-eretz*")? Is it more than the fact that it is the first letter in "blessing" (*Baruch*) and in "prayer" (*Bracha*)?

A brief look at all the Hebrew words in the Scripture that begin with the Bet reveals an interesting similarity in many, many of them. They seem to touch very primal and deep issues within the psyche of humanity... they just seem like terms that just belong in the earliest chapters of the annals of mankind.

Let's just look at a partial list and see if you don't agree that *Bet* appears to be a letter that starts many words that touch the core of your soul deeply...

<i>Baba</i> - The object of affection	<i>Babel/Babylon</i> - Man's self-sufficiency
<i>Bag</i> - Food	<i>Begeg</i> - Garment to cover nakedness
<i>Bada</i> - To invent a lie	<i>Badal/Badad</i> - Separation or aloneness
<i>Bahal</i> - To be frightened	<i>Behema</i> - Beasts and creatures
<i>Buz</i> - Scorn	<i>Bahaq</i> - A white outbreak (pre- leprosy)
<i>Buch</i> - To be confused	<i>Bus</i> - To crush
<i>Boqer</i> - A shepherd	<i>Busa</i> - Shame
<i>Bazak</i> - Lightning	<i>Bachan</i> - To test
<i>Betach</i> - Security	<i>Beten</i> - The womb
<i>Bi</i> - To plead, entreat, or pray	<i>Bin/Bina</i> - To discern or have insight
<i>Bira</i> - A fortress	<i>Beth/Beit</i> - The house, dwelling place
<i>Bacha</i> - To weep	<i>Bichorah</i> - The firstborn
<i>Bala</i> - To wear out	<i>Beli</i> - Annihilation
<i>Bama</i> - A high stronghold	<i>Ben</i> - Son
<i>Bana</i> - To build	<i>Baal</i> - To rule or master
<i>Baar</i> - To consume or destroy	<i>Batzur</i> - Inaccessible
<i>Baka</i> - To invade	<i>Bakar</i> - To judge
<i>Boqer</i> - Morning	<i>Bakas</i> - To seek
<i>Bakkasa</i> - To request	<i>Bar</i> - Chosen
<i>Bor</i> - Innocence	<i>Bara</i> - To create
<i>Barut</i> - Food or sustenance	<i>Barach</i> - To flee
<i>Berith</i> - Covenant	<i>Baraq</i> - To kneel to bless or praise
<i>Bracha</i> - Blessing	<i>Barak</i> - Splendor
<i>Barakan</i> - Thorns	<i>Barar</i> - To purify
<i>Besen</i> - A pleasing odor	<i>Basar</i> - Mankind

Besorah- Good news
Betulah- An innocent bride

Batah- A precipice
Batar- To cut into pieces

The Days of Creation: As long as we are having fun with some Hebrew words let's keep going. Here's a sampling of terms given for the stages/elements of creation through the verses of the daily accounts of Genesis 1. Let's take a moment to pause at each one to be enriched by little lessons from the story...

- 3-4** *Hoshek*= darkness *Or*= light
Light defeats darkness!
- 6-8** *Maim*=waters *Shamaim*=sky
It's the "waters in the sky" that give us rainbows and sunset colors!
- 9-13** *Eretz*=land *Yasim*=seas *Deshe*=vegetation
Remember, there's vegetation in the seas too! What a God...

Zara=seed *L'mino*=his own kind
This seems to be a God of order and planning...
grapes predictably produce grapes every year!

How long has it been since you thanked Him for the segments and cells and odors and colors and texture of an orange? (And that's saying nothing about the taste!)

- 14-19** *Layil*=night *Yom*=day *Ha-maor ha-gadol*=sun
"great light"
Kowkab=star *Memshelet*=to rule *Ha-maor ha-katan*=moon
"lesser light"

Even night is not abjectly left in darkness!

- 20-23** *Owph*=bird *Maim sheretz*=water creatures
Pigmy hummingbirds (no larger than the eraser part of a pencil) and great grey whales on the same day! Are there any living creatures that combine more color than birds and fish? Why would He make such fabulous underwater creatures when man is mostly limited to living above the surface? What a God!

- 24-26** *Behema*="critters" *Adam*=man/mankind *Radah*=rule
Tzachar=male *Neqeybah*=female

Lesser animals to rule over and a matched creature to compliment your life...Adam and Eve seem to fit together in the role of dominion and stewardship of the creation. This God creates for a purpose!

In Conclusion: After all of that, this God sees the blessing of the Sabbath as being the fit conclusion to His dream and plan...A day for reflection and rejoicing and restoration and regeneration and re-orienting of priorities and re-commitment to Him and returning to family bonds and rest and...

Little wonder that He said, "Remember".