

PEREK 1 · 1:1 בראשית	1. Why does the Torah begin with Creation, not with Yisrael's first mitzvah? Rabbi Yitzchak says it could have started with Hachodesh Hazeh, Yisrael's first mitzvah. It starts with Creation so that if the nations call Yisrael robbers for conquering the land of seven nations, they can answer: the whole earth is Hashem's. He gave it to whom He chose, and took it from them and gave it to us.
1:1 ברא אלקים	2. Why does the first pasuk say "Elokim," the Name of Middas HaDin? At first Hashem thought to create the world with Middas HaDin, but saw that the world could not last that way. So He put Middas HaRachamim first and joined it to Middas HaDin.
1:2 ורוח אלקים מרחפת	3. What was hovering over the water, and what is it compared to? Rashi says the Kisei Hakavod stood in the air and hovered over the water by the breath of Hashem's mouth and His word, like a dove hovering over its nest.
1:5 יום אחד	4. Why does the Torah say "yom echad" (one day) and not "yom rishon" (first day)? Because Hashem was alone in His world. The malachim were not created until the second day.
1:10 קרא ימים	5. The pasuk says "yamim" (seas), but isn't it all one sea? Because fish from the sea at Akko do not taste the same as fish from the sea at Aspamya.
1:16 המארת הגדלים	6. If the pasuk calls both lights "great," why is the moon smaller? They were created equal. The moon complained, "Two kings cannot share one crown," so she was made smaller, and Hashem gave her many stars to make her feel better.
1:27 ויברא אלקים את האדם בצלמו	7. How was man created differently from everything else? Rashi says everything else was created by Hashem's word, but man was made by His hands, stamped like a coin with a seal.
1:29 לכם יהיה לאכלה ולכל חית הארץ	8. Was Adam allowed to eat meat? No. Hashem allowed only plant food, which people and animals ate together. Only when Bnei Noach came did He permit meat.
PEREK 2 · 2:3 ויברך, ויקדש	9. How did Hashem bless Shabbos and make it holy? He blessed it with the mon (the pasuk is speaking about the future): an omer for each person on weekdays, and lechem mishneh on Erev Shabbos. He made it holy with the mon: none fell on Shabbos.
2:5 כי לא המטיר	10. Why had Hashem not yet sent rain before Adam was created? There was no man to work the ground, and no one appreciated rain. When Adam saw that the world needs it, he davened, and the rain fell and the trees and grasses grew.

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2:7 עפר מן האדמה	11. Where did Hashem take the dust to make Adam? From all over the earth, from the four directions, so that wherever a person dies, the earth will take him in for burial. Another explanation: from the place where the Torah says to make a Mizbeach of earth, as a kapparah for him, so that he could endure.
2:23 לזאת יקרא אשה כי מאיש וגו'	12. Adam called his wife "ishah" because she was taken from "ish." What does it show that these two words fit together? It is a play on words, which shows that the world was created in Lashon Hakodesh.
PEREK 3 · 3:3 ולא תגעו בו	13. What mistake did Chava make when she repeated Hashem's command to the nachash? She added to it, saying they could not even touch the tree. Because she added to the command, she came to diminish from it, as it says in Mishlei: "Do not add to His words."
3:9 איכה	14. Hashem knows everything. Why did He ask Adam, "Where are you?" To start a conversation, so that Adam would not be flustered to answer if Hashem punished him suddenly. Hashem spoke this way to Kayin, Bilam, and Chizkiyahu too.
PEREK 4 · 4:7 ואליך תשוקתו ואתה תמשל בו	15. Hashem told Kayin, "Its longing is toward you, but you can rule over it." What is "it"? The Yetzer Hara, which is always longing to make you stumble. But if you want to, you can overcome it.
4:26 אז הוּחַל	16. What began to go wrong in the days of Enosh? People began calling men and idols by Hashem's Name, making them avodah zarah and calling them gods.
PEREK 5 · 5:24 ויתהלך חנוך	17. Why did Hashem take Chanoch away before his time? Chanoch was a tzaddik, but he was easily swayed to turn to wickedness. So Hashem hastened to take him from this world before his time.
PEREK 6 · 6:3 והיו ימיו וגו'	18. Hashem said, "Their days will be 120 years." What did He mean? Hashem would be patient with them for 120 years. If they did not do teshuvah, He would bring the Mabul.
6:6 ויתעצב אל לבו	19. If Hashem knew people would sin, why did He create them? Even though He knew they would sin and be destroyed, He did not hold back, for the sake of the tzaddikim who would come from them.
6:7 מאדם עד בהמה	20. Why were animals included in Hashem's decree of the Mabul? They also corrupted their ways. Another reason: everything was created for man, so once he is destroyed, what need is there for them?

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