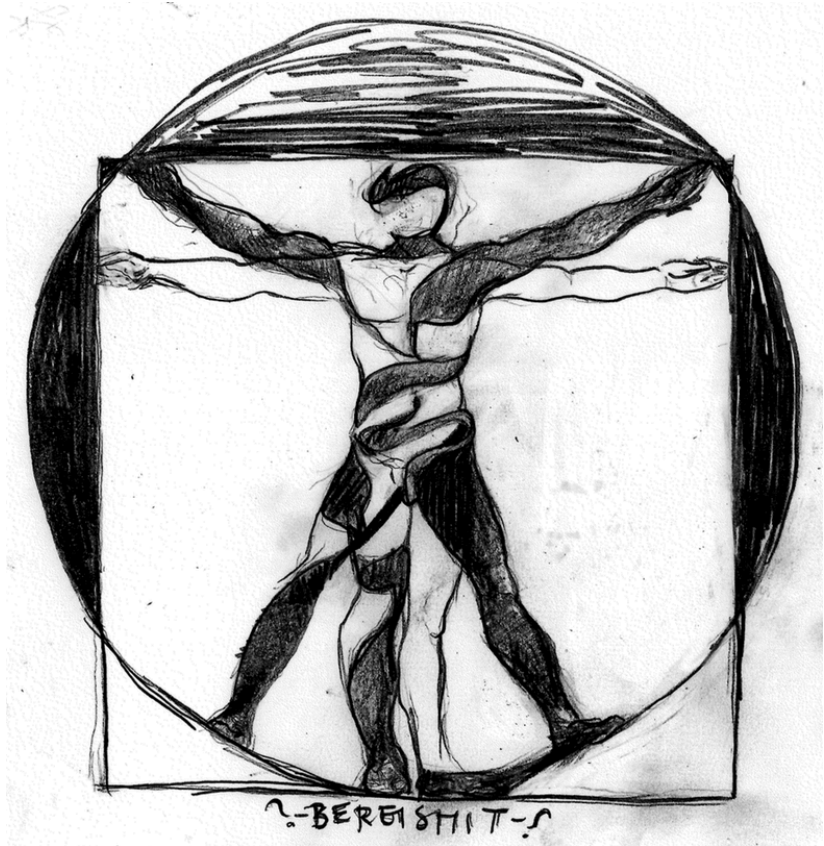


B"H

THIS IS A WEEKLY LIST OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE READ BY JEWISH COMMUNITIES EVERY SABBATH, WITH COVER ART BY OUR FRIENDS. DO YOU LIKE OUR PROJECT? DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS OR ANOTHER PARSHA? SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS AT: persnicketyfinicker@gmail.com

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Q1: The mishna says that the creation of the world should not be expounded in a group of more than two. Why? Does it contain threatening secrets?

Q2: How does light predate sources of light? What kind of light is it, and why does it need to come first? What exists before this light?

Q3: God seems to create things, see them, and then evaluate them as good. Why not design them as good? Is making good things part of the plan?

Q4: Why is there a blessing for fishes and birds, but not land creatures?

Q5: What does it mean for man to have dominion over animals, if he is not free to eat them (1:29)? Why is this dominion part of man's role in creation?

Q6: Notice that Adam and Eve attain *knowledge of good and evil* after the *breach* of a prohibition. If they knew already what was *wrong*, i.e. not allowed, what is the nature of this new moral knowledge?

Q7: What are the serpent's motivations?

Q8: Why is moral knowledge manifested as awareness of and shame at their own nakedness? What does this nakedness signify?

Q9: God tells man and woman that if they eat from wrong tree, they will die. The serpent tells them they will be like God. Are either of these predictions true?

Q10: What do we learn about our present predicaments from the curses given to man and woman? Is it surprising to find that love and labor are a curse?

Q11: What is the relationship between desire and dominion, sin and woman? See 3:16 and 4:7

Q12: Why is Cain the murderer allowed to live? Isn't any other fate a perversion of justice?

Q13: Why does his punishment so closely resemble that of his father (cursedness of the ground, exile)? Does he actually live life as a wanderer?