
Parsha Pearls

INTRODUCING PARSHA PEARLS

Don't we all like to start a book at the beginning? It wouldn't make sense to start a book half-way through or at the end because then we won't get a true picture of what the story is all about. We will only get part of the picture or maybe very little and that is why Yahweh introduces His story with the words, "In (the) Beginning". In Hebrew the word is **Bereishit**. We will learn many Hebrew words as we study Yahweh's Word through the parshas and hopefully we will commit them to memory and use them when we speak to our friends, parents and Sabbath school teachers. **Parsha** is another word to know. It means 'portion or divide' and we will have a weekly Scripture portion to go through the Torah cycle. Torah is another word to know. **Torah** means 'teaching and instruction' and generally refers to the first 5 books of the Scriptures also known as the books of Mosheh (Moses). Don't worry if this seems overwhelming. We'll take it week by week and rest assured you will have fun finding treasures in His Word.

Yahweh starts the Scriptures with the words, "In (the) Beginning" because He wants to give us a complete story of His journey with man. This is because He loves us and wants to let us know what He was doing way before you or I were ever born. As you read this lesson, you will look up the verses in the Scriptures, so we should always have our Scriptures near us when doing the parsha studies. When you read the words of the Scriptures, imagine that Yahweh Himself is talking to you. Yahweh is teaching you Himself! We should be excited to dig into His Word and learn some lessons from our Creator.

The Scriptures talk a lot about how we should see Yahweh's Word and how it is like hidden treasure, precious jewels, better than fine silver or gold. The Scriptures also teach us that "it is the esteem of man to search out His Word and the glory of Yahweh to reveal it to us." We are told that we are Yahweh's treasured possession and so let us be like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily. May we always be excited, honored and humbled to know Him and treasure up His Torah in our hearts, our minds and with all our might!

So let's get digging and take a journey with Yahweh to explore the Scriptures through the parshas.



BEREISHIT OVERVIEW

"In beginning"... Bereishit

Today, we are starting the 1st book of the Torah, called Bereishit, which means 'in beginning' because the parsha starts with the words, "In (the) beginning." In English, the 1st book of the Torah is called *Genesis*, which means coming into being, or the generations of heaven and earth.

Our 1st year's journey through the book of Bereishit will give us a glimpse into the creation of our beautiful earth; and as we witness the flood we will gain a valuable lesson about how important it is that we follow Yahweh. We will then be introduced to each of our patriarchs and read their life-stories. Bereishit will end with Ya'aqob blessing all his 12 sons; then when we dig into the book of Shemot (Exodus) we'll see what happens to them.

Because each parsha is so rich in information, we will only be able to examine certain parts of each parsha per lesson. We do encourage parents and their children to do their own studies. In future years, we will fill in the pieces from each parsha that we did not cover previously.

Here is a breakdown of the 12 parashot in the book of Bereishit:

- Bereishit (In (the) beginning) - Ch. 1-6
- Noach (Noah) - Ch. 6-11
- Lech-Lecha (Go or Leave) - Ch. 12-17
- Vayeira (He appeared) - Ch. 18-22
- Chayei Sarah (Sarah lived) - Ch. 23-25
- Toldot (Generations) - Ch. 25-28
- Vayetzei (He went out) - Ch. 28-32
- Vayishlach (He sent) - Ch. 32-36
- Vayeishev (He settled) - Ch. 37-40
- Mikeitz (At the end) - Ch. 41-44
- Vayigash (He approached) - Ch. 44-47
- Vayechi (He lived) - Ch. 47-50

We pray that you will be blessed as we begin our study in the 1st book of the Torah. Let's dig in!

SHALOM FROM YMTOI/MTOI

