

Tiptoe Through The *Torah*

#1 Genesis

A Delightfully Different
Biblical Booklette

Nancy Reuben Greenfield



Delightfully
DIFFERENT
publishing





Tiptoe Through The Torah | #1 Genesis

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ISBN: 978-1732820814


First Edition: Delightfully Different Biblical Booklette
#1 Genesis

Published in the United States of America by
Delightfully Different Publishing Dallas, TX

Cover Art and Book Design: Denise Houseberg
Art Direction: Nancy Reuben Greenfield

Printed in the United States of America





Acknowledgements


Thank you
God
my children
family, friends and community

all my teachers

and especially
my husband Richard.

Thank you
for all your love and support.

It continues
to mean the world to me.





Nancy's Note

The Five Books of Moses
Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, Deuteronomy
are known as the written Torah.

This first book of

בראשית

is transliterated as **Bereshit**
and translated into Greek as **Genesis**.

There is
a necessary
fence
around the Torah
to preserve its purity.

The purpose of my book
is to create
a respectful bridge across this fence
so the original text
can easily be accessed
by people of all backgrounds.



Adaptation Goals

#1 Keeping it short.

This format allows you to read it through in one sitting, over time, daily, weekly when you need help, hope or whenever the mood strikes.

#2 Keeping it easy.

Since biblical names, relationships and time lapses can be very confusing text has been added in brackets for clarification or to introduce passages.
{example of added text in brackets}

#3 Keeping it flowing.

To keep things moving, this book leaves out, condenses or alludes to lists of details like lineage and wars and journeys.

#4 Keeping the poetry.

Relying on a variety of English translations and sources each word was chosen for its accuracy and poetic power.





#5 Keeping it verifiable.

Every Torah translation is unique
in its word choices so it would be
very rare for my adapted text
to match word for word with your translation.

To compare any passage
use traditional biblical notation
(Portion, Section, Line) starting with Genesis 1:1.
For example: Portion Noah 9:8-17.
Go to the 9th Section and read Lines 8 through 17.
Note: Any bracketed {added text}
is not included in notation.

#6 Keeping it relatable.

To foster connection and curiosity
my starter questions are railings
on this Tiptoe bridge
something to hold on to
as you explore the text
with yourself
and discuss with others.

As for the answers
there are no right
or wrong answers.

There are only answers
that are honest for you.





Remember
this is not a word for word translation
nor the complete original Torah text.

This is my adaptation
lovingly built for crossing over
the fence of Torah

a bridge

high enough
to look over
and close enough
to look within.

May
Tiptoe Through The Torah
be a source
of light and blessing
in your life.

Nancy





In the beginning of
God's creating
the heavens and the earth

when
the earth
was astonishingly
empty

and

darkness
was upon the surface
of the deep

Divine Presence
hovered
over the surface
of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2



Q. Does God still create? Over "what" or "whom" do you hover?



{From the beginning did God create
the heaven and the earth. And this earth was once confused
and tangled, and darkness was over the turmoil
and a breath of God
hovered over the waters.}
And God said
Let there be light.
And then there was light.

God saw that the light was good
and separated light from darkness
calling to
the light *Day*
and
to the darkness *Night*.

It was evening and it was morning
one day.

Genesis 1:3-5



Q. How can God's Words create light? How do you understand "good"?



God said *Let there be an expanse
to separate
the waters
from the waters.*
And it was so.

God called to the firmament
Heaven.

It was evening and it was morning
a second day.

Genesis 1:6-8



Q. How do you understand heaven? When have you felt the need to separate from something, some place or some one?



God said
Let the waters under the heaven
be gathered into one area and let dry land
appear.
And it was so.

God called to the dry land
Earth
and to the waters
Seas.

God saw that it was good.

God said
Let the earth sprout vegetation.
And it was so.

The earth brought forth
vegetation and herbage yielding seeds
and trees bearing fruit with seeds.

And God saw that it was good.

It was evening and it was morning
a third day.

Genesis 1:9-13



Q. How does Nature reveal the Divine? What do you see when you look for "good" in your day?



God said *Let there be two luminaries
in the expanse of the heaven
to shine upon the earth
and serve as signs for festivals, days and years.*

And God made
the greater luminary to dominate the day
the lesser, the night.

And the stars.


And God saw that it was good.

It was evening and it was morning
a fourth day.

Genesis 1:14-19



**Q. How do you feel when you look at the sun, moon and stars?
What provides rhythm for your life?**



God said *Let the waters
teem
with living beings which move
and let fowl fly over the earth
across
the expanse of the heavens.*


And God created
sea creatures and creepers
and winged fowl of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.


God blessed them
Be fruitful and multiply.

It was evening and it was morning
a fifth day.

Genesis 1:20-23



Q. How do you understand blessings? How do you measure your daily successes?



God said *Let the earth bring forth living creatures, each according to its kind; animals, creeping things and land beasts.*
And God created them and saw they were good.


God said *Let us make man with our image and likeness.*
They shall rule over the living creatures and the whole earth.
And God created man in God's image.
In the image of God
male and female
God created them.

God blessed them *Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and rule over all the living in the waters, the skies and the land.*


God said *Behold I have given you seeds for all vegetation and trees.*
These are foods for you and the animals and birds.
These are foods for every living soul.
And it was so.
Indeed, God saw all that God had made
and it was very good.

And it was evening and it was morning
the sixth day.

Genesis 1:24-31



Q. How is creating humans an act of Divine love? Why are all humans created equal?




Thus the heaven
and the earth
and all their hosts
were finished in six days.

By the seventh day
God completed the work God had begun.

God ceased
from the creating work
on the seventh day.

God blessed
the seventh day
and
declared it holy
by ceasing the work
God had done before.

Genesis 2:1-3



Q. Why is the Sabbath a blessing? What, for you, makes time holy?



When God made the heaven and the earth
there were no trees or herbs
for there
had yet to be rain from God
or man to work the ground.

A mist
rose up from the earth and watered
the ground.


And God formed man
from the dust of the ground
and blew into his nostrils
the soul of life

and man
became
a living being.

Genesis 2:4-7



**Q. Are you a "body with a soul" or a "soul with a body"?
How do you feel when you consciously breathe deeply?**



God planted a garden in Eden
and placed there the man
God had formed.
And God caused every tree
to sprout from the ground.
Each pleasant to look at and good to eat
including the Tree of Life
in the middle of the garden
and
the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad.

A river flowed out of Eden
to water the garden
then it divided and was the head of four rivers.

God
placed the man
in the garden in Eden
to work it
and guard it.

Genesis 2:8-15



Q. Compare “Good and Bad” to “Good and Evil”. What do you guard?




{God placed the man God had formed
in the garden in Eden to work it and guard it.}

God commanded the man saying
*You may freely eat
of all the trees in the garden
but
from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad
do not eat
for on the day you eat of it
you shall definitely die.*

Genesis 2:16-17



**Q. How do you understand the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad?"
How do you like free choice?**




{God placed man in the garden in Eden.}

God said
*It is not good for man to be alone.
I will make him
a helper corresponding to him.*

And God brought
every one of God's creatures
to the man
to name them.
And the man
named them all
but he did not find
a helper corresponding to him.

Genesis 2:18-20



Q. What is the difference between being alone and lonely? How are relationships based on helping?



{In God's garden the man named all
the animals but he did not
find a helper corresponding to him.}
Then God cast a deep sleep upon the man
and took from one of his sides
then closed the flesh in its place.

God built up that side of man into a woman
and God brought her to the man.


And the man said, "This one
at last
bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh.
This one shall be named Woman
for she was taken from man."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother
and clings to his wife and they become one flesh.
And the two of them
were naked
and not ashamed.

Genesis 2:21-25



Q. How do men and women complement each other? What does it mean to be "not ashamed"?



Now the serpent
was the most cunning
of all the wild beasts that God had made.
He said to the woman
“Did God really say
you are not to eat from any tree of the garden?”

She said
“God said {that} we can eat the fruit
from all the trees except
the tree in the middle of the garden. God said *You shall not
eat it nor even touch it
lest you die.*”

The serpent said, “Surely you will not die
for God knows that on the day you eat from it
your eyes will be opened
and you will be like God
knowing Good and Bad.”

Genesis 3:1-5



Q. How do you understand “the serpent”? By what criteria do you evaluate a tempting offer?



{The serpent said to the woman
“You will not die when you eat of the tree. Your eyes
will be like God, knowing Good and Bad.”}

And the woman perceived
that
the tree was good for eating
a delight to the eyes
and a means to wisdom.

She took its fruit and ate
then gave some to her husband
and he ate and

opened

were both of their eyes
and they realized
they were naked.

They sewed together fig leaves
to cover themselves.

Genesis 3:6-7



Q. Describe your feelings about your body. How do perceptions impact your decisions?



{The man and woman} heard the sound of God
in the garden and hid.

God called to man *Where are you?*

The man said, "I hid in fear because I am naked."

God said

Who told you that you are naked?

*Did you eat from the tree
you were commanded not to eat?*

The man said, "The woman you gave me
gave me the fruit of the tree and I ate it."

God said to the woman *What have you done?*

The woman said, "The serpent seduced me
and I ate it."

Genesis 3:8-13



Q. What is the effect of humans realizing their nakedness? Do you hold yourself accountable for your actions or do you blame others?



God said to the {seducing} serpent
*Because you did this
cursed are you
more than
all the animals and wild beasts.
On your belly
you shall crawl
and dust
you shall eat
all the days of your life.*

*Hatred I will place
between you and the woman
and between your offspring and her offspring.
Man will strike on your head
and you will strike his heels.*

Genesis 3:14-15



Q. How do you understand consequences and God? When have you felt hatred placed upon you?



God said to the woman
{who ate from God's forbidden tree}

*I will greatly increase
your suffering*

and

*childbirth
will be painful.*

Yet

*you will crave your husband
and he will rule over you.*

Genesis 3:16



Q. How unique is human suffering? How can cravings allow someone to rule over you?



{After God cursed the serpent and woman}
God said to the man
*Because you listened to the voice of your wife
and ate from the tree
I specifically told you
was forbidden*

*the ground beneath you will be cursed
and you will suffer
by the sweat of your brow
to eat its bread
until the day
you return to the ground.*

*You are dust
and to dust
you shall return.*

The man named his woman
Eve
mother of the living.
And God made them clothing.

Genesis 3:17-21



Q. What about work makes you suffer? What importance do you attach to clothes?



God said
*Now that man has become like one of us
knowing good and bad
he might reach out
and take also from the Tree of Life
and live forever!*

So God expelled man from the garden in Eden
to work the ground from which he came.

God banished away the man and
God stationed the Cherubim {angels} east of Eden
along with the flame of the ever-turning sword
to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

Genesis 3:22-24



Q. What is the problem with humans knowing "good and bad"? How is each day a present?



{God banished the man and woman}
from the garden in Eden.}

Now the man had known his wife Eve
and she conceived
and gave birth to Cain saying
“I have acquired a man with God.”

Then
again
she gave birth
to his brother Abel.


Abel
became a shepherd.

Cain
was a worker of the soil.

Genesis 4:1-2



**Q. How do you understand birth and God? How do you feel about what you
“do” with your days?**



In the course of time
Cain brought
from the fruit of the ground
an offering to God.
His brother Abel
also brought
from the firstlings of his flock
the choicest
among them.

God
turned to Abel
and his offering
but to Cain and his offering
God did not turn.

Genesis 4:3-5



Q. What makes an offering pleasing to God? How do you handle rejection?



{After the brothers' offerings
God turned to Abel and not Cain.}
This distressed Cain greatly
and his countenance fell.


God said to Cain
*Why are you so angry and depressed?
Surely if you improve yourself
you will be forgiven.*

*But
if you do not improve yourself
sin crouches at your door
seducing
your desires
still
you can conquer it.*

Genesis 4:5-7



Q. In what ways does sin crouch at your door? How does improving oneself bring forgiveness?



{After the brothers' offerings God turned to Abel
not Cain. God said to him *Improve yourself to be forgiven.*
If not, sin crouches towards you.
Still you can conquer it.}

Later
Cain said something
to his brother Abel.

Then
when they happened
to be in the field
Cain rose up against his brother Abel
and killed him.

God asked Cain
Where is your brother Abel?

Cain said
"I do not know.
Am I my brother's keeper?"

Genesis 4:8-9



Q. Why does Cain kill Abel? Are you your brother's keeper?



God said to Cain
What have you done?
The voice
of your brother's blood screams out
to Me from the ground.
Now you are cursed
from the ground.


When you work
the ground
it will no longer
give you its strength.

You will be a restless wanderer.

Genesis 4:10-12



Q. Do the voices of victims still scream out to God? What does it mean to be a restless wanderer?



{After Cain killed Abel, God cursed the ground
to withhold from him
its strength.

God said *You will be a restless wanderer.*}

And Cain said

“My sin is too great to bear.

You have banished me.

I am to be hidden from your Presence.

And whoever finds me
will kill me.”

God said

*Whoever kills you will be punished
seven times more.*

Then God put a mark on Cain so no-one
would kill him

and Cain left God’s Presence
and settled east of Eden.

Cain knew his wife and they had a son Enoch.
Cain named the city he built, Enoch, after his son.
And Cain had many descendants.

Genesis 4:13-24



Q. How can you be “hidden from God’s Presence”? How do you bear your sins?



Adam knew his wife Eve again
and they had a son they named Seth
saying, "God granted me a son
in place of Abel whom Cain had killed."
Adam lived 800 years after Seth was born.
He had sons and daughters.

A son was born to Seth
and he was named Enosh.
It was then
that man began to
to proclaim in the Name of God.

Genesis 4:25-26



Q. How do you express gratitude? How do you move on after loss?




This is the book of the chronicles of man.
On the day that God created man
God made him in the likeness of
God. God created them male and
female.
God blessed them and named them Man
on the day that they were created.

Genesis 5:1-2



Q. In what ways are humans made in the likeness of God? Can a person "re-create" him or herself?



When Adam had lived 130 years
he begot in his image and likeness Seth.
Adam lived 912 years.

{Ten generations from Adam}
Lemekh had a son.
He named him Noah saying
“This one will bring us relief from our work
and the anguish of our hands from the ground
that God has cursed.”

Lemekh lived 777 years.
{During that time} man began to increase on the
face of the earth and daughters were born to them.

When the sons of God
took from the daughters of man whomever they chose
God said *My Spirit will not contend evermore concerning
Man since he is but flesh.
His days of life shall be {shortened to} 120 years.*

The sons of God and the daughters of man
fathered the titans
who were on the earth in those days and later.
They were the mightiest
men who ever existed.

Genesis 5:3-6:4



Q. How do you interpret “mightiest men”? How do you feel about your name?



{Many generations after Adam and Eve}
God saw
man's wickedness
was increasing on earth.

Every
impulse
of man's innermost heart was
for evil
all
day long.

Genesis 6:5



Q. What does God see on earth today? What is evil to you?



{God saw human wickedness increasing
and man's innermost thoughts pursuing evil all day long.}
And God
reconsidered
having made Man on earth
with a sad
aching heart.

God said *I will wipe out the Man
whom I created
from the face of the earth
from man
to cattle
to creeping things
and birds of the sky
for I regret that I have made them.*

But Noah
found favor in the eyes of God.

Genesis 6:6-8



Q. How does a human find favor in the eyes of God? What do you regret?

