



B'reishit Takeaway

The first Mishna in Avot 5 states that the world was created with ten Divine sayings. Aside from the drash that this refers to the Aseret HaDibrot being the blueprint, the plain understanding of the mishna is that it refers to the words VAYOMER ELOKIM, and G-d said. Let there be like. Let there be Shamayim, the heavens. Dry land and seas. Vegetation, the heavenly bodies. Fish, insects, and birds. Land animals, mammals. And humans. Those are the eight countable, undisputed, unquestioned Divine sayings. Eight? Yes. That's it.

Commentaries of the Mishna say that B'reishit Bara Elokim eit HaShamayim v'eit HaAretz is also a Divine saying, based on T'hilim 33:6 - BIDVAR HASHEM... "By the word of HaShem, the heavens were made, and with the breath of His mouth, all their host."

Okay, that makes nine. For number ten, there are three candidates.

B'reishit 1:28 - VAYOMER LAHEM ELOKIM... and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the

sky and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth."

B'reishit 1:29 - VAYOMER ELOKIM... And God said, "Behold, I have given you every seed bearing herb, which is upon the surface of the entire earth, and every tree that has seed bearing fruit; it will be yours for food."

And B'reishit 2:18 - VAYOMER HASHEM ELOKIM... And HaShem God said, "It is not good that man is alone; I shall make him a helpmate opposite him."

1:28 is the command to raise a family.

1:29 give humans food to eat.

2:18 leads to the separation of Adam HaRishon into man and woman.

All three candidate-p'sukim lack something the previous nine Divine saying have. The first nine are verbal commands of G-d's to form and shape Creation. Number ten, which ever you choose - actually, choose all three, are G-d's telling us - human beings, to take the world He created and shaped for us, and use it to continue to live and be creative.

Look at B'reishit 2:1-3, the well-known VAYCHULU HASHAMAYIM V'HAARETZ... We say it in the Friday night davening (most often twice) and we say it as the introduction to Kiddush on Friday night. The word ASA, past tense referring to what G-d make and

finished making. But the last word of this portion is LA'ASOT to make. To continue to make. We are tasked and challenged to continue G-d's creation. Having children and raising them as good people and G-d-fearing Jews is only part of His challenge to us. We must be creative in many different ways, from cooking to writing to building to sewing and weaving... to inventing things for the betterment of this world.

HaShem is M'CHADEISH B'CHOL YOM TAMID MAASEI V'REISHIT - He renews Creation every day. He did not stop after the original six days. What He did then was to make us active partners in creation with Him.

PTDT