

PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

Creation vs Exodus

Friday night Kiddush refers to both creation (ZEICHER L'MAASEI V'REISHIT) and to the Exodus (ZEICHER LITZI'AT MITZRAYIM). Two super-major 'events' in history.

G-d has previously promised to take us out of Egypt and to enter into a mutual covenant with us. V'LAKACH-TI ETCHEM LI L'AM and V'HAYITI LACHEM LELOKIM. Both sides of the covenant. But in the same pasuk (Sh'mot 6:7), G-d also emphasizes that we with KNOW - VIDA-TEM, that it was He Who took us out of Mitzrayim.

But then, in the fourth Dibra (or Davar or Commandment), G-d reminds us that He created every thing in the World.

On the other hand, in the second version, G-d links the Shabbat to Y'tzi'at Mitzrayim.

Which brings us back to Friday night Kiddush, where Creation and the Exodus are given equal attention.

The deciding factor is the first DIBUR - ANOCHI HASHEM ELOKECHA... I am HaShem Who took you out of the land

of Egypt, the house of slavery. And this is the text of both versions of the Aseret HaDibrot - both in Yitro and in Va'etchanan.

It is clear that the Exodus wins the competition presented in the title of this PTDT.

How come?

It is suggested by various commentators (Rabbi Neil Winkler among them) that Creation is for all people of the world and Y'tzi-at Mitzrayim is exclusively for we, the Jewish People.

Good answer, but there is more.

The people of Israel had just been freed from Egyptian slavery and oppression. Creation was a long time ago. The people could relate better to I am HaShem who took you out of Egypt than to I am HaShem who created the world.

Not the best answer, because of G-d renewing MAASEI V'REISHIT - the acts of Creation, every day and always. So Creation is something we are eternally aware of - all the time.

But there is another reason.

The miracles of the Exodus - from the plagues until the Splitting of the Sea, are continual demonstrations of G-d's Creation. Who can turn water to

blood? Who can put fire into icy hailstones? Who can split the sea?

Only the creator of water, hail, and the sea. ANOCHI of the Aseret HaDibot is a confirmation of Creation as well as announcing Who took us out of Egypt.

ANOCHI... Who took you out of Egypt by performing a multitude of miracles that confirm ANOCHI... ASHER BARA-TI ET HA-OLAM - without having to say it explicitly.