

Naomi Alsberg

Written reflection #3

In this unit, our Chumash class discussed many approaches to get a better understanding of the correlation between science and Torah. Can it be possible to connect the two? The main three sources that were studied in class clearly states their thoughts and ideas in order to shed some light on to this topic.

The renowned Lubavitcher Rebbe believes science is weak because there is no possible way to measure what really happened before we were created. He thinks that science isn't equipped with the technology to try and answer the mystery of creation. According to him, Science just knows the beginning points and the end points, but not enough information to prove what happened in between. He states that science only infer their knowledge, thus scientific "proofs" are weak. To me, science is an important part of our lives and it only enhances society, so it shouldn't be dismissed.

Rab schwab's article explains the age of the universe through his understanding of science and sefer Bereishit. He begins by asking a question; the sun and the moon weren't created until the 4th day, so how were the beginning days of creation measured? Does time even exist in G-d's eyes? He continues to give an explanation of the word day by telling us that we indicate whether its a new day by each time G-d created something new. On the seventh day, when G-d synchronized the rotation of the earth and the creation of the "Divine light", that is when everything was completed. That is when G-d sanctified time. He then asks another question, "why couldn't God just create us in an instant?" The reason why is because as humans, we wouldn't have the emotional or physical capacity to have free choice, because we would be locked in awe. We would be too afraid to sin in G-d's presence because we would be too in shock of his might, therefore there would be no punishments. Since everything is created gradually, we can step back and have the choice to have Emunah. Comparatively speaking, 5776 years is one second to how many years the process of creation was. Where I stand today, looking

back and studying creation, with the knowledge I have about G-d and existence, I can use the power of Bechira to do right or wrong, and choose between good and evil.

Dr. Aronoff's main point of his article, is to explain to us three ways to approach this topic: His first approach states that one can change and interpret the torah to fit with scientific theories. I don't agree with this approach because I believe that it would be disrespectful to change the Torah that was given to us by God, in order to fit a scientific theory that came way later. His second approach is the idea that science is weak and should be dismissed. I also disagree with that because science is crucial for development of technology and society, and we would be falling apart if it weren't for science. His final approach is that one can't compare science and torah two separate worlds. For example, science won't deal with prophecy because it cannot be measured, Torah however, believes it is important.

Though the article from Rav Schwab didn't address the argument about connecting torah and science, he gave a compelling claim about the age of the universe. His reasoning really resonated with me, and made me understand the beginning of creation more than I ever had. I specifically like his ideas about why evolution to humanity is so important, and how we would be G-d like if we saw creation take place in an instant.