



Shabbat Shalom Weekly

The most popular electronic
weekly in the Jewish world
with over 300,000 readers.

Rabbi Kalman Packouz
Aish HaTorah

Insights into life, personal
growth and Torah.

View online:
<http://www.aish.com/tp/ss/ssw/223818621.html>

Bereishit (Gen. 1:1-6:8)

GOOD MORNING! How old is the world? 13.7 billion years or 6,000 years? Did Creation take place in 6 twenty-four days or were they longer? This week I bring to you a fascinating approach from a fascinating man. Daniel Friedmann holds a masters degree in engineering physics and is the CEO of the Canadian company that made the robotic arm for the Space Shuttle. He lays out his research in his book, [The Genesis One Code](#).

Why did Mr. Friedmann start investigating the connection between the Torah's story of Creation and the scientific timeline? The Talmudic sages teach that "God looked into the Torah and created the world" (Midrash Rabbah on Gen. 1:2). Mr. Friedmann concluded that if the Torah is the blueprint of the universe, the Earth included then the key facts about the universe that are discussed in the Torah and that are also arrived at by the scientific method must coincide.

About 700 years ago Rabbi Isaac of Akko made the assertion that time -- while God was creating and man had not yet appeared -- was different than time as we keep today. Mr. Friedmann, based on this insight and classical sources, aligns the dates of key events as described in Genesis 1 and 2 with those derived from scientific theory and observation. How? One Creation Day = $1,000 \times 365.25 \times 7,000 = 2.56$ billion years.

The factor of 1,000 comes directly from Psalm 90:4: "For a thousand years in Your sight are as a day" -- where we learn that one day for God equals 1,000 human years. About 700 years ago Rabbi Isaac of Akko made the calculation of the earth's age based on this Psalm!

The 365.25 number is simply a conversion from days to years (being the number of days in a year). The factor of 7,000 relates to cosmic cycles. The Talmud, (Sanhedrin 97a), which was redacted approximately 1,500 years ago states, "The world will exist for six thousand years and in the seven-thousandth year, it will be destroyed." Various Kabbalistic works, dating back to the first century, write that there are 7 cosmic cycles of 7000 thousand years (analogous to the sabbatical cycles). The factor of 7000 relates to these cycles. (This would explain the finding of ancient fossils of the dinosaurs).

The Torah provides a detailed timeline of the creation events. Genesis describes the timeline for the formation of the universe and the appearance of life on Earth. Each event is provided in sequence with a time of occurrence. For example, we are told that the sun was completed at the end of Day 4, that life first appeared in the oceans at the beginning of Day 5,

and that the animals were made in Day 6; careful examination of the Genesis text reveals about 20 separate creation events. Much of the information in Genesis is further detailed in the Oral Torah to reveal a more accurate timeline of events.

The Talmud (Sanhedrin 38b) provides the detailed account of Day 6, hour-by-hour: "The day consisted of twelve hours. In the first hour, his (Adam's) dust was gathered... in the fifth, he arose and stood on his feet; in the sixth, he gave (the animals) their names; in the seventh, Eve became his mate; in the eighth, they ascended to bed as two and descended as four (i.e., Cain and Abel are born); in the ninth (he entered the Garden of Eden and) he was commanded not to eat of the tree; in the tenth, he sinned; in the eleventh, he was tried; and in the twelfth, he was expelled (from Eden)..."

Mr. Friedmann then calculates that the Age of the universe from the start of Day 1 to today: exactly 13.74 billion years, coinciding with the latest scientific measurements.

Beginnings of life: from first thing on Day 5 ("let the waters teem," Gen. 1:20) to today corresponds to 3.52 billion years which is in agreement with the scientific time for "universal ancestor" -- the single cell.

Plant life (on the land): from hours 6 to 9 on Day 6 until today ("God planted a garden ... and there He placed the man... And God caused to sprout from the ground every tree" Gen. 2:8,9) corresponds to 426-106 million years ago which he reports is in agreement with the fossil record.

The Author of the Torah is one and the same as the Creator of the Universe. Therefore, there cannot be a contradiction between Torah and science. The Genesis One Code is available at DanielFriedmannBooks.com.

