

Parshas Bereishis – Elliott Della (*Chosson Bereishis*)

כ"ז תשרי תשע"ו - 9th October 2015 - שבת פ' בראשית

On Simchas Torah Yaacov Chaim Hepner beautifully read for my aliya the section of Parshas Bereishis, which deals with the creation of the world.

On the first day of creation Hashem says "Let there be light".

Rabbi Shimon Schwab (1908-1995) who was the Rav at K'hal Adath Yeshurun in Washington Heights, New York explains that the Torah does not give a source for the light. It would also seem that the darkness is not an absence of light but rather something more like a dark nebulae.

Rav Schwab explains that this first light was obscured by some dark matter hence the word "erev" only later was the light and dark separated - the division being called "boker"

Rav Schwab defines the length of the first creation day as being from the appearance of the creation light partially obscured until the darkness disappears leaving only the creation light until it disappears until just before it re-appears.

According to Rav Schwab, the Torah clearly explains that the day is based upon the special creation of light. On the seventh day (Shabbos), the creation day and the standard day based on the earth's rotation are synchronised. Prior to the Shabbos all days are based upon the creation light only.

We are not however compelled to assume that before the Shabbos, while the world was being created that the synchronisation has taken place. Rav Schwab puts forward a hypothesis that the earth could have turned more rapidly on its axis so that during creation day based on the special creation light the earth could have turned many thousands of times so that the billions of years which science claims to have calculated all took place during the six ordinary days. Even if science could ever substantiate its theory of longevity it could not be said to contradict the Torah.

The universe from the billions of stars to the minuteness of the atom shows the glory of G-d's creation. Man has managed to explain the way the world runs into mathematical equations which shows that all matter is still *Tohu Vevohu* which means "empty space and indefinable somethings" even realising that time and space are merely relative and not absolute.

Rav Schwab states that the world we see is a concealment and very few are privy to the mysteries of the creation. Yeshaya the prophet said "Lift up your eyes towards the heights to see who created these..." Every look through a telescope or through a microscope shows nothing but the Almightyness and the infinite wisdom of G-d who has given us the Torah which must guide our thinking as well as our actions.

From essays by Rabbi Shimon Schwab called "How Old is the Universe" First published in *Mitteilungen* in 1962 and re-published in "Challenge- Torah Views on Science and its Problems" (Feldheim 1976-2000) and "The Birth of the World" published in *Selected Writings*" (CIS Publishers 1988).