

## Seder Texts:

### Genesis 1:1-2 בְּרֵאשִׁית

א בְּרֵאשִׁית, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים, אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְאֶת  
הָאָרֶץ.

1 In the beginning God created the  
heaven and the earth.

ב וְהָאָרֶץ, הִיְתָה תְהוֹ וְבוּהוּ, וְחֹשֶׁךְ, עַל-פְּנֵי  
תְהוֹם; וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים, מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם.

2 Now the earth was unformed and void,  
and darkness was upon the face of  
the deep; and the spirit of God  
hovered over the face of the waters.

Rashi: תהו ובוהו DESOLATE AND VOID — The word תהו signifies astonishment and amazement, for a person would have been astonished and amazed at its emptiness.

- How is this like the start of camp?
- The start of the year following camp?
- How does amazement at the void create a powerful first step?

Na'aseh v'nishmah/ונשמע ונעשה/we will do and we will hear: *Exodus 24:3-7*

- How does the order of this response affect the actions of the Israelites?

*God had to force the Jewish people to accept the Torah, even though they were willing to accept it without compulsion, for the following reason. The Torah is not a luxury that the world can do without. God was not interested in creating a world where men would spend their time in physical pursuits. He was interested in a world where He would be involved with man in constructing a totally non-physical environment where He and man could co-exist in perfect harmony and co-operation. He endowed man with spiritual capacity so that man could express it by leading a spiritual life, not to make his physical existence more stimulating. The leading of such a life without the Torah is an impossibility. Thus Torah acceptance is as necessary to existence as atoms. Commentary by the Maharal, Tiferes Yisroel, ch. 32*

Migdal Bavel/מִגְדַּל בָּבֶל/Tower of Babel: [Genesis 11:1–9](#)

- One language provides order and ends in chaos. How do we need order? How does it lead to destruction?

The order of the three pilgrimage holidays/shalosh regalim/שלוש רגלים:

- Sukkot: time of our great joy/zman simchateinu/זמן שמחתנו
- Pesach: time of our great freedom/zman cheirutenu/זמן חירותנו
- Shavuot: time of the giving of the Torah/zman matan torateinu/זמן מתן תורתנו
  - In the calendar year, we move to Joy first, then freedom, then receiving the torah. Just after the New Year, why should Joy come first?
  - How might this apply to camp programming?

Reb Bun Bar Hiyya said, "During the Amidah, I count rows of bricks..." Yerushalmi Brachot 2:4

- What does a scheduled time for prayer (thought, connection, journaling) allow for?

If there is beauty in character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. Chinese proverb

The most disorderly students make the most pious preachers. German proverb

Order and do it, and you will be rid of anxiety. Spanish proverb