

# CHUMASH NOTES RAH CHUMASH TEST 1

YHS Review.com

Why didn't the Torah start with the first Mitzvah given to the Jews?

1. So we have proof in case a non-Jew brings an accusation that we don't have any right to the land, we can say Hashem created the world and gave it to us.
  - a. What about the reason for the whole other part of Bereshit?  
To illustrate the "law of divine rejection" / "religious selection" – the whole rest of Bereshit is a winnowing process.

What is the one word answer to why the Torah started with Bereshit?

Proof

Why were the Avot selected/What did they do that set them apart?

They were ישר – dealt with people, Jews and non-Jews alike.

Three Examples:

1. Avraham – King of Sdom
2. Isaac – Avimelech
3. Jacob - Lavan

What is the saying that defines the Avot?

"מעשה אבות סימן לבנים" – They are our blueprints.

Why is Avraham's story at the end on Noach?

While the important story starts at the beginning of Lech Lecha, we must know his background to show that he was born into a time where people worshiped idols and he defied his surroundings.

So, who was Avraham?

1. At the times there was idolatry so he was persuader to others that idolatry is bad.
2. Three stories
  - a. He was running his father's idol shop and he made fun of the people which discouraged them from buying idols.
  - b. He's in the idol shop and he decides to smash all the idols. He then got into a fight with his father and says that if they were truly gods they wouldn't be able to get broken.
  - c. Nimrod tells Abraham to bow to his idol and Abraham refuses and says that water is better than fire and the clouds are better than water and the wind is better than the clouds and then humans are better than the wind etc. Nimrod got so angry and threw him in the fire. Avraham survived but his brother didn't. This shows the faith of Avraham and the immortality of idolatry.

Why didn't Hashem appear first before talking?

1. Avraham was special and came to the realization of Hashem by himself and therefore didn't have to introduce himself.
2. Since there was no history in dealing w/Hashem, He needed to test Avraham to see if he would believe, and after Avraham proved himself, Hashem appeared

	"ויצא...מאור"	"ללכת לארץ"	ויבא חרן	לך לך
Ibin Ezra	Hashem commanded Lech Lecha here	That's where they're going	That's where Terach got off	Here told them what their destination is.
Rashi	Went on their own volition.	That's where they're going.	Stopped in Charan.	"Go the distance" i.e., keep on going
Ramban	Finished visit in Ur Kasdim with Nimrod	Showed him the way to Israel (Hashem in the GPS)	That was home.	Hashem commanded Avraham "Leave Home"

Why would Avraham get more reward for a place that was made more desirable?

The destination, Israel, wasn't made more desirable rather his homeland, the origin, was made more desirable making it better for him to stay but he followed Hashem and therefore got more of a reward.

What was the command of lech *lecha*?

1. It will benefit Avraham if he goes.
2. That is just the style of the tanach.
  - a. Even though this is the style of the tanach, it still has a meaning. Normally it means natural inclination but here Hashem is asking Avraham to go against his natural inclination.
3. Lecha usually means for someone else. Here it means that Avraham is doing it for Bnei Yisrael, for a communal reason.
4. Lecha also means a challenge. Hashem is presenting a challenge to Avraham.

Why these 3 blessings?

1. When you travel, you diminish the following three things: Money making ability, reputation and procreation (having offspring). Hashem therefore blesses him with wealth, reputation and lots of children.
2. Three things that you leave when you go away from home:
  - a. Family/Home/Birthplace
  - b. Inheritance
  - c. Recognition of your abilities

What does "Veheyeh Bracha" add to the previous three Brachas?

1. Until now I have been the sole bestower of blessings but now I am making it so you can give blessings to people too.
2. Hashem is telling Avraham that by being the best you can you will make Hashem proud.
3. a. people will bless their kids to be like you  
b. they will be blessed because of Avraham

©2008 YHS Review.com

*These notes are not to be used to replace conventional studying. Some material may have been left out. Please double check. By reading these notes, you accept the YHS Review.com Terms of Use which can be found on [yhsreview.com/terms.php](http://yhsreview.com/terms.php).*