



Sivan 8, 5773
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The Genesis One Code

May 17, 2013

Chayim Lando

“Do you believe that God created the world and that all the answers pertaining to our origins are clearly provided in the Scriptures? At the same time, do you have a basic awareness of science and its seeming incompatibility with some of the teachings of your religion?”

This paradox has been the third rail of both religion and science for centuries. As Daniel Friedman explains in “The Genesis One Code,” many have avoided struggling with this dilemma by choosing to ignore either scientific or religious teachings.

Refreshingly, Friedman is not afraid to tackle this paradox. He presents a novel approach to solve the timeline discrepancy that he hopes will “foster a renewed dialogue between science and religion.” His approach suggests that, based on Midrashic and Kabbalistic teachings, the length of the seven days of creation can be understood to have encompassed a period of over 13 billion years and can parallel the understanding of modern science to the age of the universe and Earth.

While the basic thesis is intriguing, there are times when Friedman seems to try too hard to fit Biblical and Midrashic teachings into the scientific timeline in ways that seem contrived. Additionally, while the book is heavily footnoted, in a number of instances, important statements are made with no citation.

Resolving the timeline paradox conclusively will probably forever remain elusive, but this book is a significant contribution to a discussion that goes to the heart of both religious and scientific belief.



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