

Yeshua is YHVH  
YHVH is Yeshua

I start at the beginning, because you don't read instruction manuals backwards. If you don't accept the creation (you can verify it later, but if God is real, why question His book?), then why bother reading the rest of the Bible?

Why did God create the universe? Was He lonely?

Why did He create the angels, and also create people?

We know He IS love, and love is even greater when shared, and love is meaningless if it is not voluntarily given.

His creation, then, must be about love.

Angels look with wonder into our human situation -

*1 Peter 1:8-12*

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. And even though you don't see Him now, you trust Him and are filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words, receiving the outcome of your faith - the salvation of your souls. The prophets, who spoke about the grace that was to be yours, searched for this salvation and investigated carefully. They were trying to find out the time and circumstances the Ruach of Messiah within them was indicating, when predicting the sufferings in store for Messiah and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were providing these messages - not to themselves - but to you. These messages have now been announced to you through those who proclaimed the Good News to you by the Ruach ha-Kodesh, sent from heaven. Even angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

Genesis chapter 1 is creation overview.

*Genesis 1:28*

God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the land, and conquer it. Rule over the fish of the sea, the flying creatures of the sky, and over every animal that crawls on the land."

Genesis chapter 2 is creation details.

- no companion for man from all the animals (apparently many animals were sentient),

*Genesis 2:20*

So the man gave names to all of the livestock, and to the flying creatures of the sky, and to all the animals of the field; but for the man God did not find a well-matched helper for him.

- God created woman (XY ==> XX)

*Genesis 2:2-22*

YHVH Elohim caused a deep sleep to fall on the man and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. YHVH Elohim built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman. Then He brought her to the man.

so man with YHVH and woman is complete, and woman with YHVH and man is complete.

Genesis 3 hints at everyday life, then came sin.

Lots of rabbit trails here

- was the "serpent" actually a snake, or a dragon/dinosaur (it had legs)

- was it really the devil, or just the first created being that had already rebelled against God

- perhaps it was ONLY this one serpent that was cursed, and not all the other serpents/dragons lost their legs

- since the command about the tree was given BEFORE the creation of woman,

*Genesis 2:17*

But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you must not eat. For when you eat from it, you most assuredly will die!

why did the woman add to the command (don't touch it)

- why did the man go along with the sin

- etc, etc

For me, the focus here is that YHVH (in the form of a human) came to the Garden to meet and talk.

*Genesis 3:8-10*

And they heard the sound of YHVH Elohim going to and fro in the garden in the wind of the day. So the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of YHVH Elohim in the midst of the Tree of the garden. Then YHVH Elohim called to the man and He said to him, "Where are you?" Then the man said, "Your sound - I heard it in the garden and I was afraid. Because I am naked, I hid myself."

The man and the woman had already sinned. After the sorrowful meeting, God covered their sin with skins from (sacrificed) animals which the man and the woman knew personally - maybe the sacrifices were their friends.

Remember, creation is over - this is sometime after the first Sabbath, God did not create new animals for this.

*Genesis 3:21*

YHVH Elohim made for the man and his wife tunics of skin and He clothed them.

After this sin and sacrifice, the man and woman were deported from the Garden (not sure about the animals) - but it still exists then, so it was guarded from any entrance, and it was destroyed in the flood of Noah.

Now sacrifice is required, and God has told the man and woman, and they told Cain and Abel (and the rest of their children). The laws of sacrifice are understood by them, so all that is later explained in Leviticus was known in some

form by these first humans, including the laws of animal sacrifice and grain (plant) sacrifice. Abel has a good attitude about sacrifice, but Cain resents giving up the best of his crops, and has a bad attitude.

*Genesis 4:7*

If you do well, you will be accepted. But if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the doorway. It wants to control you, but YOU must subdue it.

Overcoming sin is MY job, and it is easiest to overcome at the start, before I go too far with it.

*James 1:14-15*

But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desire. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full grown, it brings forth death.

SO, the angels and the humans have free will, and can turn against the Creator, the One who loves us.

Every decision I make is my own personal responsibility.

I can't say "the devil made me do it" - because I chose to do it.

I can't say that "the enemy attacks me and causes my problems" -

decisions by others affect me, and my decisions affect others.

NONE of the negative situations in my life are the desire of YHVH for me.

It's not about bad things happening in my life - it's about how I handle my response to those bad things.

YHVH gave us commands that were known from the very first, that were later written by Moses, because we tend to forget the things we should remember (why am I in this room? what was I going to do?).

He shared with us how to live in this universe - the user manual - the Torah and then the rest of the Tanach.

His anger? His wrath? More like intense frustration.

Parents go through this emotion and response when their child deliberately goes against the rules and gets hurt by that action: "Don't play in the street. Look both ways before crossing." You love the child, but you want the child to remember and obey. Most of us (like children) only learn from our own mistakes - not from the warnings given to us by others in advance of doing something stupid.

So, like a parent who watches (in frustration) the crying child, YHVH lets us make our mistakes and suffer the consequences, so that we can (hopefully) avoid those mistakes in the future.

His love is more than the whole universe can contain. He shows us that love by giving us TOTAL freedom.

Love is meaningless if it is forced, or if it is the only possible action. That is NOT love.

Love and freedom (to choose) are mutual components of daily life.

There is ALWAYS a choice - sometimes multiple possibilities - but the best choice is always to follow God's desires - to obey His commands. Out of that obedience comes peace and joy (usually mixed with other consequences from living in a fallen world), but always with comfort of being in His love.

Over and over He revealed Himself to us - to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and others literally - and through His word, and through His Spirit. One special appearance is in Judges chapter 13 - the angel of YHVH appears and seems to be Yeshua pre-incarnate.

*Judges 13:16-22*

But the angel of YHVH said to Manoah, "If you could detain me, I would not eat your food. But if you present a burnt offering, then offer it to YHVH." For Manoah did not realize that he was the angel of YHVH. Then Manoah asked the angel of YHVH, "What is your name, so that when your words come to pass we may honor you?" But the angel of YHVH said to him, "Why do you ask for my name? It is wonderful." Manoah took the young goat with the meal offering and offered them on the rock to YHVH, and He did something wonderful as Manoah and his wife were watching. For it came about when the flame went up from off the altar toward heaven that the angel of YHVH ascended in the flame of the altar. Manoah and his wife were looking on, then they fell on their faces to the ground. But the angel of YHVH appeared no more to Manoah or to his wife. Then Manoah realized that he was the angel of YHVH. Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, because we have seen God."

But they didn't die, so this was not the Father, but Yeshua.

The inspiration of Scripture essentially teaches that God "superintended" the human authors of the Bible so that their individual styles were preserved but the end result was precisely what God wanted.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Since the Holy Spirit inspired all of Scripture, then regardless of the numerous human authors, the message of the Scriptures is consistent across the whole canon. We cannot therefore pit one part of Scripture against another.

*2 Peter 1:21*

The prophets (all those who proclaim God's word) did not think these things up on their own, but they were guided by the Spirit of God.

The word "spirit" in some languages also means "wind" or "breath" - so God's Spirit is invisible like the wind is invisible, but evidence of it is everywhere (ask someone who has been near a tornado or hurricane). Although others talk to us

about God, and show us the Bible, it is the Spirit that is our first actual contact with God, when we "touch" Him. The Spirit points us to the Bible - His word (see above), and His word is alive as Yeshua.

*John 1:1, 14*

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Spirit helps us understand the Bible, and leads us to Yeshua, who gave us the Torah on Mount Horeb. Growing in knowledge of God requires the Bible, and the Spirit helps us understand the Bible, and the Bible reveals Yeshua, who works in our lives through the Spirit - sounds circular, but actually all happens together as we study and obey. We need God with us, and He gave that to us in the Exodus, and since that time, but especially through Yeshua and the Spirit.

The celebration of Sukkot began as the fall harvest, a time to enjoy the results of labor, and enjoying God's presence without the constant demands of production.

*Exodus 23:16*

Also you are to observe ... the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather your crops from the field.

*Leviticus 23:33-36*

YHVH spoke to Moses saying: "Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, and say, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Feast of Sukkot, for seven days to YHVH. On the first day there is to be a holy convocation - you are to do no laborious work. For seven days you are to bring an offering by fire to YHVH. The eighth day will be a holy convocation to you, and you are to bring an offering by fire to YHVH. It is a solemn assembly - you should do no laborious work."

*Leviticus 23:39-43*

"So on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruits of the land, you are to keep the Feast of YHVH for seven days. The first day is to be a Shabbat rest, and the eighth day will also be a Shabbat rest. On the first day you are to take choice fruit of trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and rejoice before YHVH your God for seven days. You are to celebrate it as a festival to YHVH for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations - you are to celebrate it in the seventh month. You are to live in sukkot for seven days. All the native-born in Israel are to live in sukkot, so that your generations may know that I had Bnei-Yisrael to dwell in sukkot when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am YHVH your God."

*Deuteronomy 16:13-15*

"You are to keep the Feast of Sukkot for seven days, after gathering in the produce from your threshing floor and winepress." So you will rejoice in your feast - you, your son and daughter, slave and maid, Levite and outsider, orphan and widow within your gates. Seven days you will feast to YHVH your God in the place He chooses, because YHVH your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hand, and you will be completely filled with joy.

God promised a deliverer in Genesis 3, and many more times in the rest of the Tanach. He promised He would be with us - God with us - Immanu-El. He was with us in the exodus from Egypt to Canaan, as the pillar of cloud and fire. He sent temporary deliverers by sending "judges" to help pull us back toward Him. He can't just dwell with us if we are not able to be in His presence - our sin must be "covered" (by sacrifice) so we can get near to Him. We need a substitute.

[O Come, O Come Immanu-El]

Yeshua had to come as one of us, to substitute for the death of each of us because of our sin. He was the ultimate sacrifice, to confirm all these previous sacrifices.

Go to Isaiah 53 - the servant who pays for our sins is a human, not an animal!

The substitute must be human, just like us. Not an angel, not another animal - a human, born of a woman, growing through childhood just like us, becoming an adult just like us, having the same temptations that we have, subject to physical problems just like us. He was human, because only a normal human could be the appropriate substitute. He obeyed the Torah, and each of us can.

[Why Sukkot Is Yeshua's Real Birthday]

[O Holy Night]

His birth on erev Sukkot was followed by His circumcision on Shmini Atseret, just like the commandments.

*Luke 2:21*

When eight days had passed for His brit-milah, He was named Yeshua, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

The Magi represent the non-Jews who looked forward to the Messiah, like many of us.

[Rejoice With Exceeding Great Joy]

But wait - He was the son of God! Yes, but He denied Himself so that He could become our sacrifice.

*Philippians 2:5-8*

Have this attitude in yourselves, which also was in Messiah Yeshua, who, though existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God a thing to be grasped. But He emptied Himself - taking on the form of a slave, becoming the likeness of men and being found in appearance as a man. He humbled Himself - becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Creator of the universe, the Word of God, gave up all that power and glory to become just like us, to die for us.  
[I Wonder As I Wander]

Now we have the privilege of looking back to His incarnation and enjoying His present help for us (through the Spirit).  
[ImmanuEl]

But what about now? What are you doing with your life?

Before creation - before time began - God loved you, and knew He would come as Yeshua to redeem you. Not everybody, not all people - you. Just you. That is how much He loves you. And like a good parent, He will not let you get away with actions and lifestyle that are destructive to you, so He gives you the information you need to avoid that destruction. He even gives His Spirit to understand the Word, and through that Word to guide you. That Word became flesh, and that Word died for you - in your place - as a substitute for your death from sin.

But you have to take and accept that gift. You must lay your own personal hands on that sacrifice, and acknowledge that YOU put that sacrifice to death, to pay for your sins with His blood, His life. AND then you prove that you made that choice by following Him in obedience to His Torah.

*John 14:15,21,23-24* If you love Me, you will obey My commands. Whoever has My commands and obeys them is the one who loves Me, and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him. If someone loves me, he will obey my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Someone who doesn't love me doesn't obey my words.

What commands? ALL of them, since He was the One who gave us the commands at Mount Horeb.

He knows we are imperfect and that complete obedience out of love for Him is a long journey, and we will sometimes fall.

*1 John 1:8-9, 2:3-6* If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing. The way we can be sure we know him is if we are obeying his commands. Anyone who says, "I know him," but isn't obeying his commands is a liar - the truth is not in him. But if someone keeps doing what he says, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is how we are sure that we are united with him. A person who claims to be continuing in union with him ought to conduct his life the way he did.

If you fail, and fall to sin, just get up, confess and repent, dust yourself off, and move on! So it's 2 steps forward and 1 step back, stumbling along, but the important thing is to get back up on the Way and keep going!

The Creator of the universe, long before you existed, set in motion a plan to give you freedom - you can choose death or you can choose life.

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20* I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants, loving YHVH your God, paying attention to what he says and clinging to him - for that is the purpose of your life!

We have the promise of His glory and our future.

[Unto The Lamb]