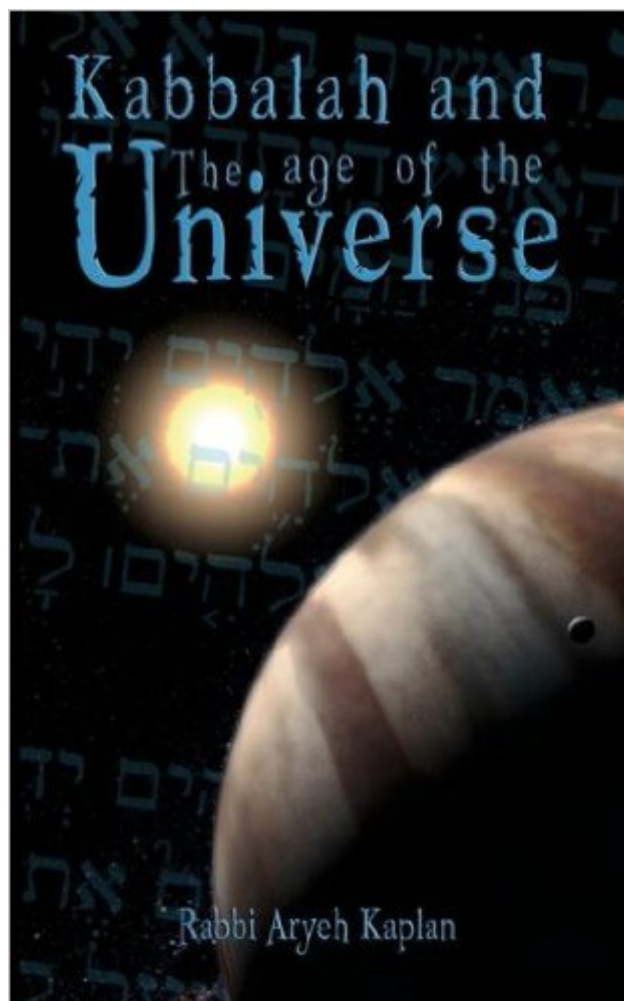


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Kabbalah And The Age Of The Universe



Synopsis

This essay is an examination of the age of the universe as discussed in Kabbalistic works. It is important to realize that the Kabbalistic texts do not only discuss mysticism, but also many areas of hashkafah (Jewish outlook) which are of great importance to us. Let us begin with the classic question asked about the age of the universe. At face value, the Torah seemingly teaches us that the universe is 6,000 years old. Therefore, many people would hold the opinion that anyone who believes that the world is older than 6,000 years is an apikores (one who denies the basic tenets of Judaism). However, there is scientific evidence that the universe is more than 6,000 years old; maybe millions of times more. How do we resolve this question?

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Customer Reviews

Rabbi Kaplan (a"h) was one of the luminaries of the Jewish world of the mind, until his untimely passing at a young age. With the encouragement and permission of his teachers, he opened previously inaccessible areas of Torah for study by the average Jew. One could, without stretching credibility, attribute the current interest in Kabbalah (both of the serious scholar and Jew, and of the pop-culture dilettantes) to his books. In this slender volume, he shows how one kabbalistic perspective dates the age of the universe at around 15 billion years, roughly the age that current science has determined. More importantly he shows how, in general, Judaism will never conflict with science that has reached the bedrock of theory and experimental verification. I heartily recommend this and all of his other books.

Kabbalah and the Age of the Universe by Aryeh Kaplan is an amazing book. It is short but has so

many insightful thoughts that I spent a lot of time digesting every page and even read it two times because it was so incredibly interesting. This book gave me an entirely new perspective about the age of the universe. All the conflicting ideas I've read about for years has finally been cleared up....everything Rabbi Kaplan says makes perfect sense. I love the fact that he points out the compatibility of science and religion. This is a must read for anyone who wants to learn more about this topic. I highly recommend this book to lay persons as well as scholars.

This book clearly shows that you can believe in the Bible and in a scientific approach to creation. They are not mutually exclusive. Just about all of the book is in clear understandable English -- just a few references in Hebrew. Short book. Quick read. Great for middle school or high school -- all denominations.

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan Z"Z"L has that unique ability to be succinct and crystal clear in his prose - a modern day Rashi. This complex and emotionally charged topic could take volumes to explain yet his brilliance is to articulate the basic concepts in a few pages. He is respectful and knowledgeable of Science, whilst being obviously deep in Jewish learning, lending an all-important air of credibility to this booklet. Highly recommended for someone with interest in, and straddling both worlds of cosmology and Torah, seeking an authentic source from both those realms, to suggest possible resolution to this vexing topic.

This was a wonderful text that requires reading in just the right period in time (!) for the fullest concentration in inverse relationship to its brevity. Don't be put off by that sentence, it is designed to challenge and yet fulfil. Rather like Rav Kaplan's book. Perchance also a little like Ezekiel's chariot, you get the t'munah (picture) but it is not permitted to contemplate upon it. I only caught two (and one half!) chilushim (weaknesses) in the text and these were essentially in the footnotes; ever seen a page of Talmud...Get it, read it, love it and do not tremble (al t'hared) too much at the degree of chesed (lovingkindness). Thank you Rav Aryeh Kaplan z"l. Baruch HaShem.

Incredibly overpriced for what is actually a small pamphlet, not a book. It's interesting, but there isn't a lot of solid information here. Still, Kaplan (or whoever is writing this) makes his point well enough: the Bible does not necessarily teach a 6,000-year-old creation. Even from a strictly biblical perspective, young earth creationism is a relatively narrow minded, modern phenomenon.

I challenge anyone who insists creation was completed in 6 literal days, or says the universe is only 6,000 years old, to read this book and not change their stance. The Bible and Science can be (and are) in agreement. Not possible? Read this and find out. It's time to stop being willfully ignorant of truth.

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