Questions on Sidra בְּרֵאשִׁית

1. What does this Sidra have in common with one other Sidra in the Torah and with no other and what is it that these two Sidras have in common?
2. Where does the name of this week's Sidra come from?
3. What does the word "Torah" mean?
4. Seeing that the Torah is the Instruction Book from HaShem to us, His People, containing lists and lists of commandments and instructions, why then are there so many stretches of narrative?
5. What is special about the Mitzvah of Shabbos that it should be called "The Foundation of Faith" any more than any of the Mitzvos of the Torah?
6. In which way is the numbering of the first day of Creation different from all the other days of Creation and what does this tell us?
7. All species of living creatures were created by Hashem as male and female. Why, do you think, were humans the only creatures that were created initially as one being and from that creature (Oddom) HaShem formed Oddom's wife, Chavvoh? Why didn't HaShem create human beings originally as male and female, instead of taking part of Oddom and forming that part into Chavvoh? Why, do you think, should this have been so?
8. How many children did Oddom and Chavvoh have altogether?
9. Why, do you think, does the Torah tell us the names of the leaders of those first generations?
10. What was the mistake that people made that led to idolatry? What lesson is there in this for us today?
11. Why, do you think, were the first ten generations of man endowed by HaShem with such great longevity?
12. How, do you think, did this great longevity lead to a terrible corruption and depravity of society and can you see in this a lesson to us today? What would you suggest could be done to make things better today?

Questions on the Haftorah of בְּרֵאשִׁית

13. What is the connexion between this Sidra and its Haftorah?
14. Why, do you think, is this Haftorah particularly fitting as the first Haftorah of the new cycle of Torah readings?