

R. Ovadiah Seforno's Interpretive Approach as Reflected in R. Yehuda  
Copperman's Teaching

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One central topic in R. Ovadiah Seforno's commentary concerns the Creation stories and their meaning in the larger context of the Torah. While the Seforno himself did not articulate a definitive answer to the famous question posed by Rashi in the name of Rabbi Isaac (Gen. 1: 1) – 'Why does the Torah begin with the story of Creation' – a sustained examination of his commentary reveals the Seforno's comprehensive view of the role of these first chapters of the Torah and their deeper significance. Over his lifetime, R. Yehuda Copperman taught and wrote extensively on the Seforno's interpretive approach. The concept of "before and after" the Sin of eating from the Tree of Life that emerges from R. Copperman's reading of the Seforno bears profound religious and moral significance. This paper seeks to present it while paying tribute to R. Copperman's spiritual legacy.