

Genesis

Parashat Bereshit

1

Creation in Six Days

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^a ²Now the earth was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the *Ruach Elohim* was hovering upon the surface of the water.^b

³Then God said, “Let there be light!” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. So God distinguished the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” So there was evening and there was morning—one day.

⁶Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water! Let it be for separating water from water.” ⁷So God made the expanse and it separated the water that was below the expanse from the water that was over the expanse. And it happened so. ⁸God called the expanse “sky.” So there was evening and there was morning—a second day. ⁹Then God said, “Let the water below the sky be gathered to one place. Let the dry ground appear.” And it happened so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the collection of the water He called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land sprout grass, green plants yielding seed, fruit trees making fruit, each according to its species with seed in it, upon the land.” And it happened so. ¹²The land brought forth grass, green plants yielding seed, each according to its species, and trees making fruit with the seed in it, each according to its species. And God saw that it was good. ¹³So there was evening and there was morning—a third day.

¹⁴Then God said, “Let lights in the expanse of the sky be for separating the day from the night. They will be for signs and for seasons and

for days and years. ¹⁵They will be for lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the land.” And it happened so. ¹⁶Then God made the two great lights—the greater light for dominion over the day, and the lesser light as well as the stars for dominion over the night. ¹⁷God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine on the land ¹⁸and to have dominion over the day and over the night and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹So there was evening and there was morning—a fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures! Let flying creatures fly above the land across the expanse of the sky.” ²¹Then God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that crawls, with which the water swarms, according to their species, as well as every winged flying creature, according to their species. And God saw that it was good. ²²Then God blessed them by saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas. Let the flying creatures multiply on the land.” ²³So there was evening and there was morning—a fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, “Let the land bring forth living creatures according to their species—livestock, crawling creatures and wild animals, according to their species.” And it happened so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their species, the livestock according to their species, and everything that crawls on the ground, each according to its species. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness! Let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the flying creatures of the sky, over the livestock, over the whole earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the land.” ²⁷God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.^c ²⁸God 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

^a 1:1. cf John 1:1-2.
^b 1:2. cf “*Spirit of God*” 1 John 4:2.

^c 1:27. cf Matt. 19:4.

of the sky, and over every animal that crawls on the land.”

²⁹Then God said, “I have just given you every green plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the whole land, and every tree, which has the fruit of a tree yielding seed. They are to be food for you. ³⁰Also for every wild animal, every flying creature of the sky and every creature that crawls on the land which has life, every green plant is to be food.” And it happened so. ³¹So God saw everything that He made, and behold it was very good.

So there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.

2

Shabbat For Rest

¹So the heavens and the earth were completed along with their entire array. ²God completed—on the seventh day—His work that He made, and He ceased—on the seventh day—from all His work that He made. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, for on it He ceased from all His work that God created for the purpose of preparing.

Humanity in Gan-Eden

⁴These are the genealogical records of the heavens and the earth when they were created, at the time when *ADONAI Elohim* made land and sky. ⁵Now no shrub of the field was in the land yet, and no green plants of the field had sprouted yet. For *ADONAI Elohim* had not caused it to rain upon the land, and there was no one to work the ground. ⁶But a mist came up from the land and watered the whole surface of the ground.

⁷Then *ADONAI Elohim* formed the man out of the dust from the ground and He breathed into his nostrils a breath of life—so the man became a living being. ⁸Then *ADONAI Elohim* planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹Then *ADONAI Elohim* caused to sprout from the ground every tree that was desirable to look at and good for food.

Now the Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden, and also the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. ¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon, the one that winds around the whole land of the Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²The gold of that land is good—bdellium and lapis lazuli stones are also there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon—it winds around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris—it runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

¹⁵Then *ADONAI Elohim* took the man and gave him rest in the Garden of Eden in order to cultivate and watch over it. ¹⁶Then *ADONAI Elohim* commanded the man saying, “From all the trees of the garden you are most welcome to eat. ¹⁷But 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!

¹⁸Then *ADONAI Elohim* said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. Let Me make a well-matched helper for him.” ¹⁹*ADONAI Elohim* had formed from the ground every animal of the field and every flying creature of the sky, so He brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called them—each living creature—that was its name. ²⁰So 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 He did not find a well-matched helper for him. ²¹*ADONAI 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. ²²*ADONAI Elohim* built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman. Then He brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh from my flesh.
This one is called woman,
for from man was taken this one.”

²⁴This is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife; and they become one flesh.^d

^d 2:24. cf. Matt. 19:5.