

Torah: B're'shiyt 1:1 – 6:8

Haftarah: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 42:5-43:10 (A); 42:5-21 (S); Messianic Adaptation begins at 42:1

B'rit Hadashah: Yochanan (John) 1:1-18

	year 1: 1:1-2:3	year 2: 2:4-4:26	year 3: 5:1-6:8
1	1:1 – 5	2:4 – 9	5:1 – 5
2	1:6 – 8	2:10 – 19	5:6 – 8
3	1:9 – 13	2:20 – 25	5:9 – 14
4	1:14 – 19	3:1 – 21	5:15 – 20
5	1:20 – 23	3:22 – 24	5:21 – 24
6	1:24 – 31	4:1 – 18	5:25 – 31
7	2:1 – 3	4:19 – 26	5:32 – 6:8

in beginning God created
the heavens and the earth

*b'reshit bara Elohiym et
ha'shamayim ve'et ha'aretz*

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

This is the first *Parshah* (portion) of the *Torah* from the book known in English as “Genesis.” The Hebrew name of the book, *B're'shiyt* (בְּרֵאשִׁית), is the first word of *Torah*. The portion covers a large section of the beginning of history, from Creation through Cain (*kayin* - קַיִן), Abel (*hevel* - הֶבֶל) and Seth (*shet* - שֵׁת), to increasing wickedness. It ends with the first mention of Noah (*noakh* - נֹחַ).

Aliyah Summaries

- Gen. 1:1-5** Day One: God, having no origin, creates time, space, matter; God speaks, and his breath turns chaos into order (Ge. 8:1, Ex. 14:21); divides light/darkness, day/night (Is. 45:7). The calendar measure of “day” begins with evening (*erev* - עֶרֶב - Le. 23:32).
- Gen. 1:6-8** Day Two: Waters above separated from waters below (Eze. 1:22).
- Gen. 1:9-13** Day Three: Two acts: terrestrial waters and dry land are divided; earth is empowered to produce green vegetation and fruit bearing trees with seed.
- Gen. 1:14-19** Day Four: Sun / stars, planets, moon to separate day from night, and appointed times.
- Gen. 1:20-23** Day Five: Marine life, living creatures (*nefesh ha'yah* - נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה - sea monsters (not “gods”), birds; unlike plants, require mating to reproduce, a divine blessing.
- Gen. 1:24-31** “The” Sixth Day: Cattle, creeping things, wild beasts; human beings (Ps. 8:4-7). First person plural (“let us make...” – see also Ge. 3:22, 11:7); in the image of God, to rule over nature. Male and female (Ge. 5:1-2); God speaks blessing directly to man and woman in unmediated communion. God provides vegetarian sustenance, inferring dependence on him (Isa 11:7, 65:25)
- Gen. 2:1-3** “The” Seventh Day: The Creation account opened with God and now closes with God. Contrast of no activity vs. activity on each previous day establishes the foundation for the future institution of Shabbat. (Ex. 20:8-11, 31:13, 16-17) Shabbat has no link to celestial events. This is unparalleled in the ancient world.

Thought Focus

God (*elo-hiym* - אֱלֹהִים) **and Creation** – The universe is the purposeful creation of the sovereign, self-sufficient, self-existing, and transcendent One, a singularity outside of nature who is unknowable and

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beyond words (De. 6:4, Mark 12:29) . Yet he reveals himself using speech. In Chapter 1, this One is referred to only by the term, *Elohiym* – the common Hebrew term for “God.”

The Unity of God: God is one, all of creation is dependent upon a duality. For example, light / darkness, protons / neutrons, positive / negative electrical charges, male / female.

Chaos to Order: This narrative symbolizes reality with words of faith that form the foundation of the Bible. It describes the orderly progression from “chaos” to “cosmos” in six units of time (days), divided into two parallel groups moving from heaven, to water, to dry land. Each creation in the first group becomes resource for the second:

Day	Resource (Ge. 1:3-13)	Day	User (Ge. 1:14-31)
1	Light	4	Luminaries
2	Waters (“Sky” separating waters)	5	Fish / Birds
3	Dry land (vegetation-the lowest life)	6	Land Creatures – (humans-the highest life)

The “Shabbat” Principle: The number *seven* is symbolic of design, completion, and perfection. Ge. 1:1 contains *seven* words; chaos is described in 14 (7 x 2) words; *seven* creative units are declared “good” by God; the *seventh* day uniquely contains no creative activity; the first of the biblical concept of “holiness” is used regarding the *seventh* day, uniquely sanctifying time.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. Have you acknowledged God as The Creator of the universe? If so, is He the authority in your life? Has He offered you a fresh start? How has he ordered your life?
2. The story of the heavens and the earth is described in these scriptures. What story does your life tell? What message do you want to send to those who are watching you?
3. God cared for and provided a helper for Adam. How has He cared for and provided for you?
4. Eve said, “With the help of Adonai I have brought forth a son.” What is He helping to bring forth in your life? How are you working with Him to accomplish His purpose in your life today?
5. Are there things in your life that compete with God for your devotion?
6. Are you in a situation where you wish God would just take you away? Resist in the evil day (Eph 6:13) and stand firm: we are more than conquerors! (Rom 8:37)
7. Yeshua said, “just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man.” Are there “giants” in “the land” around you? Have you experienced “Messiah in you, the hope of glory?” (Col. 1:27)