

# *The Torah Project*

## **Genesis 1b**

### **Genesis 1:1-2**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was **formless** [tohu] and **void** [vohu], and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

### **Isaiah 45:18**

*For thus says Adonai, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it **formless** [tohu], but formed it to be inhabited), “I am Adonai, and there is none else.”*



3570 **הָיָה** vb. "fall out, come to pass, become, be"

### Genesis 3:22

Then Adonai Elohim said, "Behold, the man **has become** [hayah] like one of us, knowing good and evil..."

## Genesis 18:12

And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, **shall there be** [hai-tah] for me pleasure, my lord being old also?”

## Genesis 47:26

And Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not **become** [hai-tah] Pharaoh’s.

## Exodus 8:15

But when Pharaoh saw that **there was** [hai-tah] relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as Adonai had said.

## Exodus 8:17

... and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became [hayah] gnats through all the land of Egypt.

## Jeremiah 4:23-28

- **change in the earth itself**

*“I looked on the earth, and behold, it was **formless** and **void**; and to the heavens, and they had no light!”*

- **Violent earthquakes**

*“I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.”*

- **Destruction of animal life**

*“I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.”*

- **Destruction of plant life**

*“I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its abodes were pulled down before Adonai, before His fierce anger.*

## Other Clues:

- The heavens went dark.
- The fruitful land became a “wilderness” (*midbar*, מִדְבָּר).  
The entire land (*aretz*, אָרֶץ) became desolate.
- The earth was destroyed in anger, and would go through a time of mourning.
- God did not execute a complete destruction.

ברא  
*bara*  
“*create*”

**Day 1** – “Let there be light...” (no “*bara*”)

**Day 2** – “God made an expanse...” (no “*bara*”)

**Day 3** – “And the earth brought forth vegetation...”  
(no “*bara*”)

## Genesis 1:11

Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, **with seed in them, on the earth**”; and it was so.

asher z're-vo al ha'aretz

(asher z're-vo al ha'aretz)

“because *its seed is among it on the earth*”

**Day 4** – “And God **made** the two great lights...”

(no “*bara*”)

**Day 5** – “And God **created** (*bara*) the great sea creatures...”

**Day 6** – “And Elohim **created** [*bara*] man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He **created** [*bara*] him; male and female He **created** [*bara*] them.”

## Job 9:5-7

*It is God who removes the mountains, they know not how, when He overturns them in His anger; Who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; Who commands the sun not to shine, and sets a seal upon the stars.*

## Isaiah 14:12-20

- The earth trembling/quaking
- The world (*aretz*) becomes a “wilderness” (*midbar*)
- All abodes destroyed

## Ezekiel 28:12-29

- He was, at one time, perfect, wise and beautiful
- He was in Eden, the garden of God
- He was the anointed cherub
- He was on the holy mountain of God
- He walked among the “stones of fire”
- He became proud
- His wisdom was corrupted due to his pride
- Through his rebellion he “profaned” his “sanctuaries
- He will be destroyed because of his wicked deeds

### Rabbi Isaac ben Samuel of Acre (R' Isaac of Akko)

**14,800,000,000 years** = The age of the universe  
as calculated by modern astronomers

**15,340,500,000 years** = The age of the universe  
as calculated by a 14<sup>th</sup> century rabbi

### Job 26:7

*He stretches out the north over empty space, and  
hangs the earth on nothing.*

## **Isaiah 40:22**

*It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*