

בְּרֵאשִׁית

BERESHITH/IN THE BEGINNING

Bereshith/Genesis 1:1-6:8



Our Torah cycle has begun again, not as a new circle, but as cycle spiraling upward, taking us into greater revelation and into a more intimate place with our Messiah.

Perhaps we are on our way, up to the mountain top, being prepared for an experience with the Almighty which is more than we could ever “ask for or imagine.”



The Potter’s Hands picture this process, as He perfects the foundation of His vessel and propels us upward, always spinning the wheel of His calendar. Every year when we study Torah, it pushes us to greater heights. The Holy Spirit empowers us and enables us to conform ourselves to His Word in preparation for the upward call.

In this week’s reading, man’s relationship with His Creator begins with a “**blessing.**” He has prepared a paradise for man who will “**tend and keep it**”:

Bereshith/Genesis 1:28 Then Elohim **blessed** them, and Elohim said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Bereshith 2:15 Then הוֹרָה Elohim took the man and put him in the **Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.**

Last week, in the final reading of the Torah, **Devarim** ended with “**Moshe’s blessing**” over each tribe. Thus in the Torah, what began as a “**blessing over all mankind**” in the beginning of creation, ends with “**Moshe’s final blessing**” over one group of people...the line of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya’acov. Does this mean that הוֹרָה ends up excluding the rest of mankind from the blessings of the Garden? William Bullock (<https://www.regionschristiancenter.org>) writes:

“Does it mean that He has given up on the vast majority of Adam’s descendants? Does He thereby relegate goyim to the status of ‘second-class citizens’ of planet earth? No, beloved. Not at all. Remember, if you will, that it was the Holy One’s plan that these 12 tribes and their descendants forever, were to not just to RECEIVE the Holy One’s blessing but were to RELEASE that blessing on the rest of mankind.

In Genesis 12, the Holy One called Avraham and the process of ‘dividing’ mankind began. This was, however, merely the early seed form of the process we see entering a new phase in Moshe’s blessing. Remember what the Holy One told Avram? He said:

Bereshith 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

...the essence of what this means is that through the blessing of these 12 tribes the Holy One was actually beginning the process of Creation again. The blessing of the 12 tribes descended from Ya’akov was the acorn. From the acorn would grow a forest.

The tribes descended from Ya’akov were ordained by the Holy One to be a ‘**light to the nations**’:

Isaiah 42:5 Thus says the El יהוה, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ "I, יהוה, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a **light to the nations**, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

(end of Mr. Bullock’s quotes)

What is the Biblical precedent for this “**light**”?

Bereshith 1:1 In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then Elohim said, "**Let there be light**" (yehi ohr - יְהִי אוֹר); and **there was light**. ⁴ And Elohim saw the **light**, that *it was good*; and **Elohim divided the light from the darkness**.

In probably one of the most powerful statements in the Bible, the Voice of Elohim literally says, “**Let light be.**” We know that this was not the “**light**” of the luminaries, for they were not created until Day 4. In our experience, “**light**” comes from a source. In the Scriptures, there are many examples of supernatural sources, mostly associated with the glory of יהוה. In addition to **Bereshith 1:3**, following are some other examples of “**spiritual light**”:

Shemot/Exodus 10:23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.



Shemot 13:21 And יהוה went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Shemot 34:29 Now it was so, when Moshe came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in Moshe's hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moshe did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

Luke 2:9 And behold, an angel of Adonai stood before them, and the glory of Adonai shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Matthew 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of Adonai descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Acts 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. (22:6 "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me.)

Acts 12:7 Now behold, an angel of Adonai stood by *him*, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off *his* hands.

Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of Elohim illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for Adonai Elohim gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

“Light.” Torah doesn’t say Elohim created the “darkness.” “Light” was the first thing declared “good.” It doesn’t say that day and night of the first day are “good”...just the initial “light” is “good.” The “darkness” is the contrast. Could the “light” of Day 1 already be the “light of salvation,” i.e., the “light” was the establishment of the Kingdom plan of Yeshua?

Bereshith 1:3 Then Elohim said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And Elohim saw the light, that it was good; and Elohim divided the light from the darkness.

This concept of “**light = salvation**” is also seen in **Psalm 27**:

Psalm 27:1 A Psalm of David. יהוה is my **light** and **my salvation**; Whom shall I fear? יהוה is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Yeshua is often referred to as “**the true Light**” and the “**light of life**”:

John 1:6 There was a man sent from Elohim, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the **Light**, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was **not that Light**, but was sent to bear witness of that **Light**. ⁹ That was **the true Light** which gives **light** to every man coming into the world.

John 8:12 Then **Yeshua** spoke to them again, saying, “**I am the Light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the **Light of life**.”

During His Sermon on the Mount, **Yeshua** described the crowds who heard His teaching as “**light**”:

Matthew 5:14 “**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**” ¹⁵ “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ “**Let your light so shine before men**, that they may see your **good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

Notice **Yeshua** makes the connection between “**light**,” a “**city set on a hill**,” and “**good works**.” The “**city on a hill**” is a reference and an endearing name for “**Jerusalem**.” The “**good works**” to which He is referring to are the “**commandments of the Torah**”:

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the **Torah a light**

Wow, look at all those references to who is a “**light**”:

- Yeshua
- Jerusalem/Land
- Torah
- People of Israel

It seems all four of these components were present in the “**light**” spoken into being at Creation. Any combination of this group will increase the revelation of יהוה in the world, but it’s full potential will only be realized when all four unite as one. I believe this is the full “**light of the Gospel**”:

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of Yah deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's

conscience in the sight of Yah. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the **light of the Gospel** of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of Elohim, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Messiah Yeshua the Adonai, and ourselves your bondservants for Yeshua's sake.

And so, where do we fit into this Gospel plan today? As a part of Israel, we are no longer in the "darkness." It is up to us to "**walk as children of light.**"

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. ⁸ For **you were once darkness**, but **now you are light in Adonai**. **Walk as children of light** ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to Adonai. ¹¹ And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the **light**, for **whatever makes manifest is light**.

The commission of His chosen people, **Israel**, was to be a "**light to the nations**":

Isaiah 42:6 "I, יהוה, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a **light to the nations**, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, **Those who sit in darkness** from the prison house.

When יהוה chose "**Israel**" as His people, it was not just a matter of privilege, but responsibility. "**Israel**" is Yah's instrument, who He chooses to bring the rest of humanity back to the "**light of salvation.**" His intention is to bring them back to the original Garden experience of "**light**" through obedience of the Torah, love for the entire family of Israel, and love of the covenant Land.

Isaiah 51:4 " Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For **Torah** will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest **As a light of the peoples**.

The nation of "**Israel**" was not given the position of being the only nation with access to the truth, but they were chosen as Yah's tool, to bring truth and "**salvation**" back to all of humanity. יהוה knew that man would sin. So that spiritual "**light**," capable of restoring mankind, was called into being with the first of the Creator's words.

Bereshith 1:3 and Elohim, '**Let light be;**' and **light is**.

"**Salvation**" would reach the "**ends of the earth**" ...to all those places where His people were later scattered:

Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Ya'acov, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a **light to the nations**, That You should be **My salvation to the ends of the earth.**' "

And fulfilling the same plan, Yeshua told His followers:

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

A restoration is happening and we can anticipate a time when His "Light" will radiate throughout the earth as our Messiah sits upon His Kingly throne in Jerusalem to reign over all the people of the world.

Isaiah 60:19 " The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But יהוה will be to you an everlasting light, And your Elohim your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For יהוה will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of Elohim illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for Adonai Elohim gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

And thus, **Revelation** ends with the restored spiritual "light of salvation," made possible through the One whose Name means "salvation," **Yeshua the Messiah**. May it be soon and in our day!

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle

