

# Judaics: Chapter 1

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If you were going to tell the story of your  
life, where would you begin?

What do you see?

## CHAPTER 1

# The Birth of the World

GENESIS 1:1-2:3



Are any of these objects  
made by people?

Who might have made  
these objects?

# ויבדד אלהים את-יום השביעי ויקדש אותו

Close your eyes,  
imagine the earth with  
no shape or form.  
What do you see?

## GENESIS 1:1-5

When God began to create heaven and earth, the earth had no shape and no form. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good. Then God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning—the first day.


## GENESIS 1:6-8

God said, "Let there be a space between heaven and earth." God called this space Sky. And there was evening and there was morning—the second day.



Imagine the earth with  
"no shape and no form."  
What do you think  
it looked like on  
the first day?

Which ring of the first  
photo does this  
represent?



Why do you think God made fruit trees that produce seeds? What's so important about seeds?

**GENESIS 1:9-13**

God said, "Let the water below the sky gather into one place, so that dry land appears." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth and the water Seas. God saw that this was good. Then God said, "Let the earth sprout plants and fruit trees that produce seeds." And it was so. God saw that this was good. And there was evening and there was morning—the third day.

*In what ways does the sun "rule over the day"?  
How does the sun affect your day?*

Which ring of the first photo does this represent?

In what ways are fish  
and birds similar?

**GENESIS 1:14-19**

God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. They will mark the times of day and seasons of the year. They will also serve as lights to shine upon the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights: the larger one to rule over the day and the smaller one to rule over the night, and also the stars. God placed them in the sky and saw that this was good. And there was evening and there was morning—the fourth day.

**GENESIS 1:20-23**

God said, "Let the waters bring forth living creatures." Then God created the great sea creatures, fish of every kind, and birds that fly across the sky. God saw that this was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the water in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning—the fifth day.

Which ring of the first  
photo does this  
represent?



What does it mean  
to be created in  
God's image?

Our sages teach us that  
God created everything—  
even bees, fleas, and  
flies—for a reason.

Only on the sixth  
day did God say that  
"it was very good."  
What was different  
about the sixth day?

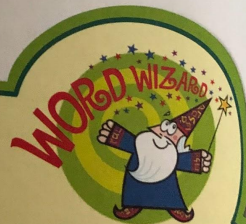
# **GENESIS 1:24-31**

God said, "Let the earth bring forth animals of every kind—tame animals, creeping things, and wild beasts." And it was so. God saw that this was good. Then God said, "Let there be humans, and they will rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, and the whole earth." God created humans, male and female, in the image of God. God blessed the humans and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and rule over it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all living things that creep on earth." God looked at all that was created and saw that it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.

## **In the Image of God**

בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים

Human beings are special among God's creations. Although all the land animals were created on the sixth day, only humans were created *b'tzelem Elohim*—in the image of God. But what does that mean? Do we look like God? Can we make oceans and stars? Not quite. Instead, the rabbis teach us, we are like God in other ways: We can create. We can care for others. We can care for the world.



Which ring of the first  
photo does this  
represent?

**GENESIS 2:1-3**

By the seventh day, the heaven and the earth were finished. God blessed the seventh day and called it holy, because on that day God rested after finishing the work of creation.

## Time to Rest



*Flashback!* It is the first Shabbat. You look around at the world that God has created. It is peaceful and complete. In the space below, draw or describe what you see.

Why do you think it's important to remember this day?

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What is another name for the seventh day?

When have there been times you needed to rest?

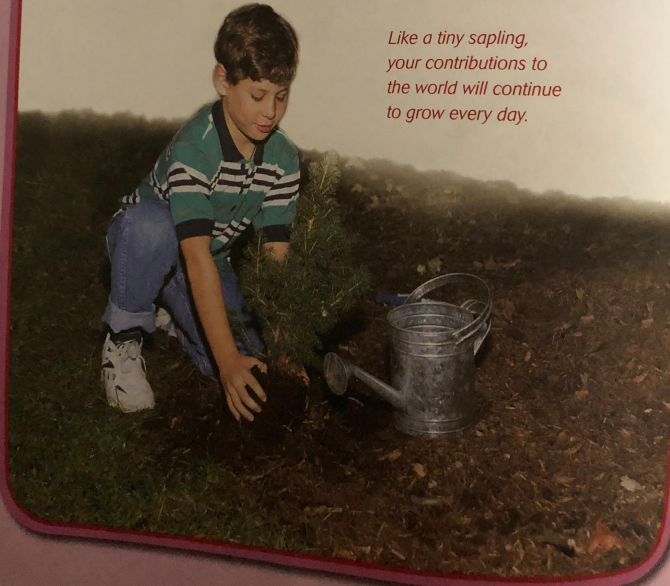


## It Was Very Good



On the day you were born, something that had never existed before came into the world: you. There may have been people who looked like you, or sounded like you, or even had the same hobbies and opinions as you. But no one has ever been—or ever will be—exactly like you. You are unique.

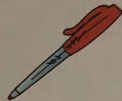
When God said to humans, “Fill the earth and rule over it,” we became partners with God in improving and protecting the world. Each of us does this in a different way. Together, we can make sure the world is not only *good*, but *very good*.



*Like a tiny sapling,  
your contributions to  
the world will continue  
to grow every day.*

# Self-Portrait

How will *you* make the world a better place? Choose one of the tools below. Then draw a picture of yourself using your tool to improve the world.



Now add a caption to your picture. Explain how you are improving the world.

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The End