

VAY'HULU

וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל־צְבָאָם:
וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה.
וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה:
וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ.
כִּי בּוֹ שָׁבַת מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר־בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת:

*Va-y'hulu ha-shama-yim v'ha-aretz v'hol tz'va-am.
Va-y'hal Elohim ba-yom ha-sh'vi-i m'lahto asher asa,
Va-yish-bot ba-yom ha-sh'vi-i mi-kol m'lahto asher asa,
Va-y'vareh Elohim et yom ha-sh'vi-i va-y'kadeysh oto,
Ki vo shavat mi-kol m'lahto asher bara Elohim la-asot.*

OUR SHARE IN CREATION

When creating the world, God deliberately made everything a bit incomplete. Instead of making bread grow out of the earth, God made wheat grow, so that we might bake it into bread. Instead of making the earth of bricks, God made it of clay, so that we might bake the clay into bricks. Why? So that we could become God's partners in Creation.

From the Midrash (adapted)

TO GUARD THE WORLD

After creating Adam, God showed him all the trees in the garden of Eden and said, "See how beautiful and perfect are My works! All that I have created, I have created for you. Therefore, be ever-mindful: Do not abuse or desolate My world. For if you abuse or desolate it, there is no one to repair it after you."

Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28

MIRACLES

The world is full of wonders and miracles; but we take our hands, and cover our eyes, and see nothing.

Israel Baal Shem Tov

VAY'HULU: God blessed the seventh day

The heavens and the earth, and all within them, were finished.
By the seventh day God had completed the work of Creation.
And so God rested from all this work.
Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it,
For on it God ceased all the Divine work of Creation.

Genesis 2:1:3

THE GLORY OF CREATION

O Lord, our Lord,
How glorious is Your name in all the earth,
Whose majesty is proclaimed above the heavens.
When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have established;
What are we, that You are mindful of us,
Mere mortals, that You take account of us?
Yet You have made us but little lower than the angels,
And have crowned us with glory and honor.
You have given us dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things at our feet:
Sheep and oxen, all of them, and the beasts of the field;
The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea;
Whatever travels the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord,
How glorious is Your name in all the earth! *(Selected from Psalm 8)*