

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*, מדבר).
- The entire land (*aretz*, ארץ) 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.

אֲשֶׁר זָרְעוֹ בּוֹ עַל הָאָרֶץ

(*asher z'ro-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 14th 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.